



**Policy, Finance and  
Development  
Committee**

**Tuesday, 17 June  
2025**

**Matter for  
Information and  
Decision**

**Report Title: Local Plan - Local Housing Need Consultation**

**Report Author(s): Ed Morgan (Principal Planning Policy Officer)**

<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	The purpose of this report is to seek Committee's approval to publicly consult on the Local Plan - Local Housing Need Consultation for a 6-week period commencing on Friday 20 June 2025, running until Friday 1 August 2025.
<b>Report Summary:</b>	<p>The Government published the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in December 2024 which resulted in an increase to the Borough of Oadby and Wigston's Local Housing Need (LHN) to 389 homes per year, as opposed to 240 homes per year.</p> <p>Therefore, for a Plan-period of 2025 to 2042 (17 years) the Borough now has a new mandatory housing target of 6,613 homes.</p> <p>This Local Plan - Local Housing Need (LHN) consultation seeks to gather the local community's thoughts on what this uplift in our housing need means in real terms for the Borough and our local community, as well as to explain what work the Council is doing this summer to evidence its position moving forwards.</p>
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	<b>That Members approve the Local Plan - Local Housing Need (LHN) for the purposes of public consultation commencing on Friday 20 June 2025, running until Friday 1 August 2025.</b>
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<b>Strategic Objectives:</b>	<p>Our Council (SO1) Our Communities (SO2) Our Economy (SO3) Our Environment (SO4) Our Partners (SO5)</p>

<b>Vision and Values:</b>	"Our Borough - The Place To Be" (Vision) Customer & Community Focused (V1)
<b>Report Implications:-</b>	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Political Dynamics (CR3) Reputation Damage (CR4) Regulatory Governance (CR6) Economy / Regeneration (CR9)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. Initial EA Screening (See Appendices)
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
<b>Statutory Officers' Comments:-</b>	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
<b>Consultees:</b>	This report is seeking approval to consult with the public and other key stakeholders.
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None.
<b>Appendices:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local Plan - Local Housing Need Consultation Leaflet</li> <li>2. Equality Assessment Initial Screening</li> </ol>

## 1. Information

### Local Plan - Local Housing Need Consultation

- 1.1 In producing a Local Plan, the Council is required to undertake a number of formal public consultations at specific times and milestones (as set by national legislation and the Council's Local Development Scheme). The Council has undertaken all the required public consultations to date, including public consultations during, September and October 2021, April and May 2024, and most recently between January and February 2025.
- 1.2 The Government published the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in December 2024 which resulted in an increase to the Borough of Oadby and Wigston's Local Housing Need (LHN) to 389 homes per year, as opposed to 240 homes per year. Therefore, for a Plan-period of 2025 to 2042 (17 years) the Borough now has a new mandatory housing target of 6,613 homes, which could equate to circa 16,900 additional people living in the Borough by 2042.
- 1.3 This increase to the Borough's housing target meant that the Council had to 'pause' its progress on the then emerging new Local Plan at the Regulation 19 public consultation

stage in February 2025. After taking stock of its options, the Council formally took the decision to approve a revised timetable for preparing the Plan, which will see revisions made, an updated Regulation 19 Draft Local Plan consulted upon, and then that Plan will be submitted to the Government by June 2026 for an independent examination by the Planning Inspectorate.

- 1.4 This Local Plan - Local Housing Need (LHN) consultation seeks to gather the thoughts of the community as to what this uplift in our housing need means in real terms for the Borough and for our local community. It is crucial that we continue to positively prepare and progress this phase of the evidence that will underpin the Borough's future Plan, to consider if we can sustainably accommodate the new housing need.
- 1.5 This is not a statutory period of public consultation required by Legislation, but rather, this is an opportunity for the Council to communicate with all key stakeholders, in particular our local community, to explain the current situation the Borough is in as a result of the sharp increase to the housing target that came into force early this year in the Borough.
- 1.6 The Local Plan - Local Housing Need (LHN) Consultation Leaflet sets out a series of Questions that stakeholders are invited to respond to as part of their response. The Leaflet also explains that the Council has now received a total of 47 individual site submissions from landowners and / or developers to date, of which, 14 were received as part of the most recent Call for Sites exercise in March to April 2025. It also explains that the Planning Policy Team is working on a number of key evidence-based documents to inform its position this Summer, including work on a Local Transport Assessment; a Housing Market Absorption Study; and the Whole Plan Viability Assessment.
- 1.7 The Leaflet explains that if the evidence based work this summer concludes that 389 homes per year cannot be sustainably delivered for the duration of the plan-period, then the Council will proactively engage with neighbouring Districts and Boroughs in Leicester and Leicestershire via our Duty to Cooperate to enter discussions with them about how to deal with any 'unmet need' (those homes the Council can't accommodate in the Borough).
- 1.8 This public consultation provides the Council with an opportunity to engage with all key stakeholders, including statutory consultees, neighbouring local authorities, infrastructure delivery partners, key organisations, local businesses and members of the public, to help inform the work the Council is carrying out this Summer to inform its position moving forward.
- 1.9 As part of this period of public consultation, Planning Officers will attend a series of exhibitions throughout the Borough, as set out in the Consultation Leaflet, as well as be available in person by pre-arranged appointment to speak to members of the local community every Wednesday from Wednesday 9 July to Wednesday 30 July.
- 1.10 Due to the very tight timescales that the Planning Policy Team is working to in order to complete all evidence-based work this Summer to inform the Regulation 19 draft Local Plan that will be consulted on early next year, this non-statutory Local Housing Need public consultation must be completed within 6-weeks. This will allow enough time for Officers to take account of representations received and importantly, will ensure that the overall objective of submitting the updated Plan to the Government by June 2026 remains achievable.
- 1.11 Alongside the Consultation Leaflet, the Council will also publish an updated Call for Sites Document (Summer 2025) which will set out all 47 site submissions received to date with a summary of the proposed use, as submitted.

## **Conclusion**

- 1.12 Subject to Committee approval, the Local Plan - Local Housing Need (LHN) public consultation period is proposed to commence on Friday, 20 June 2025 for a 6-week period.