

Brentwood Local Development Plan Newsletter

Welcome to the first Brentwood Local Development Plan Newsletter, updating you on the progress of the Council's forthcoming Local Development Plan. This issue is being sent to all residents and businesses in the Borough.

Housing Requirement Update

You may be aware of various changes to the planning system brought in since the Coalition Government took office in 2010. This has included abolishing regional plans and introducing the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). These changes affect how the Council plans for the Borough's future housing requirements, among other things.

We now have to identify and seek to meet the housing, business and other development needs of the Borough. For housing, this includes both affordable and market 'objectively assessed' need.

How many homes?

To establish how many new homes will need to be built in the Borough, we have commissioned work to identify the Borough's housing need. This will be key evidence to support the emerging Local Development Plan.

This work assesses needs based on future population projections. The independent assessment suggests a figure ranging up to 362 new homes per year, which totals 5,430 new homes over the LDP period (2015 to 2030).

Please be aware that this figure is a *starting point* for the Council to work with. No decision has been made by Brentwood Council on the figure. The figure is subject to revision as new data becomes available. At this stage, it is only provisional.

What next?

The next stage will be for the Council to review the housing numbers and consider what level of housing the Borough can sustainably accommodate. This means that we need to assess the provisional figure of 362 homes a year as a starting point and consider the implications of accommodating this level against a number of criteria, for example:

- Capacity of key infrastructure, such as roads and utilities
- Transport; public, walking and cycling provision
- Access to services, such as schools, shops, GPs and community facilities
- Availability of land in sustainable locations
- Impact on Green Belt
- Environmental constraints, such as flooding and nature conservation
- Landscape sensitivity

This process is happening nationally. We will be speaking with our neighbouring authorities to work out whether we can accommodate this housing need together.

There are a number of factors that the Council will need to consider before a decision is made on the final number. These will be considered further as part of the Local Development Plan process.

Local Development Plan Consultation – your opportunity to have your say

The next stage of the Local Development Plan will be to produce a Draft Plan for **public consultation** this summer. In December 2013, your local Councillors will consider the final Plan to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination.

The Draft Plan will set out the level of housing to be provided based on the above figure as a starting point. The Plan will also set out provision for new employment and retail floorspace. This will include draft land allocations for development with planning policies to guide decisions on location, scale and types of development. The Plan will provide direction for where development goes in order to maintain local distinctiveness.

We would like to hear what you think about the Draft Plan. You'll be able to see the Plan and have your say over the coming months.

The next issue of the Local Development Plan Newsletter will be available in late July and will contain more information on how you can have your say.

To receive future Local Development Plan Newsletters, please email planning.policy@brentwood.gov.uk or phone 01277 312620

For more information, please see the Planning pages of the Council's website at www.brentwood.gov.uk/planning