

Local Development Scheme

April 2016



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 over the next three years, and when these documents are expected to be consulted upon and adopted.
- 1.3. Islington Council has a Local Plan in place. Islington's Core Strategy was adopted in February 2011. The Council adopted the Finsbury Local Plan, Development Management Policies and Site Allocations in June 2013, which contain further detailed policies on how the Core Strategy will be delivered, and these three documents have been fully tested against the NPPF. However, the Local Plan and the evidence behind it need to be kept up-to-date.
- 1.4. This LDS sets out a timetable for a review of the Local Plan. In addition, it identifies when Supplementary Planning Documents/Guidance 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 July 2006 and is currently being reviewed.

2 National and London-wide planning policy

- 2.1. The government published its National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012. This document sets out how councils should produce planning documents to guide the development and use of land within a local authority's boundary.

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.

- 2.2.** 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 current London Plan, consolidated with a number of alterations made since 2011, was published in March 2016.

3 Islington's Local Plan

- 3.1.** Islington has an up to date Local Plan, which comprises the following documents:
- Core Strategy (February 2011)
 - Development Management Policies (June 2013)
 - Site Allocations (June 2013)
 - Finsbury Local Plan (previously the Bunhill & Clerkenwell Area Action Plan) (June 2013)
- 3.2.** The Policies Map (formally referred to as a Proposals Map) which forms part of the statutory development plan, and reflects policies, designations and allocations arising from the DPDs was also adopted in June 2013. The Unitary Development Plan (June 2002) was wholly superseded by the above four DPDs.
- 3.3.** A number of changes have been proposed to the current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in a consultation document published in December 2015, and the revised NPPF is expected to be finalised later this year. In addition, the whole planning system is currently undergoing significant reforms. These are being introduced via the Housing and Planning Bill 2016 and the associated regulations and guidance.
- 3.4.** In light of the above, the Council is reviewing its Local Plan. It is likely that the Core Strategy and the Development Management Policies will be merged into a single Plan, whilst the Finsbury Local Plan and the Site Allocations are likely to remain as stand-alone documents. During 2015 the Council focused on evidence gathering, which will be continuing throughout 2016 and into 2017. The Council will also commence the formal process of reviewing the Local Plan during 2016 with a view to have a revised Plan adopted by late 2018/early 2019.
- 3.5.** An additional DPD – the North London Waste Plan – has been in preparation over the past few years in partnership with the London Boroughs of Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey and Waltham Forest. The seven boroughs submitted a draft version of the plan for Independent Examination in February 2012. Public hearings commenced on 12 June 2012, but were later suspended to enable the Inspector to consider whether the plan had met the Duty to Co-operate. On 31 August 2012, the Inspector issued his determination that the plan did not meet the Duty to Co-operate. The boroughs are now in the process of preparing a revised version of the plan.

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- 3.6.** The Finsbury Local Plan applies only to the part of the borough indicated in Figure 1 below. Other elements of the Local Plan apply to the whole borough. It is possible that some amendments to the boundary of the area covered by the Finsbury Local Plan might be made during the plan review.
- 3.7.** An indicative timetable for reviewing elements of the Local Plan is provided in Appendix 1.

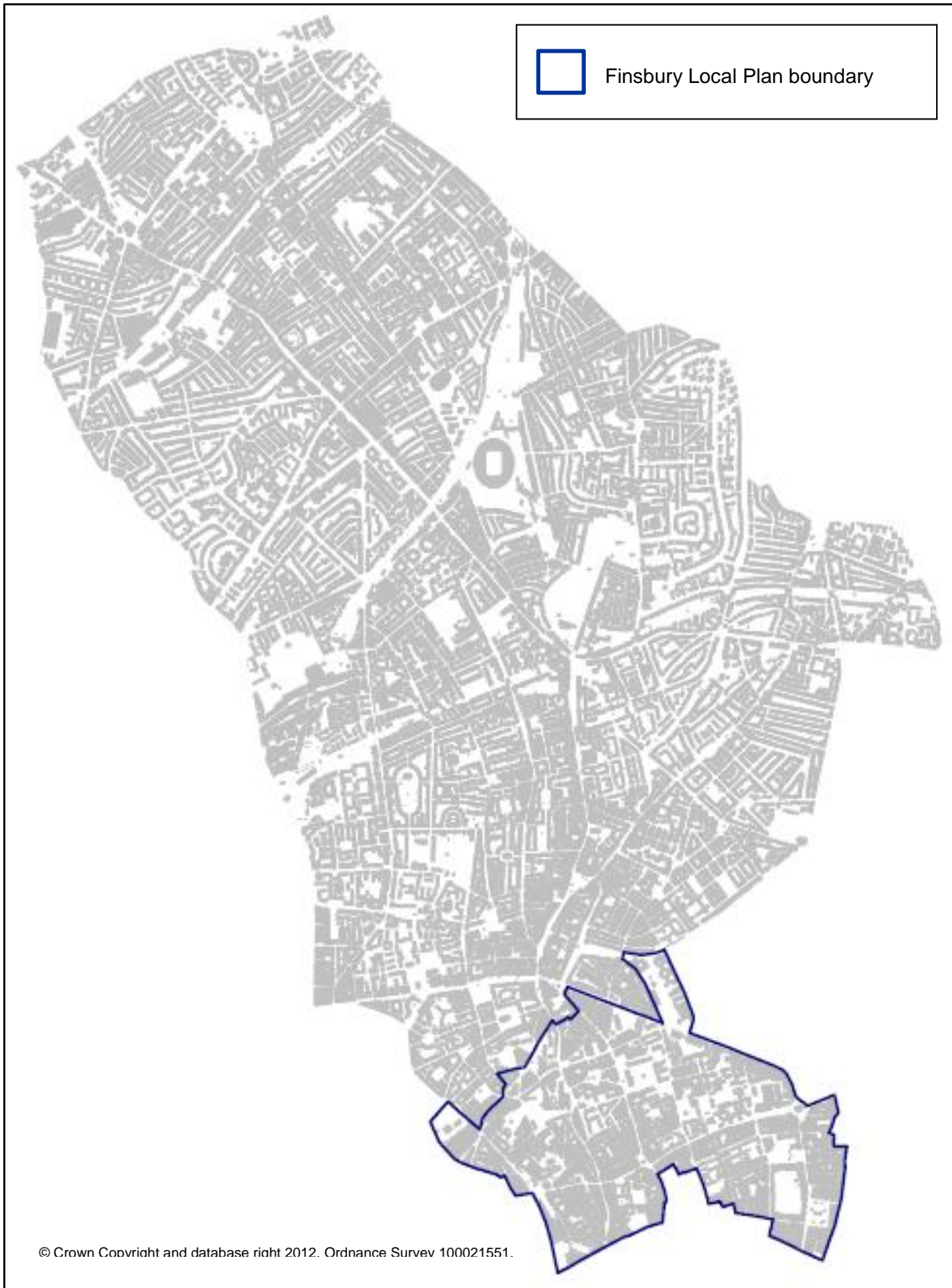


Figure 1: Geographical extent of Finsbury Local Plan DPD

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):

- Development Viability (January 2016)
- Basement Development (January 2016)
- Preventing Wasted Housing Supply (July 2015)
- Finsbury Park Development Framework (March 2015)
- Finsbury Park Town Centre – Joint SPD by Islington, Hackney and Haringey (June/July 2014)
- Inclusive Design in Islington (Feb 2014)
- Cally Plan (January 2014)
- Planning Obligations (Section 106) - (Nov 2013)
- Student Accommodation Contributions for Bursaries (June 2013)
- Affordable Housing – Small Sites Contributions SPD (October 2012)
- Streetbook SPD (October 2012)
- Environmental Design SPD (October 2012)
- Mount Pleasant SPD (February 2012)
- Inclusive Landscape Design SPD (January 2010)
- Archway Development Framework SPD (September 2007)
- Nag's Head Town Centre Strategy SPD (May 2007)
- Urban Design Guide SPD (December 2006)
- Statement of Community Involvement (July 2006)
- King's Cross Neighbourhood Framework SPD (July 2005)

4.2. The following SPDs will be prepared or revised over the next three years:

- Location and Concentration of Uses (focusing on hot food takeaways, betting shops , pay day loan shops) (due to be adopted in April 2016)
- Urban Design Guide (revision to existing SPD)
- Planning Obligations (revision to existing SPD)
- Angel Town Centre
- Moorfields Eye Hospital
- Conservation Area Guidelines (to be replaced on an on-going basis, as necessary)

4.3. In addition to SPDs, a number of Planning Guidance Notes (PGNs) may be used in the planning decision-making process. In some cases the council has replaced or will be replacing previous PGNs with SPDs. An indicative timetable for preparation of all non-Local Plan documents is provided in Appendix 2 of this LDS.

5 Neighbourhood planning

- 5.1. As of early April 2016, four community groups have expressed interest in neighbourhood planning in Islington: King's Cross; Crouch Hill & Hornsey Rise; Archway; and Mount Pleasant). A Crouch Hill & Hornsey Rise *neighbourhood area* was formally designated by the council in November 2015. A *neighbourhood area* and a *neighbourhood forum* for Mount Pleasant were formally designated in February 2016.
- 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 preparation of any potential Neighbourhood Plan.

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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	Scope of the review consultation ²	Publication of DPD and start of public consultation ³	Submission to Secretary of State	Hearing sessions	Receipt of Inspector's report	Adoption
Core Strategy and Development Management Policies review (possibly merge into a single document)	Throughout 2015, 2016 and 2017	Summer 2016	Nov/Dec 2016	June/July 2017	Jan 2018	May 2018	Oct/Nov 2018	Dec 2018/ early 2019
Finsbury Local Plan	As above	As above	As above	As above	As above	As above	As above	As above
Site Allocations	As above	As above	As above	As above	As above	As above	As above	As above
North London Waste Plan	Throughout 2013, 2014 and 2015	2013	Summer/ Autumn 2015	Summer/Autumn 2016	Winter 2016/2017	Spring/summer 2017	Summer/autumn 2017	Winter 2017/2018

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

³ Regulations 19 and 20 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		Updated / new document status*
			Formal Consultation	Adoption	
Statement of Community Involvement	July 2006	SCI	Summer 2016	Autumn 2016	SCI
Islington Urban Design Guide	Dec 2006	SPD	Summer 2016	Autumn 2016	SPD
Location and Concentration of Uses (Hot food takeaways, betting shops, payday loan shops)	N/A	N/A	Summer 2015	Adoption due April 2016	SPD
Planning Obligations (S106)	Nov 2013	SPD	Autumn 2016	Early 2017	SPD
Angel Town Centre	N/A	N/A	Autumn 2016	Winter 2016/17	SPD
Moorfield's Eye Hospital	N/A	N/A	Winter 2016/17	Spring 2017	SPD
Conservation Area Design Guidelines	Various	Design Guidelines	Replace on ongoing basis.	SPD	SPD
Development Viability	January 2016	SPD	No review scheduled		
Basement Development	January 2016	SPD	No review scheduled		
Preventing Wasted Housing Supply	July 2015	SPD	No review scheduled		
Finsbury Park Development Framework	March 2015	SPD	No review scheduled.		
Finsbury Park Town Centre Strategy	June 2014	SPD	No review scheduled.		
Inclusive Design in Islington	Feb 2014	SPD	No review scheduled.		
Cally Plan	Jan 2014	SPD	No review scheduled.		
Student Accommodation Contributions for Bursaries	June 2013	SPD	No review scheduled.		
Streetbook	Oct 2012	SPD	No review scheduled.		
Affordable Housing – Small Sites Contributions	Oct 2012	SPD	No review scheduled.		

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Document	Current document adopted	Current document status*	Proposed review/production		Updated / new document status*
			Formal Consultation	Adoption	
Environmental Design	Oct 2012	SPD	No review scheduled.		
Mount Pleasant	Feb 2012	SPD	No review scheduled.		
Inclusive Landscape Design	Jan 2010	SPD	No review scheduled.		
Archway Development Framework	Sept 2007	SPD	No review scheduled.		
Nag's Head Town Centre Strategy	May 2007	SPD	No review scheduled.		
King's Cross Neighbourhood Framework	July 2005	SPD	No review scheduled.		
Promoting Sustainable Drainage Systems	2008	PGN	No review scheduled.		
Islington Shopfront Design Guide	2003	PGN	To be incorporated into the revised Urban Design Guide		
Refuse and Recycling Storage Requirements	2012	PGN	To be incorporated into the revised Urban Design Guide		
Islington Tree Policy	2009 (draft)	PGN	Review not scheduled.		
Packington Estate Masterplan	2004	PGN	Review not scheduled.		
Highbury & Islington Station and Highbury Corner Framework	July 2004	PGN	Review not scheduled.		

***Document status is as follows:**

SCI: Statement of Community Involvement | SPD: Supplementary Planning Document | PGN: Planning Guidance Note