

Press release: 13 July 2021

Local plan drop-in sessions

This summer local people, businesses, developers and stakeholders are invited to a series of drop-in sessions across the district to find out more about the ongoing Local Plan 2040 consultation.

Lichfield District Council is running a regulation 19 consultation until the end of August, and is seeking views on the soundness and legal compliance of the pre-submission (publication) version of the Lichfield District Local Plan 2040.

This latest plan is based on updated evidence and feedback from previous consultations. It will be used by the council to guide how the district is developed up to 2040.

Council planners are hosting a series of drop-in sessions so everyone has the chance to see and discuss the plans. The events will take place at the following times and locations, subject to Covid-19 guidance:

- Burntwood Library on Tuesday 20 July from 2pm to 5pm
- Fazeley Town Hall on Tuesday 27 July from 2pm to 5pm
- Fradley Village Hall on Friday 30 July from 2pm to 5pm
- Whittington Village Hall on Saturday 7 August from 10am to 1pm
- District Council House, Frog Lane, Lichfield on Wednesday 11 August from 2pm to 5pm

Councillor Iain Eadie, Cabinet Member responsible for the Local Plan, said: “We have based our Local Plan 2040 on the needs of our growing district, on evidence, and feedback gathered through previous consultations.

“These drop-in events offer a good opportunity to ask questions and to find out how to give your views.

“As this is the fourth time we have asked people for their feedback on our emerging local plan, it is important to highlight that this time we are only asking people for comments around if the plan meets the legal requirements, if we have met our duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities, and that our plan is justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

“Having captured views in our earlier consultations on where we should allow future housing to take place, we want to make sure the comments we receive this time are not dismissed by the Planning Inspector. It is therefore vital people comment on the specific areas and not on the wider plan itself.

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"I hope plenty of people come along and get involved, as it's another chance to see the future plans for how the district will be shaped over the coming years, and to have your say if you think any parts may not be sound or legally compliant."

To read the pre-submission (publication) version of the plan, view the evidence base, watch a five-minute video on how to give your views, and find out how to comment, visit www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/localplan2040.

Written comments can be emailed to developmentplans@lichfielddc.gov.uk or sent to Spatial Policy and Delivery, District Council House, Frog Lane, Lichfield WS13 6YZ.

Throughout the consultation period, planning officers are available over the phone to discuss the local plan or clarify any information between 9am and 5pm from Monday to Friday by calling 01543 308192.

Exhibitions outlining how the plan was developed and its main points are on display at Friary Grange Leisure Centre, Burntwood Leisure Centre and Burntwood Library. Reference copies of the local plan are also available on request at these venues.

The consultation is running until 5pm on 30 August 2021.

All comments received will be sent to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, who will appoint an independent Planning Inspector to examine the submission version of the plan along with all the representations.

Ends

Media enquiries

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Notes

For the local plan to be sound it needs to be:

- Positively prepared
- Justified with clear evidence
- Effective and deliverable
- Consistent with national policy

For the local plan to be legally compliant it needs to:

- Follow the local development scheme
- Comply with the council's statement of community involvement
- Include a sustainability appraisal and habitat regulation assessment

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- Follow relevant laws, such as the Town and Country Planning Act
- Meet the duty to co-operate, which means engaging and working with neighbouring local authorities and statutory bodies