## Statement of Consultation Local Plan - Further Engagement (Regulation 18)

September 2022



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#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Statement of Consultation sets out how the Council has carried out a further phase of engagement with local residents, community groups, businesses and other organisations and stakeholders in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the relevant statutory requirements, as part of its Local Plan review.
- 1.2. Specifically, this Statement of Consultation sets out how the council has carried out further, meaningful and proactive engagement, (Regulation 18 consultation) following a previous phase of engagement in 2019, to ensure, in a post-COVID-19 world, a new Local Plan reflects the aspirations and concerns of residents and communities and responds to a number of other changes in the planning landscape.
- 1.3. This document outlines the approach taken and summarises the results of the Local Plan further engagement (regulation 18 consultation) undertaken by the Council between 29 June and 30 September 2021.
- 1.4. This document contains a table summarising the main issues raised during both the early engagement in 2019 and the 2021 further phase of engagement with the council's response to the feedback and how it has informed the preparation of the first draft of the new Local Plan, which is being published for consultation.
- 1.5. A <u>Statement of Consultation Local Plan Early engagement (Regulation 18)</u> was prepared following the previous phase of early engagement, in 2019. The two Statements of Consultation should therefore be considered in conjunction with each other. Together, the two Statements of Consultation demonstrate how the Council has carried out and responded to public consultation in line with the relevant statutory requirements.

## 2. Statutory requirements

- 2.1 The preparation of a new Local Plan must comply with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 ("the Regulations"). Regulation 18 outlines the first steps that must be undertaken in preparing a local plan, including who needs to be notified, and how a local authority should consider feedback from engagement activities when preparing a draft Local Plan for submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination.
- 2.2 Plan making authorities must also comply with the consultation requirements of the NPPF (Para 15-16), which requires new local plans to be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan-makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees.
- 2.3 The consultation activities were also undertaken in accordance with the Council's own Community Engagement Framework 2019-2022.
- 2.4 This Statement outlines how the council carried out consultation and analysis in 2021, addressing all requirements through its Local Plan review. It is set out in the following sections:
  - Section 3 provides an overview the consultation strategy, what we consulted on and how we engaged with local communities and key stakeholders;
  - Section 4 outlines other stakeholder engagement
  - Section 5 provides a summary of the feedback received during the early engagement in 2019 and the further engagement from 29 June to 30 September 2021 and how the council has responded to the views given, in the first draft new Local Plan.

## 3. Consultation process

#### What we consulted on

#### Our vision for Kingston 2023-2041

- 3.1 The primary document published to support the further engagement consultation was <a href="Shaping the Future Together Our vision for Kingston 2023 2041">Shaping the Future Together Our vision for Kingston 2023 2041</a>. This document contained background information about the Local Plan process and was divided up into eight topic areas:
  - How we plan for good growth
  - Housing
  - Design, heritage and culture
  - Greener transport and how we move around
  - Natural environment
  - Your neighbourhood and local community
  - Community services and facilities
  - Local economy
- 3.2 Each topic area contained information about the current situation, details about what we heard in the early feedback in 2019 and how the new Local Plan could help.

  Questions were posed for each topic area to understand if the COVID-19 pandemic had changed people's views and to find out their latest thoughts on the theme. A list of the consultation questions can be found within Appendix 1 of this report.
- 3.3 The engagement document and the questions within it formed the basis of all the material and surveys on the Kingston: Let's Talk engagement portal, the short survey and questions posed at meetings, workshops, chattabouts and roadshow events.
- 3.4 The council worked with Kingston Interpreting Service to translate materials into Korean and Tamil, and to develop a plain text and easy read version of the consultation document. These were available online, in libraries, at our events and on request.
- 3.5 An audio version was also created and uploaded to the portal.
- 3.6 Two short animations were created to share on social media and support the Facebook Live events. The first animation focused on good growth and housing topic areas and the second on greener transport and natural environment topics.
- 3.7 To capture the views of young people a bespoke online seven question survey was created and a children's activity worksheet was produced and printed. The survey was accompanied by a short animation explaining what a Local Plan is and its relevance, encouraging young people to give their views about what they would like Kingston to look like in the future. These materials were promoted via libraries, newsletters, social media and in an email to headteachers via the Achieving for Children's networks.

#### Site assessments update

3.8 Published alongside the consultation document was a <u>Site Assessments Update</u> document. This document contained details of sites that have been identified through the Local Plan process so far, including sites submitted to the council in the 2019 early engagement exercise. In addition to the questions in Appendix 1, the council also welcomed further thoughts and ideas on the sites that have been identified so far for development in the borough.

#### Call for sites exercise

3.9 To ensure the Local Plan process considers all potential sites for development, the council ran another 'Call for Sites' exercise, for a wide range of land uses, that may be available for redevelopment over the plan period up to 2041. Individuals, developers, landowners, agents and other interested parties were invited to submit details of sites within the borough as part of the further engagement exercise.

#### How we consulted

- 3.10 This section outlines how the Council engaged with the community in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Regulations, and the guidance set out in Kingston's Community Engagement Framework, which sets out how the Council will engage and consult the community and the range of possible methods to involve people.
- 3.11 During the consultation the Council undertook a wide range of methods of communication in order to ensure that notification of the consultation reached as many people as possible. The target audiences consisted of the following groups:
  - All residents
  - People who work in Kingston
  - Visitors (including shopping, leisure, culture etc)
  - Kingston-based businesses
  - Students and young people
  - Charity, voluntary sector and local groups
  - Site owners and investors
  - Relevant governmental organisations
  - Emergency services and utilities
  - Councillors
  - Council staff
  - Statutory consultees

#### **Planning Consultation Database**

3.12 Over a number of years the Council has developed and maintained a planning consultation database, which includes contact details of all relevant stakeholders and government agencies, as well as community groups and residents who had opted-in to be notified of consultation activities relating to the Local Plan. The database includes 'specific', 'general', and 'relevant' consultation bodies, as defined by the Regulations. Bodies notified for the Regulation 18 consultation outlined in this document can be found at Appendix 2

#### Public access to consultation material

#### Printed copies

3.13 Printed copies of Shaping the Future Together - Our vision for Kingston 2023 - 2041, in English, Korean and Tamil and a plain text version, the questionnaire and short survey and the Site Assessments Update, were made available at the Guildhall and open libraries throughout the borough. A cardboard postbox was provided for people to return completed guestionnaires or they could be posted to the Guildhall.



- 3.14 The printed materials were also available at the roadshow events which took place throughout the borough. (See section 3.21 for a list of roadshow events which took place)
- 3.15 The short surveys were also available at the Rose Theatre and Kingston Heritage Centre to complete and return in the postbox provided.
- 3.16 A children's activity worksheet was created in September 2021, as schools returned from summer holidays. Printed copies were available in libraries and offered to schools via an email to head teachers using the Achieving for Children's networks.

#### Online resources

- 3.17 A dedicated Local Plan hub page was created on the council's engagement platform 'Kingston: Let's Talk'. This page was divided up into the eight themes so people could access and read about the areas of most interest to them. Electronic versions of all materials were available on this portal and people were able to easily complete the survey on each topic area directly online.
- 3.18 A hyperlink to the dedicated page on the portal was prominent on the Local Plan section of the Council's website, along with the email address and freephone number people could also use to request information and give their feedback.

#### Press notices and releases

3.19 A press notice was published in the Surrey Comet on 1 July and the launch was referenced in the Leader's column in that issue. Two press releases were also issued to local and trade media at the launch of the consultation and to promote the full list of roadshow events, on 29 June 2021 and 6 August 2021 respectively. These press releases can be viewed on the news section of the council's website.

#### **Consultation activities**

- 3.20 The Council commissioned M·E·L Research to support the consultation given their experience using innovative and engaging ways to reach residents, seldom heard groups, young people, organisations and businesses. They conducted interviews with a range of stakeholders, organised a roadshow around the borough and focus group discussions, known as 'chattabouts', with seldom heard communities. A separate report is available which captures the details of this activity and the feedback heard.
- 3.21 The roadshow around the borough saw the Local Plan team and M·E·L Research visited a range of high footfall locations across the borough to raise awareness and seek people's feedback. Attendees of these events had the opportunity to discuss and provide feedback on the consultation questions with planning policy officers and consultants from M·E·L Research. The roadshow visited the following places:
  - Saturday 7 August, 10am-4pm Kingston Market Place, KT1 1JX
  - Saturday 14 August, 10am-4pm New Malden High Street, next to the war memorial, KT3 4HE
  - Sunday 15 August, 10am-4pm Tolworth Broadway, next to Sainsbury's, Ewell Road, Tolworth, KT6 7AZ
  - Thursday 19 August, 10am-4pm Hook Centre, Hook Road, Chessington, KT9 1EJ
  - Friday 20 August, 10am-4pm Summer of Fun event, next to Kingston Museum, Wheatfield Way, KT1 2PS
  - Saturday 21 August, 9am-1pm Surbiton Farmers' Market, Maple Road, Surbiton
  - Friday 27 August, 10am-4pm Summer of Fun Heritage event, next to Kingston Museum, Wheatfield Way, KT1 2PS
  - Saturday 4 September, 9am-2pm Malden Community Farmers' Market, New Malden High Street, KT3 4LH
  - Sunday 5 September, 9am-2pm Tolworth Market
  - Saturday 11 September, 10am-4pm Hook Music Centre Launch Event, Hook Centre, Hook Road, Chessington, KT9 1EJ
  - Saturday 18 September, 9am-1pm Surbiton Farmers' Market
  - Saturday 25 September, 10am-4pm Surbiton Festival

- 3.22 Additionally we had a stall at the Kingston College and Kingston University freshers' fairs on 22 and 23 September respectively, to capture feedback from Kingston's students.
- 3.23 Two Facebook Live events were also held on 22 and 27 September. The first event focused on how to plan for good growth and housing and the second on greener transport and the natural environment, giving viewers an opportunity to find out more about the topics and ask questions. The Facebook Live events were recorded and available to watch after the event and have been viewed since 385 and 204 times respectively.
- 3.24 Interviews, conducted by either officers from the Planning Policy team or M·E·L Research, took place with the following stakeholders:
  - Kingston Centre for Independent Living
  - Kingston Carers network
  - Refugee Council
  - Kingston University
  - Kingston First
  - Kingston Chamber of Commerce
  - Job Centre Department of Work & Pensions
  - Kingston & Richmond Homestart
  - Kingston Environment Forum
  - Kingston Voluntary Action
- 3.25 Chattabouts, conducted by either officers from the Planning Policy team or M·E·L Research, took place with the following groups:

	Chattabout group	Core audience being reached
1	Korean Culture and Arts Centre	Reflecting Kingston's Ethnically Diverse Communities/faith groups
2	Milaap Centre	Reflecting Kingston's Ethnically Diverse Communities/faith groups
3	Tamil Helpline	Reflecting Kingston's Ethnically Diverse Communities/faith groups
4	Migrant Network	Reflecting Kingston's Ethnically Diverse Communities/faith groups
5	Refugee Action	Reflecting Kingston's Ethnically Diverse Communities/faith groups
6	Rise Group	Adults with mental health issues
7	Mind	Adults with mental health issues
8	Mencap	People with learning disabilities & carers

9	Involve	Adults with learning disabilities
10	Cairn House	Housing Register and Homelessness
11	DAWN	RBK Disability and Wellbeing Network
12	Operational Homeless Task Force	Housing Register and Homelessness
13	Youth Council	Young people and Children and Families
14	Achieving for Children (SEND)	Young people and Children and Families
15	Achieving for Children (Residential setting)	Young people and Children and Families
16	Coombe Boys School	Young people and Children and Families

## 3.26 A full list of all other engagement activities is set out below.

Engagement activity	Date(s)
Emails sent to statutory consultees and those on the planning team's local plan distribution list informing them of the consultation and how to respond.	01/07/2021
Email to everyone registered on the Kingston: Let's Talk engagement portal (4,859 recipients)	02/07/2021
Printed copies of the full consultation document, including a shorter version of the survey, and the Site Assessments Update document made available in all open libraries throughout the borough and at all the drop in events. Branded post boxes were placed in libraries and at the Guildhall to help raise awareness and help signpost where completed copies should be submitted.	29/06/2021 - 30/09/2021
JCDecaux printed billboards across the borough and digital boards in Kingston town centre. (see appendix for image)	31/07/2021- 30/09/2021
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn) - organic and paid-for social media campaigns.	29/06/2021 - 30/09/2021
The Local Plan consultation document was available on the Local Plan section of the Council's website (www.kingston.gov.uk/new-local-plan) as well as the Council's online engagement portal (kingstonletstalk.co.uk/hub-page/local-plan-2021)	29/06/2021 - 30/09/2021

The council's online engagement portal had a Local Plan section, with all materials and the online survey and information about all of the events and how to join them (kingstonletstalk.co.uk/hub-page/local-plan-2021)	29/06/2021 - 30/09/2021
Adverts in the following community magazines and local newspapers:	29/06/2021 - 30/09/2021
Vinyl 2mx1m banners displayed at over 30 high footfall locations around the borough (see appendix for image)	
Articles in internal newsletters for council staff to raise awareness of consultation, to ask officers to share information with contacts and to encourage them to take part.	29/06/2021 26/07/2021 29/07/2021
Articles in various newsletters including Adult Social Care, Providers newsletter and Business Magazine	01/08/2021- 31/08/2021
Presentation to Neighbourhood Managers with information to share with residents' associations, voluntary, community and worship groups to increase reach of consultation	03/08/2021
Press releases issued to local and trade media	29/06/2021 and 06/08/2021
News item on the carousel on the council's homepage linking to Draft Local Plan webpage on the council website	29/06/2021 - 30/09/2021
Bespoke 30 second advert played across key drive times on Radio Jackie for a nine week period.	29/07/2021- 22/09/2021
Planning notice published Surrey Comet and reference in Councillor Kerr's column	01/07/2021
Email for headteachers and school resources packs (including children's activity worksheet and link to children's survey and animation) issued to help engage children and young people on planning for Kingston's future and shared using Achieving for Children's networks	19/07/2021 28/09/2021 05/10/2021
Numerous articles issued in the council's online residents'	30/06/2021

newsletter, Your Kingston, promoting and encouraging people to take part in consultation and attend the events	14/07/2021 28/07/2021 11/08/2021 25/08/2021 08/09/2021 22/09/2021
Flyer distributed to every house and business in the borough to promote the consultation and roadshow events	11/08/2021

#### Consultee notification

- 3.27 All those on the Strategic Planning database, were informed of the consultation by email, advising on details of the online survey and upcoming drop in events. The database includes contact details of all relevant stakeholders and government agencies, as well as community groups and residents who had opted-in to be notified of consultation activities relating to the Local Plan. The 'specific', 'general', and 'relevant' consultation bodies, as defined by the Regulations.
- 3.28 The Local Plan consultation was also promoted at the Kingston Chamber of Commerce's Business Breakfast and newsletter and in Kingston First's online newspages.

#### Response methods

- 3.29 All stakeholders were encouraged to respond to the consultation via an online survey on the Council's engagement portal. The full list of survey questions are set out in Appendix 1 of this report.
- 3.30 Written answers to the questions in the consultation document or the short survey could also be completed and either left in the Local Plan cardboard postbox available at open libraries, posted to the Guildhall or completed and handed in at the roadshow events.
- 3.31 Respondents were also able to email their response to the Local Plan email address (<a href="localplan@kingston.gov.uk">localplan@kingston.gov.uk</a>), or use the Freephone number where they could record a message and receive a call back.
- 3.32 Verbal comments made by participants at roadshow events, stakeholder interviews and chattabouts were taken down on short survey forms or as meeting notes.

### Consultation response rates

- 3.33 2,300 people visited the Local Plan further engagement pages on the Kingston Let's Talk portal.
- 3.34 Over 1,100 people gave us their views through a wide variety of channels:
  - 676 online surveys, across the eight topic areas, were completed by over 250 people on our Kingston: Let's Talk engagement portal.

- 448 people spoke to us on a roadshow at one of the 15 events and locations across the borough.
- Over 100 people from Kingston's local groups and diverse communities gave us their views in 16 workshops, focus groups & chattabouts
- Interviews took place with 10 key organisations in the borough
- 165 young people gave us their views through workshops, surveys and activity sheets.
- 116 emails were received to the local plan email address:
  - 88 responses to the Further Engagement;
  - o 32 responses to the Site Assessments Update; and
  - 18 submissions to the Call for Sites
- Two Facebook Live events were held about the Local Plan. Comments were submitted during these events and the sessions were recorded and viewed during the consultation period 385 and 204 times respectively.

See Appendix 3 for an infographic showing the feedback received.

## 4. Other stakeholder engagement

4.1 In addition to the Further Engagement, the Council has undertaken a process of constructive, active and on-going engagement with elected members and relevant agencies. A summary of these activities is summarised below.

#### **Duty to cooperate**

4.2 Council officers have continued to engage with South West London and neighbouring Surrey local authorities to provide a forum to discuss planning issues affecting the sub-region. Detailed information will be provided in a future Duty to Cooperate Statement for the Regulation 19 consultation.

#### **Elected member briefings**

- 4.3 Various elected member briefings took place, including reports and presentations at the following Neighbourhood Committee meetings:
  - Kingston Town 23 June 2021
  - Maldens and Coombe 24 June 2021
  - South of the Borough 29 June 2021
  - Surbiton 30 June 2021
- 4.4 Two all-councillor briefings also took place on 24 June and 29 June. A briefing pack was prepared and shared with all councillors to enable them to distribute information about the consultation with their networks and encourage participation. A further email was sent to all councillors on 24 August to remind them about the ongoing consultation process.
- 4.5 Printed batches of the short surveys were distributed to the Leader, portfolio holders, councillor champions, neighbourhood chairs and group offices, for them to hand out in their wards.
- 4.6 All-councillor briefings also took place to share the headlines and highlights of the consultation with elected members on 24 and 26 November 2021.

# 5. Summary of main views and issues raised by respondents

- All of the feedback received from the wide range of channels was read by the Planning Policy team and carefully analysed. A coding frame of almost 90 tags (thematic labels) was used to identify and quantify the different subject areas and issues being raised. This helped officers to review, manage and understand the high volume of qualitative data received through the further engagement.
- 5.2 Two reports were produced <u>a detailed report and a summary version</u> capturing the feedback and views expressed under the different themes. These were uploaded and are available on the Kingston: Let's Talk platform.
- 5.3 This section contains a table with the main views and issues raised during both the early engagement in 2019 and the further engagement in 2021. The table includes the council's response, including how it has informed the policies in the draft new Local Plan. The views and issues in this table are not exhaustive but it does capture the key matters that respondents consider need to be addressed in the preparation of the new Local Plan.
- 5.4 Feedback from the further engagement which was not necessarily relevant for the Local Plan but useful for other council service areas, was shared with them, to inform their planning and decision-making. This included the Climate Change, Highways, Adult Social Care, Culture and Heritage, Regeneration and Economic recovery, Cambridge Road Estate, Placemaking, Community Vision and Transformation teams.

The table below summarises the key issues raised by our communities during the Early Engagement (2019) and Further Engagement (2021) consultations. Where relevant, the Council has responded on how the issues have been addressed through policies in the First Draft of the New Local Plan.

#	Summary of key issues	The council's response	Section or draft policy		
Но	How to plan for good growth				
1	Would like to see support for the London Plan's 'Good Growth' objectives and for the New Local Plan to set out what this means for the borough responding to local needs.	The Draft Local Plan sets out a long term vision for the borough. The vision will be delivered by a number of spatial objectives and policies, with the aim of ensuring future developments in the borough are planned for in a positive and sustainable way, delivering 'good growth'.  The draft plan also highlights the Council's commitment to work proactively with local communities, along with partners and other stakeholders, to realise the vision and related objectives.	Vision and objectives, all policies		
2	There were views that high density developments should be directed to areas in and around town centres and rail stations; The Local Plan should acknowledge these areas are some of the borough's most sustainable locations, and will need to evolve in order to meet future demand for housing.  Increasing density on underutilised land can make the most of available land, delivering new housing and infrastructure, and supporting the regeneration of low performing areas.  Developments should also be supported in some locations outside town centres and transport hubs, where they are supported by required infrastructure.	Draft Policy K1 directs significant developments and growth to the most accessible and sustainable locations in the borough.  It identifies the Kingston Town Centre area, followed by district centres (New Malden, Surbiton and Tolworth), and other areas with good public transport accessibility as primary locations for new housing developments.  Kingston Town Centre and three district centres will provide the focus for retail, employment, leisure and cultural activities in the borough. These will be supported by local centres to provide services and facilities for local communities, delivering well functioning neighbourhoods and places.	K1, K2		
3	There were concerns that the London Plan's housing target for Kingston is unsustainable/undeliverable; and questions over whether the housing requirement identified would still be appropriate, especially following the COVID-19 pandemic.	Under section 24(1)(b) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, all Development Plan Documents in London have to be in general conformity with the London Plan. Policy H1 in the London Plan, sets out the net housing completions target that each borough authority should plan for in their Local Plans.	KH1 to KH7; Site Allocations		

#	Summary of key issues	The council's response	Section or draft policy
	There were views that the housing target should be challenged as part of the Local Plan process.	The new Local Plan for Kingston will cover a plan period up to 2041. While it is acknowledged that the pandemic has had a big impact on all our lives, the most recent population projections from the GLA (2020-based), which included assumptions about the pandemic and Brexit impacts, projected the fall in London's population to be temporary, with future growth projected to be stable. The GLA is producing a new set of population projections to reflect the 2021 Census data, these are scheduled for release late 2022.	draft policy
		Increasing the supply of housing in the borough will be a key aim of the new Local Plan. The rising cost of housing and people on the housing waiting list means there is an urgent need to provide more genuinely affordable homes for those wishing to live, work and study here. There is also a need to deliver more suitable housing for families, and housing that caters for different needs.	
		The draft plan identifies a number of potential development sites (site allocations) to help meet the London Plan's housing target. As part of the plan-making process, the council will continue to identify the potential land suitable and available for housing, and work with relevant partners to ensure new developments will be sustainable and can meet the needs of local people.	
4	There were comments that the new Local Plan needs to be able to respond to the challenges from climate change - including, new developments should be prevented in areas of high flood risk, and be resilient to the effects of flooding.  Planning policies for land uses, transport, and energy should be integrated to deliver improvements	The council has declared a Climate Emergency and published a Climate Action Plan setting out how the borough will plan to achieve carbon neutrality in its operations by 2030, and in the wider borough by 2038.  The draft plan seeks to support this ambition by including specific policies to promote low carbon and net zero carbon developments, improve climate resilience, and mitigate against the impacts from climate change.	KC1 to KC11
	in air quality and support a reduction in carbon emissions.  New developments should also aim to be carbon neutral, with BREEAM standards enforced. The refurbishment and reuse of existing buildings should be prioritised over	Policy KC2 requires all relevant developments to meet or exceed the Air Quality Neutral Standard and contribute to the measures set out in the borough's Air Quality Action Plan; requires an Air Quality Impact Assessment for planning applications involving most new build developments, including those used by children and older people, and provide mitigations where occupants are exposed to poor air quality.	

#	Summary of key issues	The council's response	Section or draft policy
	the construction of new developments.	Policy KC3 requires all relevant developments to comply with national government requirements on flooding; development proposals will be guided to areas of lower flooding risk (through the 'sequential approach'), and be required to provide a Flood Risk Assessment if they are major developments or are located within Flood Zones 2 and 3.  To inform the new Local Plan, the council has also updated its Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the borough to provide up-to-date information/data, taking into account the potential impact of climate change on flooding risks.  Policy KC10 expects all relevant developments to adopt a circular economy approach to the design and construction of buildings, this includes prioritising the reuse/retrofit of existing buildings, minimising waste, carbon emissions, and the environmental impact from developments wherever possible.  Policy KC7/KC5 requires non-residential developments above 500 sqm to achieve the BREEAM 'Outstanding' rating, and 'Excellent Water Efficiency' rating; and for residential conversions to meet the BREEAM Domestic Refurbishment 'Outstanding' rating (or equivalent ratings if BREEAM is replaced);	drant policy
5	There were comments that opportunities to deliver renewables, district heating networks, and electric vehicle infrastructure should be explored by the plan.	Policy KC7 expects all developments to explore opportunities for renewable energy, by producing, storing and using renewable energy on site (in line with the London's Energy Hierarchy); with all new housing developments and non-residential developments above 500 sqm required to demonstrate how on-site renewable energy generation is promoted on-site.  Policy KC8 requires all relevant developments to be designed in a way compatible with existing and any planned decentralised energy networks in their area; developments must also connect to these networks if it is expected to be operational within five years of the development being completed.  Policy KT1/KT4 expects new developments to contribute towards the borough's electric vehicle infrastructure network, and to prioritise sustainable approaches to any car parking provision, including	KC7, KC8, KT1, KT4

#	Summary of key issues	The council's response	Section or
		provisions for ultra low emissions vehicles and	draft policy
		electric vehicle charging points.	
6	The Lead Flood Authority highlighted	Policy KC4 expects new developments to reduce the	KC4, KC5
	that it is becoming increasingly	risk of surface water flooding by demonstrating how	
	difficult to manage surface water	water run-off and discharge from the site is	
	runoffs, and to provide above ground	minimised through appropriate water reuse and	
	mitigations in some build-up areas of	sustainable drainage systems techniques. The policy	
	the borough, including Kingston	also promotes the use of permeable surface	
	Town Centre area.	materials, and resist impermeable surfaces in	
		gardens and driveways unless they are unavoidable.	
	The new Local Plan should also	No anima and dising will be used to a supplied the	
	promote the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and	Planning conditions will be used to ensure water runoffs from new developments are less than	
	permeable surface materials; and the	greenfield runoff rates. Where necessary, a secure	
	maintenance of these assets post	maintenance arrangement (or equivalent	
	development.	contribution though Section 106) will also be entered	
	•	into to ensure sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)	
	There were also concerns around the	will be properly maintained throughout the life of the	
	strain new developments could place	development.	
	on water quality, and the discharge		
	of sewage into Hogsmill river.	Policy KC5 requires development to reduce water	
		consumption in line with rates specified in the	
		London Plan and adopts the higher national technical	
		standard for water consumption set out in Part G of the Building Regulations 2013.	
		the building Regulations 2015.	
		As part of the planning process, the council will	
		require relevant development proposals within the	
		Hogsmill river area to engage with Thames Water,	
		and where advised, to phase development delivery in	
		a way that will ensure sufficient capacity in the local sewage treatment networks.	
Vo	ur Naighbourhaad and Le		
	ur Neighbourhood and Lo		1/4 1/3
7	There were suggestions that the new Local Plan should have a focus on the	The draft Local Plan puts forward a spatial strategy	K1, K2,
	'15-minute city' (where most	that directs significant developments to the most sustainable locations, to help ensure developments	KE1, KE4, KD3, KD11
	essential functions can be fulfilled	can be supported by current and planned facilities,	ולעט, אטדי
	through a short walk or cycle	and where access to public transport and	
	journey) and other similar concepts,	opportunities for active travel would be greatest.	
	and adopt their principles to make		
	the borough more inclusive and	The draft plan recognises the role our town/local	
	more equitable.	centres have in supporting sustainable communities.	
	_ ,,	It also acknowledges the impact the pandemic has	
	Following the COVID-19 pandemic,	had, impacting the wider socio-economic context,	
	many local residents have	and that more needs to be done to support our local	
	commented they appreciate their local shops and local parades more.	communities and businesses to recover (Policy KE1). Policy KE4 sets out a hierarchy of the borough's town	
	local shops and local parades more.	centres. All relevant developments are required to	
		contribute positively to the role and function of the	
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#	Summary of key issues	The council's response	Section or
	Many residents have also expressed that the new plan should support the recovery of the borough's high streets and town centres, not just as destinations for shopping, but to offer more attractive street environments that enhances user experiences, and support a wider mix of uses to attract more people to visit our centres (including more creative/community spaces, outdoor spaces for festivals and outdoor performances, food and other market stalls, etc.).  There were also comments that the new plan should celebrate the borough's culture and heritage more.	borough's town centre hierarchy. Alongside the centres of Kingston, New Malden, Surbiton and Tolworth (as the main town centres), it also identifies 26 Local Centres across the borough to recognise their role in providing day-to-date goods and services to their local areas/catchment.  Policy KE5 identifies Primary Shopping Areas to provide a focus and direct developments suitable for town centres, such as those for retail, commercial/businesses, and leisure uses to these locations, supporting the recovery of high streets and parades. It also encourages improvements to the public realm and open spaces to provide attractive street environments (along with Policy KD3), and supports proposals for street markets and outdoor events in the town centres.  Policy KD11 places the borough's built, cultural and landscape heritage at the heart of place-making, ensuring these assets are recognised and conserved.	draft policy
		Developments are expected to promote the local context and distinctive character of Kingston, through high quality and inclusive developments, and deliver public spaces that sustains and makes a positive contribution to the historic environment.	
Gr	een Belt and Metropolitar		
8	There were views that the new Local Plan needs to recognise the strategic roles of Green Belt and MOL in London, and the positive contributions this land makes.	In line with the National Planning Policy Framework and the London Plan, the draft Local Plan seeks to promote the effective use of land, in a way that makes as much use of previously developed land and brownfield sites as possible.	KN1, KN6
	Housing and employment developments should be provided on previously developed land (or brownfield sites), where they can be supported by local services and facilities and accessible by public transport.	Policy K1 directs significant developments and growth to the most accessible and sustainable locations in the borough, to help ensure developments can be supported by current and planned facilities, and where access to public transport and opportunities for active travel would be greatest. The policy is also clear that developments must ensure it continues to protect the borough's Green Belt, MOLs, and public open spaces.	
		Policy KN6 requires all proposals to preserve or enhance the openness of the Green Belt and MOLs, and support proposals which would improve their public access, including for outdoor sports and	

#	Summary of key issues	The council's response	Section or
		recreation activities where there is no conflict with	draft policy
		the purposes of such land.	
9	There were concerns with the potential loss of Green Belt land and Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) to housing development. Many felt the Green Belt and MOLs should be protected from inappropriate developments.	Planning policy for the protection of London's Green Belt and MOLs are set out through strategic policies in the London Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.  The council supports the continued protection of the borough's designated Green Belt and MOLs.	KN6
	However, development on Green Belt land and MOLs were also supported by several consultees, especially where these have been previously developed and have limited or no contribution to strategic functions.  Through the Call-for-Sites, the council has received a number of submissions and representations from landowners/developers to bring forward specific Green Belt sites and MOL for development.	To inform the preparation of the new Local Plan, the council commissioned an independent review of the borough's Green Belt and MOLs. The review concluded that all designated Green Belt and MOL parcels within the borough fulfil their intended strategic purposes.  In meeting the London Plan's housing target, the draft plan does not put forward any proposals to de-designate Green Belt land or MOL for development. It is intended that new housing (and other inappropriate development) proposals on designated Green Belt and MOLs will continue to be assessed against relevant policies set out in the London Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.	
Or	portunity Areas		
10	There were questions around the justification and rationale for having Opportunity Areas in Kingston, and whether these still exist with the previous Crossrail 2 project now officially put on hold by TfL.  There were also views that the opportunity area boundary should be clearly defined in the Local Plan, and should not overlap with the Green Belt and MOLs.	The London Plan identifies a number of 'Opportunity Areas' as locations with significant development capacity to support new housing, commercial development and infrastructure; these are linked to existing or potential improvements in public transport connectivity and capacity.  For the 'Kingston Opportunity Area', these areas include Kingston Town Centre, Norbiton, London Road & Cambridge Road Estate, New Malden, and Tolworth.  The draft plan recognises that in the longer term, the growth potential of these areas may be dependent on the delivery of Crossrail 2. However, in the short to medium term, these areas will remain the borough's most sustainable locations for development growth due to their proximity to town centres, infrastructure and public transport connections.	K2

#	Summary of key issues	The council's response	Section or draft policy
		Centre and the Cambridge Road Estate as a 'Key Area of Opportunity'. The policy intends to provide a focus for sustainable development growth, harnessing investments and infrastructure delivery in the short to medium term period of the Local Plan. The proposed Kingston Town Centre Area boundary excludes designated Green Belt land and MOLs.	
De	esign, Heritage and Cultur	e	
11	While there was some recognition that to deliver a substantial uplift in homes, tall buildings and higher density developments will likely be required at certain locations, there were concerns around their potential impacts, including on local views, local townscape character, and the settings of conservation areas and historic assets.  The appropriate height of new buildings need to take into consideration existing local character, heritage and views.	The draft plan expects the highest standards of design for all developments across the borough. All major developments must follow a 'design-led approach' as set out in the GLA's London Planning Guidance to optimise the development potential of their site. In doing so, developments will take into account local context and character, whilst recognising that some areas will evolve and require the highest design standards to be achieved. The design approach also expects effective engagement to be undertaken with the local community at an early stage of the development process.  Policy KD10 defines what constitutes a 'tall building' within the borough, and identifies the locations where tall buildings may be an appropriate form of development, subject to meeting other relevant policy requirements. The policy requires all tall buildings to be designed with building height sensitive to its surrounding context, and to protect strategic and local views.  In line with the London Plan, the council is aiming to increase the level of scrutiny and assess the visual, functional, environmental and cumulative impacts	KD1, KD10
12	There were views that the level of development required will not be compatible with the protection of the borough's natural environment.  There were concerns that focusing development in the town centres will result in overly tall and dense developments that won't be able to provide the range of housing needed, such as family homes with access to open spaces.  The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of open	that any proposed tall buildings may have.  The draft Local Plan includes policies to protect and enhance the natural environment, and provides an integrated approach for the planning and delivery of green infrastructure.  This includes Policy KN3, which requires a minimum of 30% Biodiversity Net Gain from developments, and protects biodiversity; and Policy KN4, which requires major developments to increase green cover on the site and provide urban greening.  Policy KN2 and KN6 protects the borough's parks, Public Open Spaces, Metropolitan Open Land and Green Belt from inappropriate developments	KN1 to KN6 KH2, KH3, KN2

#	Summary of key issues	The council's response	Section or
	spaces. Tall buildings need to be well designed with access to outdoor spaces.	Policy KH2/KH3 sets out the draft plan's policies for securing affordable housing provisions, and the appropriate mix of homes required from all major developments.	draft policy
		Policy KN2 encourages new developments to improve public access to local parks and other open spaces in their area, especially within areas of deficiency. Major developments will also be required to create new areas of usable open spaces satisfactory to the needs of the developments' occupiers.	
13	Some have expressed concerns that new development will mean more tall buildings in the town centres and are anxious about what this means	The draft Local Plan recognises that the local character, heritage and cultural diversity of an area is important to people.	KD10, KD11, KD12
	for existing areas and in particular for the heritage and character in Kingston town centre.	The proposed policies seek to ensure developments recognise the distinctive characters, histories and communities of each location, and ensure the needs of new and existing communities are met.	
	There were comments that the borough's heritage and cultural assets make a massive contribution to the area, and there is a demand	KD10 requires all tall buildings to be designed with building height sensitive to its surrounding context, and to protect strategic and local views.	
	for them to be enhanced and celebrated, and made accessible and inclusive for all.	In line with the London Plan, the draft Local Plan puts forward a positive strategy for the conservation of the borough's historic environment.	
		Policy KD11 places the borough's built, cultural and landscape heritage at the heart of place-making, ensuring these assets are recognised and conserved. Developments are expected to promote the local	
		context and distinctive character of Kingston, through high quality and inclusive developments, and deliver public spaces that sustains and makes a	
		positive contribution to the historic environment.  Proposals affecting heritage assets will be required to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting.	
14	There were views that 'design codes'	setting. Policy KD1 expects developments on large or	KD1, KD4,
	should be used to guide development proposals and set out the design principles for the area, including from a heritage and an architectural perspective; to enhance	strategic sites to develop masterplans and design codes to deliver high quality design. The development of masterplans and design codes should involve engagement with local communities.	KC3, KC8
	the quality of the developments and contribute to the uniqueness of these places. It should also include	In addition, the council is also developing a plan for the Kingston town centre area, to set out a design vision and broad principles to guide developments	

#	Summary of key issues	The council's response	Section or draft policy
	guidance to encourage greening, promote renewable energy features, and ensure developments deliver to high environmental standards.  The use of design codes (and masterplans) should be focused in areas with multiple development opportunities or/and potential for significant changes, including town centre, opportunity areas and areas surrounding key transport nodes). These should be prepared in collaboration with landowners, and with involvement from local residents and other stakeholders. Where relevant their preparation should be overseen by an independent design panel.	within the identified area. The work is being developed with the help of a Citizens' Panel and wider community and stakeholder engagement.  Policy KD4 helps ensure new housing developments must meet, and where possible seek to exceed, the housing standards set out in the London Plan, including the minimum standards.  Policy KC7 expects all developments to explore opportunities for renewable energy, by producing, storing and using renewable energy on site (in line with the London's Energy Hierarchy); with all new housing developments and non-residential developments above 500 sqm required to demonstrate how on-site renewable energy generation is promoted on-site.  Policy KC8 requires all relevant developments to be designed in a way compatible with existing and any planned decentralised energy networks in their area; developments must also connect to these networks if it is expected to be operational within five years of the development being completed.	
15	When considering building design we need to build for the next century - buildings need to be sustainable, net zero and enhance rather than interfere with nature and biodiversity.  Safety needs to be an important consideration in the design of future developments e.g. alleyways, location of doorways, lighting, improved connections, landscaping etc.  There should be greater emphasis placed on repurposing buildings and if new developments are needed then design quality and high environmental standards should be prioritised over other considerations, such as the number of homes.  Support is expressed towards implementing innovative building technologies that can contribute to delivering high-quality design and	The Design and Heritage section of the new Local Plan has been drafted to complement and address the requirements of the Climate change and Natural Environment sections. The plan's approach will help ensure developments will be sustainable.  Policy KD2 requires all developments to deliver well-functioning, safe and resilient places; amongst other things, this includes ensuring that appropriate levels of privacy, outlook, natural daylight and other forms of amenity are protected. Policy KD3 requires all public realms to be designed and maintained to a high quality standard, all developments must provide safe and secure places and comply with all current safety requirements in public realm design standards.  Policy KC10 expects all relevant developments to adopt a circular economy approach to the design and construction of buildings, this includes prioritising the reuse/retrofit of existing buildings, minimising waste, carbon emissions, and the environmental impact from developments wherever possible.	KD2, KD3, KD4, KC10

#	Summary of key issues	The council's response	Section or draft policy
	sustainable developments across the borough.	In line with the London Plan, the policy promotes innovative building design that avoids waste, supports high recycling rates and helps London transition to a circular economy, where materials, products and assets are kept at their highest value for as long as possible.	
Нс	ousing		
16	There were views that the housing types being built over the years are not seen as those most needed in the borough. People want to see more houses rather than flats built in Kingston. There are views that flats make people feel more isolated and not part of a community.	The new Local Plan has to be realistic and pragmatic about how the housing target can be met, especially if a large proportion of homes are to be delivered in and around the main town centres.  It recognises the need to deliver a wide range of housing types, sizes and tenures to meet the wide-ranging housing needs of our local communities. It also acknowledges respondents' preference for a mix of housing, with particular demand for providing new homes for families.  Policy KH3, in particular, aims to deliver a mix of different types of homes in terms of tenure, sizes, designs, and locations to build communities, help people stay in the borough, and help families stay	KH1 to KH6
17	There were many comments about the quality and standards of new homes - for example, respondents want to ensure there is adequate space in new homes for residents to work from home and have access to private outdoor space and privacy.	near each other.  Policy KD4 sets out how all new housing development should provide adequately-sized rooms and spaces with comfortable and functional layouts along with well-integrated amenities. This includes proposals for new-builds, changes of use, alterations and extensions. Development should consider natural light, external storage space and year-round	KD4
18	Some have expressed concerns around the affordability of housing, with many respondents wanting the council to push for the delivery of as much affordable housing as possible. This is particularly important for key workers, families and younger people, to enable them to stay and live in the borough.  There is a need to ensure that affordable housing remains so in perpetuity. There should also be more viable rental options in the borough, to provide more choice for people.	thermal comfort.  The council's approach in the draft Local Plan is to ensure affordable housing is delivered in the borough.  Policy KH2 proposes that development proposals for 10 or more residential units must, as a minimum, provide 50 percent of homes on public sector land (including any land that has been in public ownership within the previous 10 years) as affordable housing; or 35 percent of homes on private sector land as affordable housing.  The council generally secures affordable housing through use of a planning obligation, to be retained as affordable housing, or for the subsidy (if there is one) to be recycled to help provide other affordable	KH2, KH3, KH4

#	Summary of key issues	The council's response	Section or draft policy
		housing. The sale of affordable housing on the open market is permitted subject to certain conditions.  Where we can protect affordable housing from being "lost" to the open market, we will use planning obligations to do so.	draft policy
		Policy KH4 supports the development of purpose-built Built to Rent housing, particularly in locations that have good public transport levels or are located within walking distance of a main town centre boundary.	
		The draft plan also acknowledges people's preference for a mix of housing, with particular demand for homes for key workers and families. The new plan aims to deliver a mix of different types of homes in terms of tenure, sizes, designs, and locations to build communities and help people stay in the borough.	
19	There were views that there should be no more purpose-built student housing within the borough.	Policy KH6 will only support the delivery of shared living and student accommodation where it can be demonstrated to meet an identified need.	KH5, KH6
	There are comments from some for the need to provide improved, high quality support for the growing population of older people, disabled and other vulnerable people, to support them to live in their own	Policy KH5 sets out how the plan will support the development of specialist housing for older people, people with a disability, and vulnerable people, where there is an identified unmet local need for the particular type of accommodation.	
	homes and in residential care, so that their situation does not deteriorate.	The policy supports the development of specialist housing for older people, people with a disability, and vulnerable people. It seeks to direct the	
	The borough should support the building of suitable for older people, and encourage the inclusion of older persons housing as part of housing developments for sale and for rent.	development of specialist housing to locations that are well connected by public transport, and close to local amenities, including healthcare facilities. At least 35% of all specialist housing bedrooms are to be delivered as affordable bedrooms.	
		The loss of existing specialist accommodation will also be resisted unless the needs of those being catered for can be delivered elsewhere, or the accommodation is no longer suitable to meet current needs.	
20	There were concerns with the loss of larger residential gardens, and inadequate garden provision from new flats and housing developments.	Policy KD6 sets out how proposals for new homes must provide good quality external amenity space that meets or exceeds the proposed standards (requirements of 50 square metres for each dwelling house, and 5 square metres for each bed space within flats).	KD6

Summary of key issues	The council's response	Section or
mmunity Facilities		draft policy
Following the pandemic, people recognise more the importance of community services and social infrastructure, and want to see sites identified and safeguarded, so that as more homes are built, these do not become lost opportunities.  A range of different and inclusive spaces are needed, such as multi-functional community halls and facilities, which can be used by people of different ages and needs.  There were concerns about loss of support social facilities due to increased housing development  There were views that the New Local Plan should support the provision of more indoor and outdoor sports facilities, and have policies that prevent the loss of sports facilities and land. New sports facilities should also be planned for and provided in the borough.  There is a feeling that current infrastructure is inadequate, especially public transport, medical facilities and schools.	The draft plan includes clear policies to protect against the loss of community infrastructure, including sports facilities, in line with national policy and the London Plan.  Policy KS4 and KS6 requires developments involving the loss of existing facilities will be resisted, unless an assessment has been undertaken which clearly shows the facility is surplus to requirements, or the loss would be replaced by facilities of an equivalent or improved quality, in a suitable location.  All housing developments will be expected to contribute towards the provision of infrastructure in their local area, in line with relevant service strategies and infrastructure plans. All major housing development proposals will be expected to address the social infrastructure needs arising from the development.  New community facilities are required to be designed to a high standard, reflect design requirements and specifications from infrastructure providers, and are appropriately located for its intended use.  The new plan will seek to ensure there is sufficient infrastructure in place to support existing neighbourhoods and the levels of future development planned in the borough. In preparing the Local Plan, the council has worked with relevant infrastructure providers to identify the key infrastructure needed to support developments.  An Infrastructure Delivery Plan is being prepared alongside the draft Local Plan, which will evidence the key infrastructure needed to support developments, as well as arrangements for their funding and delivery. Key infrastructure requirements	KS1 to KS6
	to support the new Local Plan are set out in the latest Infrastructure Delivery Plan.	VC1 VC2
There were views that the borough's existing infrastructure is inadequate and already overused, and therefore cannot cope with any more development.	The new Local Plan will aim to ensure there is sufficient infrastructure in place to support existing neighbourhoods and the levels of future development planned in the borough.	KS1, KS2, KS3, KS4
canno	ot cope with any more	ot cope with any more development planned in the borough.

#	Summary of key issues	The council's response	Section or draft policy
	Supporting infrastructure, such as schools, doctors, dentists etc which many people feel are already under pressure, need to be planned for and put in place first, before further development is permitted.  The additional infrastructure needed to support new housing has to be provided in advance of development.	Infrastructure Delivery Plan, which will evidence the key infrastructure projects and requirements, as well as arrangements for their funding and delivery. As part of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan work, the council is working with relevant partners and providers to understand the phasing and timing of key projects.  New developments will be expected to contribute towards the council's Community Infrastructure Levy, which will be used to help fund infrastructure provisions in the borough. Where relevant, Section 106 agreements might also be entered into with the developer to contribute towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure, where the need for which has arisen as a result of a new development taking place.  The draft plan expects major development proposals to address the needs directly arising from the housing development, and be informed by early discussions on the area's existing capacity to support the new development, and any additional requirements for infrastructure and upgrades.  Wherever possible, Policy KS4 encourages major developments to deliver new community facilities in the early stages of the development to ensure new homes and jobs are supported by the infrastructure.	draft policy
Na	tural Environment		
23	The pandemic has increased people's appreciation for the borough's green and open spaces and the connection it has to people's health and well-being.  Many people want greater awareness of and improved access to green spaces, including the green belt and Metropolitan Open Land.	Under the draft plan, all developments will be encouraged to improve public access and connections to local parks and other open spaces, especially within areas of deficiency.  Planning proposals to improve access to Sites of Importance of Nature Conservation could also be supported, where it could be demonstrated that the development would not result in an detrimental impact on biodiversity.	KN2, KN3, KN6
24	There needs to be policies that increase urban greening, enhance biodiversity and wildlife, support flood management, improve amenity, and address the urban heat island effect.	Policies relating to urban greening, biodiversity and wildlife are set out in the Natural Environment Chapter of the draft plan.  Policy KN3 requires all developments to conserve priority species, and contribute to the restoration	KN3, KN4, KC3, KC4, KC6

#	Summary of key issues	The council's response	Section or draft policy
	Local Plan should ensure resilience to climate change; and deliver enhancements to the natural environment. This must include reducing the risk of flooding, and preventing developments in areas of high flood risk.	and enhancement of priority habitats and nature conservation sites, where relevant.  Policy KN4 requires all relevant developments to increase green cover on the site, and meet the minimum urban greening factor target scores.  Policies relating to flood management and climate resilience are set out in the Climate Change Chapter of the draft plan. Policy KC3 and KC6 sets out how developments will be expected to reduce the risk of flooding and improve resilience against the impacts from climate change.  Policy KC3 requires all relevant developments to comply with national government requirements on flooding; development proposals will be guided to areas of lower flooding risk (through the 'sequential approach'), and be required to provide a Flood Risk Assessment if they are major developments or are located within Flood Zones 2 and 3.  Policy KC4 expects new developments to reduce the risk of surface water flooding by demonstrating how water run-off and discharge from the site is minimised through appropriate water reuse and sustainable drainage systems techniques.  To inform the new Local Plan, the council has also updated its Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the borough to provide up-to-date information/data, taking into account the potential impact of climate change on flooding risks.	drait policy
25	There were concerns about the pressure placed on the natural environment from growing population and development and questions around how this can be effectively managed.  Existing green and open spaces should be properly listed and protected from development and new developments should include new green and open spaces for new residents to enjoy and benefit from.  Opportunity to enhance wildlife habitats and river restoration should be considered at the earliest stage	The draft Local Plan acknowledges that as population grows, we must continue to protect and enhance our most valued green and blue spaces and habitats, secure measurable net gains for biodiversity, and improve the quality of the natural environment. The draft plan promotes a 'green infrastructure approach' for developments, which encourages proposals to investigate and maximise nature-based approaches and solutions to interrelated issues associated with the site at the earliest stage.  Where appropriate, developments will be expected to maximise opportunities for enhancing green spaces, incorporate urban greening features to enhance the development's visual quality and ecological functions of the site.	KN1 to KN6, KD6

#	Summary of key issues	The council's response	Section or draft policy
	Existing trees and biodiversity of sites should be protected from development.	KN2, KN3 and KN6 provide the planning policies to protect and enhance the borough's identified open spaces and green spaces, including the Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Lands.	
		Policy KN2 also requires new major housing developments to create new areas of open spaces that can meet the needs of its residents and occupiers, alongside the need to provide residential amenity spaces, set out in Policy KD6.	
		Street trees and urban woodlands are an important component of the borough's green infrastructure. Policy KN4 expects all developments to retain and protect existing street trees. As a minimum, developments will be required to plant two specimens for each tree lost on-site or in the surrounding area.	
26	There were suggestions that the new plan should consider how green routes and landscaping can help support more sustainable travel options, such as walking and cycling.	The draft plan expects major developments in town centres, local centres and surrounding areas to stations to demonstrate that opportunities to integrate urban greening measures have been maximised to support healthier, greener and more attractive street environments.	NE4
		Policy KN4 encourages urban greening features, vegetations and tree planting should be provided along walking and cycling paths, and public realm spaces to provide benefits to pedestrians, and to support healthier, greener, and more attractive street environments.	
27	Biodiversity net-gain must be a guiding principle in the new Local Plan, especially considering the enhanced focus from the Environment Bill.	To help reverse the decline in biodiversity and support the recovery of our natural environment, Policy KN3 requires developments to deliver 30% Biodiversity Net Gain, as a minimum, and secured for a period of at least 30 years.	KN3
		The policy also requires the arrangement and selection of biodiversity features to be appropriate to its location and the wider ecological networks in the local area.	
28	The council should consult on how to deal with underperforming green belt and Metropolitan Open Land and how appropriate forms of	Planning policy for the protection of London's Green Belt and MOLs are set out through strategic policies in the London Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.	KN6

#	Summary of key issues	The council's response	Section or draft policy
	development could be brought forward in these areas.	The council supports the continued protection of the borough's designated Green Belt and MOLs.	
		The council supports the continued protection of the borough's designated Green Belt and MOLs. To inform the preparation of the new Local Plan, the council commissioned an independent review of the borough's Green Belt and MOLs. The review concluded that all designated Green Belt and MOL parcels within the borough fulfil their intended strategic purposes.	
		Policy KN6 requires all proposals to preserve or enhance the openness of the Green Belt and MOLs, and support proposals which would improve their public access, including for outdoor sports and recreation activities where there is no conflict with the purposes of such land.	
29	The river should be seen as an important part of our natural environment in Kingston and the Local Plan must ensure there is no negative impact from new developments on the river	The draft plan draws reference to the Hogsmill Catchment Plan and Vision, and requires a 100m buffer zone between the river and any inappropriate development. Open spaces next to the Hogsmill River corridor will be protected from future development.	[KN7]
	environment	Development proposals adjacent to the river will be required to demonstrate how it will contribute to a target of "good ecological potential" under the Water Framework Directive, and what negative impacts it could potentially have.	
		Development proposals within the Hogsmill River area will also be required to engage with Thames Water at an early stage, and where advised, to phase their development delivery to help ensure there will be sufficient capacity in the local sewage treatment networks.	
Tra	ansport		
30	Many people have expressed support for sustainable transport aspirations, to reduce congestion and improve air quality in the borough.	The draft plan seeks to direct significant developments in the borough to locations supported by current and planned transport infrastructure, and where opportunities for active travel and multi-model trips would be greatest.	K1, KT1, KT2,
	Street environments should be well maintained and designed to encourage people to walk and cycle.  Many respondents want to see further improvements to cycling	The draft planning policies will aim for car free development where appropriate, and require secure and accessible cycle parking for new developments.  Policy KT2 expects new developments to provide adequate safe and secure cycling parking in line with	

#	Summary of key issues	The council's response	Section or draft policy
	infrastructure across the borough, including cycle lanes.  More secure bicycle parking is needed from new developments and also in existing residential areas near to people's homes and in town centres. New developments must include usable, safe cycle storage space to enable people to keep bicycles and be able to use them frequently.	the London Plan, for both new residential and commercial developments (further details of Cycle Parking requirements are set out in Policy KT2: Sustainable Travel and Healthy Streets).	
31	There were comments that some people continue to depend on cars for various reasons, including mobility issues and access to public transport and are concerned that car use is becoming too difficult.  Many people feel the cycle lanes are not used enough, or not used correctly by cyclists and need to be better promoted and signposted, with information about approx cycle times to different locations.  There were some who felt that the cycle lanes delivered in recent years has had a negative impact on pedestrians, bus lanes, car users and has contributed to additional traffic and pollution in the town centre.	New developments will be expected to provide disabled parking in line with London Plan requirements.  Cycling, walking and public transport improvements are helping to make sustainable modes of travel more achievable for many and lessen dependence on cars.  Policy KT2 expects developments to create opportunities and provide an environment where people can choose to walk and cycle, and reduces the use and impact of cars on our roads, and promotes the use of public transport.  Increasing the number of trips made by walking and cycling and public transport reduces carbon emissions and enhances the quality of the street environment through improved air quality.  The council is preparing a parking strategy to support future car parking provisions in the Kingston town centre area.	KT2, KT3, KT4
32	Some people commented that Kingston's transport infrastructure is already overcrowded, and needs substantial improvement to accommodate any development at all.  Many people want to see bus stops/train stations and routes better maintained, improved and integrated, and any proposed cuts to services should be vehemently resisted.	The Local Plan itself does not have the power to regulate public transport infrastructure and services. However draft Policy KT3 supports improvements to transport infrastructure.  The council's Local Implementation Plan (LIP) sets out the borough's proposals for delivering the Mayor's Transport Strategy.  As part of the LIP, the council will be identifying areas of the borough where improvements to the walking and cycling provisions are planned, new development will be expected to contribute towards	KT1, KT3

#	Summary of key issues	The council's response	Section or draft policy
33	Many people want to see EV infrastructure expanded across the borough to make it easier for people to charge their electric vehicles.	these projects.  An Infrastructure Delivery Plan is being prepared alongside the Local Plan, which will evidence the key infrastructure needed to support developments, as well as arrangements for their funding and delivery. Key infrastructure requirements to support the new Local Plan are set out in the latest Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan will include the LIP's programme of transport projects.  The draft plan expects major development proposals to address the needs directly arising from the housing development, and be informed by early discussions on the area's existing capacity to support the new development, and any additional requirements for infrastructure and upgrades.  Policy KT1/KT4 expects new developments to contribute towards the borough's electric vehicle infrastructure network, and to prioritise sustainable approaches to any car parking provision, including provisions for ultra low emissions vehicles and electric vehicle charging points.  The council has a vision for a 'cleaner and greener' Kingston, and providing more electric vehicle (EV) charging points plays a key part in this.  Following an initial introduction of EV charging points in 2021, the council is currently looking to deliver a	KT1, KT4
		further 150 charging points throughout 2022. For this project, the council has recently sought views on the suggested locations for the charging points, as well as on future locations, and likely usage habits.	
Lo	cal Economy and Town C	entres	
34	The New Local Plan should support and enhance local shopping parades. Some commented that in particular, Tolworth town centre needs to be urgently revitalised.  There is a need to utilise vacant	The draft Local Plan acknowledges the importance of local shopping parades and will continue supporting them and facilitating development which enhances the local parades, and for the employment and services that they provide. Tolworth, as one of the District Centres in the borough, is recognised in the draft Local Plan for catering to local needs.	KE4, KE5
	spaces (closed restaurants, pubs and office spaces) by finding sustainable alternative uses. Many people commented that they want to see	The draft plan sets out a proactive approach to supporting and facilitating the growth of the night time economy as an integral part of the local	

#	Summary of key issues	The council's response	Section or draft policy
	empty commercial or retail buildings converted into housing, so that town centres can remain vibrant places, and have a mix of retail and residential.  More should be done to support the night time economy in town centres. Not only for the businesses and activities themselves but also the range of different ages and communities which want to benefit from it.	economy. The plan seeks to direct investments and encourage spaces that support the diversification of the offer in town centres.  Policy KE4 and KE5 supports development that contributes to the night-life economy along with providing a more flexible approach to encourage a wider range of uses in town centres (including for leisure and cultural uses). The plan also facilitates the meanwhile use of vacant buildings and land for art and cultural uses.	
	There were concerns about loss of employment sites to housing. Some have commented that the council should use its available powers to prevent the conversion of offices to dwellings.  There were views that policies need to be put in place to protect employment floorspace and safeguard jobs, while making the best use of underutilised brownfield land in accessible locations.  The new plan should encourage the provision of significant new employment floorspace for SMEs in town centres, designated employment areas and areas with good public transport accessibility.	Planning legislation enables the conversion of a B1 office use to C3 dwelling house through the prior approval process.  The council has however put an Article 4 Direction in place to remove this permitted development right to protect our town centres and key employment areas in the borough.  These controls mean that a planning application will need to be submitted to convert any commercial space or shop into housing, in key areas in the borough. For more information visit our Article 4 website page.  The draft Local Plan seeks to support a thriving and productive environment for small and medium-sized enterprises and ensure the delivery of the right environment for them. Policies KE1 and KE2 safeguards the borough's designated employment locations. It also directs employment uses to the borough's designated Strategic Industrial Lands and Locally Significant Industrial Sites, and to town centres and other appropriate locations.  In line with London Plan policies, the council will not support any developments which will compromise the viability or operation of designated employment sites.	KE1, KE2
35	Given the retail sector is undergoing substantial change, which has been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the new Local Plan needs to be flexible to allow for the town	Changes by the Government to the Use Class Order in 2020 already allows the change of use of commercial units for certain uses without the need for planning permission.	K1, K2, KE2, KE4, KE5, KE8, KE9

#	Summary of key issues	The council's response	Section or draft policy
	centres to react to market changes.  The retail offering in town centres should be expanded. More independent and wider variety of shops would improve the town centre experience. Some commented that they would like to see fewer nail bars, takeaway outlets, charity and vaping shops.  The mix of uses (e.g. businesses and services, high street and industrial premises) and offer from Kingston town centre should be maintained.  Many people would also like to see empty shops repurposed into community or leisure spaces, or converted for residential or workspace, rather than left empty	In line with the spatial strategy, Kingston town centre and three district centres will provide the focus for retail, employment, leisure and cultural activities in the borough. These will be supported by local centres to provide services and facilities for local communities, delivering well functioning neighbourhoods and places. Policy KE5 seeks to direct commercial/retail uses to the borough's town centres and Primary Shopping Areas.  The Local Plan can not directly control the types of shops which occupy individual retail units. Policy KE4 requires all development to make a positive contribution to the role and function of the borough's town centres, providing a valuable range of shops and services for their local communities.  Policy KE8 and Policy KE9 put forward policies to help manage the over concentration and development of hot food takeaways and betting offices within town centres.  The plan will facilitate the temporary use of vacant buildings and land for art and cultural uses.  Policies in the draft local plan and changes to the use class order by central government also increase flexibility by allowing retail units to convert into other commercial and community uses.	
36	Recognise the importance of good public realm and open spaces around employment and retail areas support businesses as it creates a high quality environment for workers and customers.  Neighbourhoods and town centres need to be places that are safe and inclusive for all and at all times of the day.	The draft Local Plan recognises the importance of public realm throughout the borough and seeks to encourage improvements within town centres.  The plan supports improvements to the public realm and open spaces in town centres. Policy KD3 requires all development to create safe and secure places and comply with latest safety and public realm design standards.	KD3
37	Kingston is seen as an innovative and creative place, particularly with the presence of Kingston University, but more support is needed to support this creativity, as well as start-ups and small businesses, with more affordable workshop and hub space	The council will support the creation of mixed-use development for residential and certain employment uses, as well as live-work units.  In order to support start-up and small and medium businesses, the council will seek affordable workspace provision as part of new commercial	KE1, KE2

#	Summary of key issues	The council's response	Section or draft policy
	available, to retain and support the range of industry in the borough.  There is a need for more affordable workspaces that benefits small businesses.	development. Policy KE2 requires at least 10 percent of new employment floorspace to be provided as affordable workspace. The London Plan has policies addressing this issue (Policy E3).	
	More flexible and affordable coworking, serviced offices and shared workspace hubs need to be available to give people alternative working areas, especially with more people working from home.		
38	Some have suggested that Kingston town centre is given more attention over and above other town centres and high streets, which also need support so that they can continue to serve their communities.	Kingston town centre is designated as a Metropolitan Centre in the London Plan (the second-highest classification in the network of town centres across London).  Kingston town centre is the borough's main commercial centre and a sub-regional shopping centre, as well as being a significant cultural and leisure destination. The District Centres of Surbiton, New Malden and Tolworth are also recognised as having an important role in the draft Local Plan, and caters for more everyday needs, supplemented by Local Centres.	K1, K2
39	Greater provision of high speed broadband is needed to support jobs and businesses, particularly with more people working from home.	The draft Local Plan does not directly address the delivery of high speed broadband but we have shared the feedback with relevant delivery partners.	n/a
40	Business rates are too high for new small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).	Business rates are set by the central government so this is not something that can be addressed by the Local Plan. However the feedback has been shared with our business support team.	n/a

## Appendix 1 - List of Consultation Questions

#### Questions by topic area

- 1. How we plan for good growth
- ➤ Have the last year's events (e.g. COVID-19) changed where you think growth should be focused within the borough?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
- > Please tell us where you now think growth should be focused within the borough?

The London Plan identifies potential Opportunity Areas in the borough, such as Kingston town centre, where growth should be focused. Opportunity Areas should deliver growth that respects and responds to the local context — including heritage assets, views and character.

➤ What are your thoughts on having an Opportunity Area or Areas in the borough?

The London Plan emphasises accommodating growth while protecting and enhancing our open spaces, including the Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land, and for this growth to happen in a way that improves the lives of existing and new residents.

- ➤ How can we make sure the Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land is open to and benefits everyone?
- > Do you have any further comments on how we should plan for growth set by the London Plan?
- 2. Greener transport and how we move around
- ➤ Has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your experience of travelling around the borough?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
- Please tell us how your experience of travelling has changed?
- What was your main mode of transport before COVID-19? Tick all that apply.
  - Bus/coach
  - Car
  - Bicycle

- Motorcycle
- Rail
- Walk
- Other
- > Are you likely to continue travelling this way in the future?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
- ➤ Have the last year's events (e.g. COVID-19) positively changed how you view sustainable transport (green travel) or how we move around?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
- > Please can you say how your views have changed?
- What would encourage you to walk, cycle or take public transport more and use your car less?
- Can you describe any opportunities you think there are to improve walking, cycling, public transport and other sustainable travel options in your local area?
- > Do you have any further comments on sustainable transport and how we can move around?

#### 3. Natural environment

- > Are there any opportunities to improve the quality of nature sites and public access to nature in your local area?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
- > Please tell us how and where you think improvements can be made.
- ➤ Have the last year's events (e.g. COVID-19):
  - o increased your use of open spaces where you live? Tick one only.
    - Yes
    - No
  - o made you appreciate the natural environment more? Tick one only.
    - Yes
    - No
- ➤ Can you suggest any opportunities to improve the quality of, and access to, public open spaces in your local area (including walking and cycling

connections, and the locations where new pocket or linear parks could be created)?

- ➤ Can you suggest any examples of how planning policy could help protect, promote and support green infrastructure in the borough?
- > Do you have any further comments on the natural environment within Kingston?
- 4. Design, heritage and culture

In the 2019 Early Engagement, you told us that high-density developments should be encouraged in sustainable locations, such as the main town centres (Kingston town centre, New Malden, Surbiton and Tolworth) that have been identified in the new London Plan.

- ➤ In addition to the main town centres, are there any other locations in the borough that you think could support higher density developments and taller buildings?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
- Which locations do you think could support higher density developments and taller buildings?
- > What are your views on bringing forward the gentle intensification of small sites in existing neighbourhoods?

We have a lot of cultural and heritage assets which make important contributions towards the character of the different parts of the borough, in particular, in and around Kingston town centre. The condition of these assets could be improved by finding imaginative new uses or by allowing some new development to support their restoration.

- Are there any particular places of cultural or heritage value that you feel could be enhanced through new development?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
- > Please tell us the places of cultural or heritage value you are thinking about.
- > Are there any particular cultural venues or heritage sites that you would like to see protected in the borough?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know

- > Please tell us the venues or heritage sites you would like to see protected.
- ➤ Have the last year's events (e.g. COVID-19) changed how you view design, heritage and culture in our borough?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
- > Can you explain how your views have changed?

Good design can mean different things to different people.

- ➤ What does good design mean to you? For instance, what do you like/ dislike about your area?
- ➤ If you have any further comments on design, heritage and culture in the borough, please provide them here.
- 5. Your neighbourhood and local community
- ➤ Have the last year's events (e.g. COVID-19) changed... any of these things?
  - > How connected you feel to your local community/neighbourhood.
    - Yes this has increased
    - No this has decreased
    - No change
  - Your involvement in activities that make a difference to your local community/where you live.
    - Yes this has increased
    - No this has decreased
    - No change
  - > Your interest in plans/ideas for your local community/neighbourhood.
    - o Yes this has increased
    - No this has decreased
    - No change
- ➤ Local parades of shops are playing an increasing role in our communities. What do you think would improve your experience and encourage you to use your local shops more often?
- ➤ There are four main town centres in the borough (Kingston, New Malden, Surbiton and Tolworth). What would improve your experience of our main town centres and encourage you to use them more often?

Creating strong community networks and helping to develop respect for local diversity can nurture a sense of belonging and confidence.

> Do you have any suggestions on how planning could support strong communities in the borough?

> Do you have any further comments on your neighbourhood and local community?

### 6. Housing

This is about supporting the types of homes we need and in the right places to help meet housing targets set by the London Plan. We need to build more housing suitable for different needs.

- How could the new Local Plan better support the delivery of the increased number of homes set by the London Plan to meet the borough's housing needs?
- ➤ Have the last year's events (e.g. COVID-19) changed how you view housing in our borough?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
- > Can you explain how your views have changed?

Shared living accommodation is housing where residents share communal facilities such as bathrooms and kitchens. This is an alternative way to rent a home for many people who choose not to, or who can't afford to, rent homes by themselves.

> Do you think shared living accommodation is an important type of housing that we should be supporting in Kingston?

Like most places, our population is ageing. More people are living longer and some people need more support to stay independent, safe from harm and achieve/maintain wellbeing.

- ➤ In your opinion, what housing options for older people do you think are important to you and your family?
- 7. Community services and facilities
- ➤ Have the last year's events (e.g. COVID-19) changed how you view housing and community services and facilities in our borough?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
- Please explain what housing and community infrastructure you think will now be needed following the pandemic?

Over the next ten years, we expect to have a greater population of older people (over 65) and children and young adults. To meet these population increases we will need additional community facilities, such as schools and healthcare facilities.

- What new or improved facilities do you think your neighbourhood will need over the next 20 years?
- > Do you have any further comments on Housing and Community Infrastructure?

#### 8. Local economy

- ➤ Have the last year's events (e.g. COVID-19) changed how you view the local economy in our borough?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
- How have your views changed?

We expect flexible workspace to play an increasing role as the nature of work changes in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- > Do you work in a role that allows you to work flexibly, i.e. from different locations (your home, the office etc).
  - Yes
  - No

We expect flexible workspace to play an increasing role as the nature of work changes in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This could include workspaces provided by employers or local shared workspaces.

- > (Thinking about spaces provided by employers or possible local shared spaces or facilities,) are there any specific requirements such as co-working and serviced offices that you think flexible spaces should provide?
- > What would encourage you to use a nearby workspace?

Supporting small and medium-sized businesses will be key to the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- How do you think Kingston Council can best provide support for small businesses?
- > Are there any commercial locations where there could be a more effective use of the land?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know

- > If so, where and what types of development may be suitable in these locations.
- > Do you have any further comments on the Local Economy?

# Appendix 2 - Bodies notified for the Regulation 18 consultation

"specific consultation bodies" means the following:	Current relevant organisation
(a) the Coal Authority	Coal Authority
(b) the Environment Agency	The Environment Agency (South London Sustainable Places Team)
(c) the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (known as <b>English Heritage</b> )	Historic England
(d) the Marine Management Organisation	Marine Management Organisation
(e) Natural England	Natural England
(f) <b>Network Rail</b> Infrastructure Limited (company number 2904587)	Network Rail
(g) a <b>strategic highways company</b> (for the time being appointed under Part 1 of the Infrastructure Act 2015) any part of whose area is in or adjoins the area of the local planning authority; (ga) where the Secretary of State is the <b>highway authority</b> for any highway in the area of the local planning authority, the Secretary of State for Transport;	Highways England Transport for London - i.e. Mayor of London?
(h) relevant authority any part of whose area is in or adjoins the local planning authority's area,	Elmbridge Borough Council
	Epsom & Ewell Borough Council
"relevant authority" means:  - (a) a local planning authority,  - (b) a county council referred to in section 16(1) of the Act,  - (c) a parish council,  - (d) a local policing body, i.e. the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (in relation to the metropolitan police district)	London Borough of Merton
	London Borough of Sutton
	London Borough of Richmond
	London Borough of Wandsworth
	Mole Valley District Council
	Surrey County Council
	Claygate Parish Council
	Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)
(ha) a <b>neighbourhood forum</b> any part of whose area is in, or adjoins, the local planning authority's area	North Kingston Neighbourhood Forum
	Ham and Petersham Neighbourhood Forum
	Ashtead Neighbourhood Forum
(i) any person:	
- (i) to whom the <b>electronic communications code</b> applies by virtue of a direction given under section 106(3)(a) of the Communications Act 2003, and	Police and Emergency Services Mobile UK

- (ii) who owns or controls <b>electronic communications apparatus</b> situated in any part of the local planning  authority's area	Mobile UK
(j) if it exercises functions in any part of the local planning authority's area:	
- (i) a <b>clinical commissioning group</b> established under section 14D of the National Health Service Act 2006;	Kingston CCG
- (ia) the National Health Service Commissioning Board;	NHS England
- (ii) a person to whom a licence has been granted under section 6(1)(b) or (c) of the <b>Electricity Act 1989</b> (10);	Refer to licence holders on OFGEM website? UK Power Networks? National Grid
- (iii) a person to whom a licence has been granted under section 7(2) of the <b>Gas Act 1986</b> (11);	Refer to licence holders on OFGEM website SGN
- (iv) a sewerage undertaker; and	Thames Water
- (v) a water undertaker;	Thames Water
(k) the Homes and Communities Agency(12); and	Homes England
(I) where the local planning authority are a London borough council, the <b>Mayor of London</b> ;	Mayor of London

# Appendix 3- Promoting the consultation and consultation materials

## **Images of JC Decaux boards**





Vinyl banner at Beverley Park



### Children's worksheet





## **Examples of completed worksheets**



## Pull-up banners used at roadshow events



## Photos from roadshow events

Kingston Market Place, Saturday 7 August 2021



New Malden High Street, 14 August 2021



Tolworth Broadway, 15 August 2021



Kingston College, Freshers' Fair, 22 September 2021



## Infographic showing different engagement channels used

