

<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS:</b> All
<b>REPORT TITLE</b> Planning Policy and Planning Frameworks Update: Holborn Vision	
<b>REPORT OF</b> Director of Economy, Regeneration and Investment	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO</b> Planning Committee	<b>DATE</b> 8 April 2024
<p><b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b></p> <p>This report provides members of Planning Committee with an update on the draft Camden Local Plan and the Holborn Vision which is the last planning framework in the current programme to be adopted.</p> <p><b>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</b> No documents that require listing were used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Brian O'Donnell, Strategic Lead Planning Policy and Implementation Richard Wilson, Strategic Lead Design and Place</p> <p>5 Pancras Square London N1C 4AG Tel: 0207 974 5502; 020 7974 1822 brian.o'donnell@camden.gov.uk richard.wilson@camden.gov.uk</p>	
<p><b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b></p> <p>That the Planning Committee is asked to note the report.</p>	

Signed:



Director of Economy Regeneration and Investment  
Date: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## **1. Purpose of the Report**

This report provides Planning Committee with an update on progress with the draft Camden Local Plan and the Holborn Vision which is the last planning framework to be adopted for Camden's Growth Areas.

## **2. Local Plan Review**

- 2.1 The Council is reviewing the Camden Local Plan 2017, which provides the basis for its planning decisions and sets the framework for future development in the borough. This will ensure that Camden continues to have robust and up-to-date planning policies that align with Council priorities. The Local Plan is a key delivery mechanism for the Council's aspirations set out in We Make Camden.
- 2.2 A new draft Local Plan, including site allocations, has been prepared taking into account the comments made during initial consultation and engagement on the review, including a series of Member meetings in late 2022 and Autumn 2023; the series of evidence studies commissioned to support the plan; national planning policy; the London Plan; and We Make Camden and other relevant Council plans and strategies.
- 2.3 Following Cabinet approval of the draft new Local Plan in December 2023, consultation and engagement took place between the 17<sup>th</sup> January and 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to enable residents, community groups, businesses and other interested parties to share their views on the draft. This included use of the commonplace consultation website (to which there were over 5,000 visitors to the Local Plan pages over the consultation period); a series of online public engagement sessions; a workshop for students at Regent's High School; and a workshop with Camden's deaf and disabled community. The consultation was widely advertised through emails, newspaper advertisements, the Council's website, social media, and articles in newsletters; and paper copies of the Plan were made available in all libraries in the borough.
- 2.4 Officers are currently collating the responses received, so the total number of comments submitted is not yet known. All representations received will be considered and amendments proposed to the plan where necessary. Further Member meetings on the emerging Plan will also be arranged. A revised draft of the Plan will be reported to Cabinet and Council in late 2024 prior to a further round of consultation and then submission of the Plan to the Government for public examination by a Planning Inspector.
- 2.5 The draft new Local Plan is now a material consideration in planning decisions. At this stage in its preparation it has limited weight but as a statement of the Council's emerging approach it can start to influence planning proposals.

### 3. Planning frameworks

3.1 Given the potential scale of change in Camden's Growth Areas, and the likely impact on existing communities, a suite of supplementary planning documents has been prepared to provide additional guidance intended to shape this change and ensure the necessary infrastructure for growth. These are published on the Council's website at [Regeneration and Place - Camden Council](#) and listed below.

- Camden Goods Yard Planning Framework (2017)
- Kentish Town Planning Framework (2019)
- West End Lane to Finchley Road (2021)
- Canalside to Camley Street (2021)
- Gospel Oak and Haverstock Community Vision (2022)

3.2 The last framework to be prepared is the Holborn Vision which is the focus of this report and the presentation that will be provided to members of the Policy and Performance Committee.

#### **Holborn Vision**

3.3 Consultation on the draft Holborn Vision took place in Spring/Summer 2019. Over 100 questionnaires were returned, 27 pieces of written feedback from organisations, business and individuals were received and over 60 participants attended the drop-in events at Holborn Library. A report of the consultation is published on the Council's website.

3.4 Work on the document was paused in 2020 due to the pandemic which had significant implications for Holborn. In particular, the uncertainty around Transport for London's funding situation had a direct impact on a proposed new entrance at Holborn Underground station and the Holborn Liveable Neighbourhood public realm project. While Camden still considers improvement to Holborn Station to provide step-free access and increased capacity is necessary it is not currently in Transport for London's Business Plan and so there is no prospect of this project being taken forward in the near future unless alternative funding sources can be found. However, Liveable Neighbourhood funding for concept design and consultation for Holborn has been confirmed and initial engagement on the Holborn Liveable Neighbourhood project took place in February and March 2024.

3.5 Alongside Holborn Liveable Neighbourhood, work on the Holborn Vision recommenced and the draft Vision was approved by Single Member Decision on 12<sup>th</sup> February with consultation taking place between 20<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> April. In order to reach as many people as possible a Commonplace website was set up and an exhibition was set up in Holborn Library throughout the consultation period.

3.6 As most of the stakeholders for The Holborn Vision and Holborn Liveable Neighbourhood projects are the same, a comprehensive engagement approach across both projects was delivered with mostly joint in-person events. The

relevant comments were recorded for each project. A variety of event formats were used including four street pop-ups, five focussed workshop sessions, a women's night walk culminating in a four-day exhibition targeting relevant stakeholders. The consultation responses are currently being analysed but the initial assessment suggests that more than 750 people have contributed. Once the analysis is complete a report will be produced and published on the Camden website in early summer. The draft Vision document will then be amended to take account of the comments received before a Single Member Decision to adopt as a supplementary planning document in the autumn 2024.

**4. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services**

4.1 There are no finance implications arising from this report.

**5. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor**

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

**6. Environmental Implications**

6.1 There are no environmental impacts.

**7. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Holborn Vision Presentation

**REPORT ENDS**