

Our Newham Local Plan: BUILDING A FAIRER NEWHAM

Main Changes from the Draft (Regulation 18) to the Draft Submission (Regulation 19) Newham Local Plan

Open Space and Infrastructure Requirements BFN1: Spatial Strategy

New policy requirements to deliver different types of social infrastructure and open space, play space and food growing space have been added to site allocations.

This change has been made following recommendations from the completed Built Leisure Needs Assessment (2024) and Green and Water Infrastructure Strategy (2024); information from the NHS and analysis of the Community Facilities Needs Assessment (2022) which highlighted the need for different types of green and social infrastructure across the borough. We consider this change necessary to meet the Local Plan's objective to deliver improved access to open space and social infrastructure for existing and future residents.

Well-connected neighbourhoods BFN1: Spatial Strategy

Further information regarding the delivery of 15 minute neighbourhoods has been added to the justification text for policy BFN1 to better explain that the purpose of 15 minute neighbourhood principles is to increase choice and the range of facilities residents can access. To better reflect the intentions behind this objective, this principle is now referred to as a network of well-connected neighbourhoods, in the Local Plan.

This change has been made following representations received from a number of residents expressing concerns relating to 15 minute neighbourhoods and its implementation. In particular, concerns that this approach was designed to reduce freedom of movement or limit choice. We consider that this change was necessary to provide further clarity and reassurance to residents.

Meanwhile uses BFN2: Co-designed masterplanning

A number of different policy requirements regarding meanwhile uses across the Plan have been consolidated into a single policy. The new policy also outlines how speculative meanwhile use applications will be assessed, with more flexibility on the types and locations of uses allowed if the uses are proposed for 5 years or fewer. Longer term meanwhile uses are expected to comply with relevant policies in the Plan.

This change has been made following representations received from developers and the Royal Docks Team who raised questions about the Plan's general support for meanwhile uses. We consider that this change enables a suitable balance between the benefits of meanwhile uses and the need to maintain the Plan's spatial strategy.



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Social Value and Health Impact Assessment BFN3: Health Impact Assessment – delivering social value, health and wellbeing

This policy has been refined to provide greater clarity on the approach to a Social Value and Health Impact Assessment (SV-HIA). In addition, a SV-HIA Guidance Note (which includes a screening tool and check list) has been developed to support the implementation of the policy. Newham's SV-HIA Guidance Note explains the purpose of a SV-HIA, sets out why health and social value matter in Newham, provides information on when and how SV-HIAs should be prepared and what they should contain.

Whilst there was broad support for this policy from residents, a neighbouring borough, developers and one community group this change has been made following a representation from one developer who asked for further guidance on the scope and requirements of the SV-HIA. We considered that this change was necessary to provide further clarity on what a SV-HIA is and to make sure the policy is being used correctly. In doing so, the policy will help to support the delivery of a built and natural environment that delivers social value for Newham residents and supports their good physical and mental health, and social wellbeing.



Prioritisation of affordable housing relative to infrastructure

BFN4: Developer contributions and infrastructure delivery

The Plan's viability hierarchy remains unchanged, with the delivery of social housing remaining the top priority. However flexibility has been introduced to allow the Council the possibility to prioritise the delivery of strategic infrastructure when required by internal or external providers.

This change has been made following representations received from Sports England, the Environment Agency and Transport for London who raised concerns regarding the planning obligation hierarchy not supporting the delivery of needed infrastructure. A number of residents also raised the importance of sufficient infrastructure to support growth in homes and population. We consider that this change enables suitable flexibility to deliver necessary infrastructure, in particular when alternative sources of funding are not available, without reducing the focus on much needed social housing delivery.



Submit your comments online, by email, by post or in-person at our drop-in sessions. Find out more by scanning the QR code or by visiting your local library.

Have your say before
5pm, 6 September 2024!

