

QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT & REGENERATION Councillor Paul Scott – Job Share (Acting)		
CQ016-19	Streeter, G	Croydon Local Plan

CQ016-19 from Councillor Gareth Streeter

Councillor Paul Scott (Job Share)

On Tuesday evening (2nd April) myself and colleagues met with the Shirley Planning Forum. During this meeting we discussed the latest iteration of the Croydon Local Plan which we understand is currently being prepared.

The meeting was mindful of the obligation, under paragraph 16 of the NPPF, to ensure that local plans “be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between planmakers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees.”

As such, I am writing to formally ask for a response to the questions below:

1. What stage is the new Croydon Plan at in its development?
2. What opportunities are available for community groups to learn about council’s thinking in terms of the direction of the plan, ahead of the first draft being published?
3. What opportunities exist – or can be created – for community groups (Residents Associations etc) to engage with the plan at the earliest possible opportunity, preferably before the first draft is published?

Reply

What stage is the new Croydon Plan at in its development?

Although the current Croydon Local Plan was adopted in February 2018, in a large part, due to the emerging new London Plan an immediate partial review of the Croydon Local Plan 2018 is underway. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) outlines the programme for the production of the Local Plan Review. The LDS indicates that currently the development of the Local Plan Review is at the first stage – evidence gathering and commissioning continues until Summer 2019. In addition, project planning, drafting of a consultation strategy and initial sustainability appraisal work is underway.

The evidence gathering is being undertaken primarily by Plan-making – Spatial Planning who are collecting, through both in-house and commissioned studies, the evidence needed to provide a sound, robust and accurate evidence base to inform preferred and alternative options (Regulation 18) consultation in October 2019. In line with the adopted LDS, the Local Plan Review is currently on track.

What opportunities are available for community groups to learn about council's thinking in terms of the direction of the plan, ahead of the first draft being published?

The Local Plan Review is an iterative process and includes engagement, although bound by tight deadlines and the resource available. Residents' Associations are one of a number of stakeholders to be included in the development of the Local Plan Review. Alongside other stakeholder engagement, Residents' Association meetings based on previous north and south meetings are planned (at a point to be confirmed during May to July 2019) to explain what early evidence base assembling is suggesting, changes emerging as part of the Local Plan Review, progress against the LDS, the opportunity to comment at this initial stage and how to engage in the formal consultation in October 2019. Other relevant topic meetings may be used to inform the Local Plan Review. In addition to the above and as part of evidence base assembly, Residents' Associations in the coming months (likely to be May / June) will be engaged through the Local Green Space Call for Sites and Development Site Call for Sites.

What opportunities exist – or can be created – for community groups (Residents Associations etc) to engage with the plan at the earliest possible opportunity, preferably before the first draft is published?

As part of the current Local Plan Review stage as indicated in the answers to question 1 and 2, Croydon's Plan-making – Spatial Planning will be making contact and engaging with Residents' Associations. This engagement will be targeted to enable the Residents' Associations to inform the Local Green Space Call for Sites, Development Site Call for Sites and opportunity to comment at this initial stage.

Notwithstanding the above, the Shirley Planning Forum following recent correspondence and meetings are aware of the opportunity to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the Shirley Forum area / Shirley Local Plan Place, which would provide the opportunity to directly plan for future growth of the Shirley Forum area / Shirley Local Plan Place. The Forum will be aware of the benefits and considerations for Neighbourhood Planning.

