

Blaby District Council

New Local Plan Options document

Non-technical Summary

Blaby District Council is holding a six-week consultation on the emerging New Local Plan Options document between 28th January and 12th March 2021.

This is the second consultation on the Local Plan and builds on the consultation we carried out in Summer 2019.

The consultation is focused on three key areas:

- Options for the broad location of future development.
- Site options that have been promoted to the Council for built development by landowners, developers and site promoters.
- Initial information about the main policies we expect to include in the Local Plan.

Each policy area includes three sections:

- What you told us. This is a summary of responses to the previous consultation.
- What we have done. This sets out the progress we have made in terms of gathering evidence, talking with key stakeholders and drafting policies.
- What else needs to be done. This sets out what additional work is needed to finalise the policies and plan.

This document gives a summary of the full New Local Plan Options document and we encourage people to read the full document.

The full consultation document is 68 pages long and supporting documents have also been produced. It may take approximately one hour to read and engage with the consultation document.

How much growth do we need?

Based on national guidance, we need to provide at least 350 new homes each year. However, the Council is also required by Government Guidance to help meet the needs of neighbouring Councils where they cannot meet that need themselves. Evidence indicates there is not enough land in Leicester City to build the number of houses they need to plan for. The full consultation document goes into detail about the potential range of how many houses we need to build and why.

We also need to consider how much employment land we need to provide. Current evidence shows that we need to set aside about 3 hectares of land each year for businesses to grow or to attract new businesses to the District; this is a similar amount to what we have been providing in the past. Further evidence will be gathered in order to update this.

Where should new development go?

The amount of housing and employment growth we need to plan for has an impact on where new development should go. The New Local Plan is not being created from a blank slate and there is already planning approval to build about 6,000 new homes across the District and about 65 hectares of employment land.

The lower the housing requirement, the fewer the number of homes we need to build each year, the fewer new homes we need to find. If we need to build more homes, then we will look at different options for where the new homes should be built. We have developed five options for where new homes and businesses could be located.

Settlement Hierarchy

To help us decide where new homes and jobs should be built, we have reviewed how many services and facilities each village has to prepare a new "Settlement Hierarchy". We are seeking your views on the proposed hierarchy. Full details of how the hierarchy has been developed is in the Settlement Audit and Hierarchy Report (2020).

Policy areas

The image on the next page shows the various topics that are presented in the consultation document.

Strategic issues

How many homes and jobs do we need?

Where should they go?

What areas should be protected from development?

Design and place-making



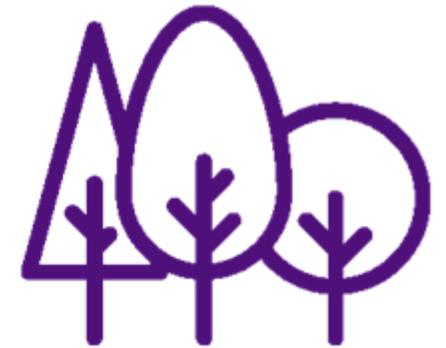
Environment and sustainability

Climate change

Flood risk

Biodiversity and geodiversity

Heritage



Health and well-being

Healthy communities

Green infrastructure

Open space, sport and recreation

Local green spaces



Types of homes

Affordable homes

Size of homes

Homes for all members of society, e.g. for older people, specialist housing



Jobs and shops

Employment

Retailing, leisure and town centre uses

Tourism



Transport and local services

Transport improvements

Infrastructure, services and facilities to support growth



The New Local Plan Options document in numbers:

68 pages long – the consultation document is not short and we recommend that you set aside approximately one hour to read and engage with the document.

32 questions – we are seeking your views on a range of topics and have developed 32 questions. It is not necessary to answer every question and it is important that you reference which question you are answering in your consultation response.

The year **2023** – we are aiming to adopt the new Local Plan in 2023. There is further opportunity between now and then for the public to be involved in shaping the Plan through this and future consultations.

15 years – the new Local Plan should look ahead at least 15 years from the date that it is finished, so the document involves planning for the long-term growth of the District.

12th March 2021 – the consultation closes at **4.45pm on Friday 12th March 2021**. Responses can be sent via email to planning.policy@blaby.gov.uk or via post to: Blaby Local Plan Options Consultation, Blaby District Council, Council Offices, Desford Road, Narborough, Leicester, LE19 2EP.