

Local Development Scheme

March 2025

1. About the Local Development Scheme

- 1.1 Islington Council has a duty to maintain a statutory Local Plan, which is used to inform decisions on planning applications in the borough. It also has a duty to maintain an up-to-date **Local Development Scheme (LDS)**¹.
- 1.2 The LDS is a formal work programme which identifies which planning documents the council proposes to produce or review over the next three years, and when these documents are expected to be consulted upon and adopted.
- 1.3 This LDS sets out a timetable for a review of the Local Plan. In addition, it identifies when Supplementary Planning Documents will be produced and reviewed. Indicative timetables for document preparation and review are provided in Appendices 1 and 2.

What's in a Local Plan

A Local Plan contains planning policies which are used to make decisions on planning applications.

A Local Plan is composed of one or more Development Plan Documents (DPDs). These documents are subject to a statutory preparation and adoption procedure, including an Independent Examination.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are used to elaborate on policies contained in DPDs. They are not part of the Local Plan. SPDs are prepared using a set procedure for public consultation, but do not undergo Independent Examination.

The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out minimum standards for community involvement in both plan making and in determining planning applications. It is not part of the Local Plan. Islington's current SCI was adopted in May 2017.

¹ Prior to the Localism Act 2011, the LDS was required to be approved by the Secretary of State. This is no longer the case.

2. National and London-wide planning policy

- 2.1 The government first published its National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012. The latest revision to the NPPF was published in December 2024. This document sets out how councils should produce planning documents to guide the development and use of land within a local authority's boundary.
- 2.2 In 2011 the government introduced changes to the planning system through the Localism Act. This gave new powers to communities to produce Neighbourhood Plans (see Section 5 for details of neighbourhood planning in Islington).
- 2.3 The Mayor of London produces, and regularly reviews, a Spatial Development Strategy for London (known as the London Plan). All London boroughs' Local Plans must be in general conformity with this document. The London Plan was published in March 2021. This forms part of Islington's Development Plan against which planning applications are assessed.

3. Islington's Local Plan

- 3.1 Islington has an adopted Local Plan, which comprises the following documents:
 - Strategic and Development Management Policies (September 2023)
 - Site Allocations (September 2023)
 - Bunhill and Clerkenwell Area Action Plan (September 2023)
- 3.2 The Policies Map forms part of the statutory Development Plan, and reflects policies, designations and allocations arising from the DPDs. The Policies Map was also adopted in September 2023.
- 3.3 In addition, the North London Waste Plan has been adopted. This is a joint development plan document which Islington has worked on for a number of years in partnership with the London Boroughs of Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey and Waltham Forest. Following the receipt of the Planning Inspector's report in October 2021, the full Council adopted the North London Waste Plan in March 2022. The Plan was also formally adopted by all the other participating councils.
- 3.4 The Council is currently undertaking an early focused review of the Local Plan Gypsy and Traveller policy. The Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan Review started in March 2024

with the public consultation on the Scope of the Review paper, which provided an opportunity to provide initial views on the issue. Further consultation will take place at key stages of the process. The timetable for the Review is set out below:

- January/February 2025 - Call for sites and consultation on draft site search methodology
- Autumn 2025 - Consultation on the initial draft Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan and potential sites
- Winter 2025/Spring 2026 - Consultation on the final draft Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan
- Autumn 2026 - Submission for Independent Examination by Planning Inspectors
- Adoption timescale will depend on the outcome of Independent Examination

4. Preparation and review of other planning documents

4.1 The following Supplementary Planning Documents and Statement of Community Involvement are extant (listed in order of adoption; most recent first). An indicative timetable for preparation of all non-Local Plan documents is provided at Appendix 2:

- Holloway Prison Site SPD (January 2018)
- Statement of Community Involvement (May 2017)
- Urban Design Guide SPD (January 2017)
- Planning Obligations (Section 106) SPD (December 2016)
- Location and Concentration of Uses SPD (April 2016)
- Development Viability SPD (January 2016)
- Basement Development SPD (January 2016)
- Inclusive Design in Islington (Feb 2014)
- Student Accommodation Contributions for Bursaries SPD (June 2013)

- Affordable Housing – Small Sites Contributions SPD (October 2012)
- Streetbook SPD (October 2012)
- Environmental Design SPD (October 2012)
- Inclusive Landscape Design SPD (January 2010)

4.2 Following the adoption of the new Local Plan, the status of the existing SPDs has been reviewed, and the preparation of new SPDs has commenced, as set out in Appendix 2.

4.3 It is worth noting that under the current proposals for planning reform SPDs are proposed to be abolished and replaced with 'supplementary plans' which will have a different status. It is unclear how and whether all the proposals will be taken forward and the timescales for their implementation. The council will review its work programme and the status that different documents might have in due course.

4.4 The current SCI was adopted in 2017. The Council will update the SCI as set out in appendix 2.

5. Neighbourhood planning

5.1 Three Neighbourhood areas have been designated in Islington, one of which also has a designated forum:

- Crouch Hill & Hornsey Rise neighbourhood area was formally designated in November 2015.
- Mount Pleasant neighbourhood area and forum were originally designated in February 2016 for a five year period. After lapsing in 2021, the Mount Pleasant neighbourhood forum was re-designated in September 2023 for a further five years.
- Finsbury Park and Stroud Green neighbourhood area and forum were formally designated in September 2018. The neighbourhood forum has subsequently lapsed.

5.2 Although the council provides guidance to community groups, Neighbourhood Forums are responsible for advancing neighbourhood planning in their areas and will work to their own timescales. Therefore, it is not possible to include timetables for the preparation of any potential Neighbourhood Plan.

Appendix 1: Indicative timetable for Local Plan documents currently being prepared / scheduled for review

Development Plan Document	Evidence gathering / preparation	Consult statutory bodies on scope of SA	Regulation 18 consultations ²	Publication of DPD and start of public consultation ³	Submission to Secretary of State	Hearing sessions	Receipt of Inspector's report	Adoption
Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan Review	Throughout 2023-2025	Autumn 2024	Scope of the Review consultation: March 2024 Consultation on draft site search methodology and Call for Sites: January/February 2025 Regulation 18 draft Local Plan consultation: Autumn 2025	Winter 2025/Spring 2026	Autumn 2026	Spring/ Summer 2027	Autumn 2027	Autumn/ Winter 2027

² Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

³ Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

Appendix 2: Indicative timetable for non-Local Plan documents

Document	Current document adopted	Current document status	Proposed review/ production: Formal Consultation	Proposed review/ production: Adoption	Updated / new document status (if applicable)
Conservation Area Design Guidelines	Various	Design Guidelines	Replace on ongoing basis. Prioritise those which may need update following the Climate Action SPD.		SPD
Poets Road Conservation Area	n/a	Design Guidelines	January/February 2025	Summer 2025	SPD
Climate Action SPD	n/a	n/a	January/February 2025	Summer/Autumn 2025	SPD

Appendix 2: Indicative timetable for non-Local Plan documents

Document	Current document adopted	Current document status	Proposed review/ production: Formal Consultation	Proposed review/ production: Adoption	Updated / new document status (if applicable)
Inclusive Islington SPD	Inclusive Design in Islington Streetbook Inclusive Landscape Design	SPD	Winter 2025	Spring 2026	SPD
Holloway Prison Site	January 2018	SPD	No review scheduled	N/A	
Statement of Community Involvement	May 2017	SCI	Spring 2025	Autumn 2025	SCI

Appendix 2: Indicative timetable for non-Local Plan documents

Document	Current document adopted	Current document status	Proposed review/ production: Formal Consultation	Proposed review/ production: Adoption	Updated / new document status (if applicable)
Urban Design Guide	January 2017	SPD	Elements may need to be revised and/or superseded by Climate Action SPD.		
Planning Obligations (S106)	December 2016	SPD	October/November 2024	Spring/Summer 2025	SPD
Location and Concentration of Uses	April 2016	SPD	No review scheduled	N/A	
Development Viability	January 2016	SPD	No review scheduled	N/A	
Basement Development	January 2016	SPD	No review scheduled	N/A	

Appendix 2: Indicative timetable for non-Local Plan documents

Document	Current document adopted	Current document status	Proposed review/ production: Formal Consultation	Proposed review/ production: Adoption	Updated / new document status (if applicable)
Inclusive Design in Islington	February 2014	SPD	See Inclusive Islington SPD update above.	See Inclusive Islington SPD update above.	
Student Accommodation Contributions for Bursaries	June 2013	SPD	No review scheduled	N/A	
Affordable Housing – Small Sites Contributions	October 2012	SPD	No review scheduled	N/A	
Streetbook	October 2012	SPD	See Inclusive Islington SPD update above.	See Inclusive Islington SPD update above.	

Appendix 2: Indicative timetable for non-Local Plan documents

Document	Current document adopted	Current document status	Proposed review/ production: Formal Consultation	Proposed review/ production: Adoption	Updated / new document status (if applicable)
Environmental Design	October 2012	SPD	Will be partly or wholly replaced by the new Local Plan and the new Climate Action SPD. If necessary, any remaining elements can be reviewed and updated after the Climate Action SPD adoption.		
Inclusive Landscape Design	January 2010	SPD	See Inclusive Islington SPD update above.	See Inclusive Islington SPD update above.	