

### **Local Plan Review**

# Consultation on the Publication Draft Local Plan

# 10 January to 28 February 2022

# **RESPONSE FORM**

The Council is inviting comments over a seven-week period on the Publication version of the Local Plan.

The Draft Local Plan sets out a vision and spatial strategy to guide the development of the borough from 2023, when the Plan is anticipated to be adopted, to 2038. It sets out key objectives for the borough, which are supported by planning policies, area strategies, and – at the smallest scale – detailed guidance for the development of specific sites. Collectively, these identify where development should be targeted and set out how the borough's neighbourhoods and places will change over the next 15 years.

This consultation is the final opportunity to comment on the Local Plan before it is submitted to the Secretary of State for independent 'examination in public'. At this stage in the planmaking process, in accordance with the national guidance, consultation responses should focus on whether the Local Plan has been developed in compliance with the relevant legal and procedural requirements, including the duty to cooperate, and with the 'soundness' of the Plan. Further detail on these concepts is provided in the accompanying guidance notes provided at the end of the form.

### How to respond

Please read the consultation documents and other background information made available on the Local Plan website: <a href="http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/draft-local-plan-publication">http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/draft-local-plan-publication</a>

You can respond by completing this form, either electronically using Word or as a print out, and sending it to the Council by:

- Email to planningpolicy@wandsworth.gov.uk
- <u>Post</u> to Planning Policy and Design, Environment and Community Services, Town Hall, Wandsworth High Street, Wandsworth, SW18 2PU.

Alternatively, you can also make comments on the draft Local Plan online via our Consultation Portal, which is accessible at the website listed above.

All responses must be received by **11.59pm on Monday 28 February 2022**. The consultation is open to everyone; however please note that responses will not be treated as confidential and those submitted anonymously will <u>not</u> be accepted.

Part A: Personal Details				
	1. Personal details*	2. Agent's details (if applicable)		
Title		Miss		
First name		Nadine		
Last name		James		
Job title (where relevant)		Senior Planner		
Organisation (where relevant)		Montagu Evans		
Address		70 St Mary Axe London		
Postcode		EC3A 8BE		
Telephone				
E-mail address				

<sup>\*</sup>If an agent is appointed, please complete only the title, name and organisation boxes for the respondent and complete the full contact details for the agent.

Part B: About You				
3. Please tell us about yourself or who you are responding on behalf of.				
Do you live in the borough?	Yes 🗌	No ⊠		
Do you work in the borough?	Yes	No ⊠		
Do you run a business in the borough?	Yes	No ⊠		
Are you a student in the borough?	Yes	No ⊠		
Are you a visitor to the borough?	Yes 🗌	No ⊠		

# **Data protection**

Information provided in this form will be used fairly and lawfully and the Council will not knowingly do anything which may lead to a breach of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (2018).

All responses will be held by the London Borough of Wandsworth. They will be handled in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (2018). Responses will not be treated as confidential and will be published on our website and in any subsequent statements; however, personal details like address, phone number or email address will be removed.

For further details regarding your privacy please see the Council's information published at: <a href="https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/privacy">www.wandsworth.gov.uk/privacy</a>

Part C: Your Response				
4. Do you consider the Local Plan is:				
4.1 Legally compliant	Yes	No 🗆		
4.2 Sound	Yes	No 🖂		
4.3 Complies with the duty to co-operate	Yes	No 🗆		
Further information on these terms is included within the accompanying guidance note, which can be found at the end of the response form.				
If you have entered 'No' to 4.2, please continue with Q5.	therwise, please (	go to Q6.		
5. Do you think the Local Plan is <u>unsound</u> because it is <u>no</u>	<u>t:</u>			
(Please tick all that apply)				
5.1 Positively prepared				
5.2 Justified				
5.3 Effective				
5.4 Consistent with national policy	$\boxtimes$			
6. Please give details of why you think the Local Plan is no and/or fails to comply with the duty to co-operate.	ot legally compliar	nt and/or is unsound		
Please make it clear which consultation document your comments relate to and, where applicable, please include the relevant policy name/number, the site allocation name/reference, the Policies Map change, and/or the paragraph number. Please be as precise as possible.				
If you wish to provide comments in support of the legal compliance and/or soundness of the Local Plan, or its compliance with the duty to co-operate, please use this box to set out your comments.				
Please note your response should provide succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support / justify the response. After this stage, further submission will only be at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues they identify for examination.				
Please see accomapying covering letter.				
Please continue on a separate sheet / expand the box if neces	sary.			

7. Please set out the modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant and sound, when considering any legal compliance or soundness matter you have identified at 5 above.					
Please note that non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination.					
You will need to say why each modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.					
Please note your response should provide succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support / justify the suggested change. After this stage, further submission will only be at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues they identify for examination.					
Please see a	accompanying covering letter.				
Please conti	nue on a separate sheet / expand the box	x if necess	ary.		
8. If you are seeking a modification to the plan, do you consider it necessary to participate in examination hearing session(s)? (Please tick box as appropriate)					
No, I do not	wish to participate in hearing session(s)				
Yes, I wish to	o participate in hearing session(s)				
Please note that while this will provide an initial indication of your wish to participate in hearing session(s), you may be asked at a later point to confirm your request to participate.					
9. If you wish to participate in the hearing session(s), please outline why you consider this to be necessary:  Please note the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate in hearing session(s). You may be asked to confirm your wish to participate when the Inspector has identified the matters and issues for examination.					
Please see accompanying covering letter.					
Please continue on a separate sheet / expand the box if necessary.					
If you are not on our consultation database and you respond to this consultation, your details will be added to the database. This allows us to contact you with updates on the progression of the Local Plan and other planning policy documents.					
If you do not wish to be added to our database or you would like your details to be removed, then please tick this box.					
Signature: For electronic responses a typed signature is acceptable.	Montagu Evans	Date:	28 February 2022		



# **Local Plan Publication Consultation**

# **Guidance Notes to accompany the Representation Form**

# Introduction

- 1. The plan has been published by the Local Planning Authority [LPA] in order for representations to be made on it before it is submitted for examination by a Planning Inspector. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended [PCPA] states that the purpose of the examination is to consider whether the plan complies with the relevant legal requirements, including the duty to co-operate, and is sound. The Inspector will consider all representations on the plan that are made within the period set by the LPA.
- 2. To ensure an effective and fair examination, it is important that the Inspector and all other participants in the examination process are able to know who has made representations on the plan. The LPA will therefore ensure that the names of those making representations can be made available (including publication on the LPA's website) and taken into account by the Inspector.

# Legal Compliance

- 3. You should consider the following before making a representation on legal compliance:
  - The plan should be included in the LPA's current Local Development Scheme [LDS] and the key stages set out in the LDS should have been followed. The LDS is effectively a programme of work prepared by the LPA, setting out the plans it proposes to produce. It will set out the key stages in the production of any plans which the LPA proposes to bring forward for examination.
  - The process of community involvement for the plan in question should be in general accordance with the LPA's Statement of Community Involvement [SCI] (where one exists). The SCI sets out the LPA's strategy for involving the community in the preparation and revision of plans and the consideration of planning applications.
  - The LPA is required to provide a Sustainability Appraisal [SA] report when it publishes a plan. This should identify the process by which SA has been carried out, and the baseline information used to inform the process and the outcomes of that process. SA is a tool for assessing the extent to which the plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.
  - The plan should be in general conformity with the London Plan.
  - The plan should comply with all other relevant requirements of the PCPA and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended [the Regulations].

# Duty to Co-operate

- **4.** You should consider the following before making a representation on compliance with the duty to co-operate:
  - Section 33A of the PCPA requires the LPA to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with neighbouring authorities and certain other bodies over strategic matters during the preparation of the plan. The LPA will be expected to provide evidence of how they have complied with the duty.
  - Non-compliance with the duty to co-operate cannot be rectified after the submission of the plan. Therefore, the Inspector has no power to recommend modifications in this regard. Where the duty has not been complied with, the Inspector cannot recommend adoption of the plan.

# Soundness

- **5.** The tests of soundness are set out in paragraph 35 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Plans are sound if they are:
  - Positively prepared providing a strategy which, as a minimum seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed needs, and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring authorities is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development;
  - Justified an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence;
  - Effective deliverable over the plan period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic
    matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground;
  - Consistent with national policy enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the NPPF.
- **6.** If you think the content of the plan is not sound because it does not include a policy on a particular issue, you should go through the following steps before making representations:
  - Is the issue with which you are concerned already covered specifically by national planning policy (or the London Plan)? If so, does not need to be included?
  - Is the issue with which you are concerned already covered by another policy in this plan?
  - If the policy is not covered elsewhere, in what way is the plan unsound without the policy?
  - If the plan is unsound without the policy, what should the policy say?

# General advice

- **7.** If you wish to make a representation seeking a modification to the plan or part of the plan you should set out clearly in what way you consider the plan or part of the plan is legally non-compliant or unsound, having regard as appropriate to the soundness criteria in paragraph 5 above. Your representation should be supported by evidence wherever possible. It will be helpful if you also say precisely how you think the plan should be modified.
- **8.** You should provide succinctly all the evidence and supporting information necessary to support your representation and your suggested modification. You should not assume that you will have a further opportunity to make submissions. Any further submissions after the plan has been submitted for examination may only be made if invited by the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he or she identifies.
- **9.** Where groups or individuals share a common view on the plan, it would be helpful if they would make a single representation which represents that view, rather a large number of separate representations repeating the same points. In such cases the group should indicate how many people it is representing and how the representation has been authorised.
- **10.** Please consider carefully how you would like your representation to be dealt with in the examination: whether you are content to rely on your written representation, or whether you wish to take part in hearing session(s). Only representors who are seeking a change to the plan have a right to be heard at the hearing session(s), if they so request. In considering this, please note that written and oral representations carry the same weight and will be given equal consideration in the examination process.



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Planning Policy
Wandsworth Council
The Town Hall
Wandsworth High Street
London
SW18 2PU

28 February 2022

**Sent via email to:** planningpolicy@wandsworth.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

LONDON BOROUGH OF WANDSWORTH: LOCAL PLAN FULL REVIEW (JANUARY 2022)
PUBLICATION VERSION LOCAL PLAN – REGULATION 19 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (LOCAL PLANNING) (ENGLAND) REGS 2012

We write on behalf of our client, South West London and St Georges Mental Health NHS Trust (SWLSTG), in response to the London Borough of Wandsworth's consultation on the proposed Wandsworth Publication Version Draft Local Plan.

These representations set out comments on the Pre-publication Draft Local Plan, dated January 2022. Specifically in this letter we comment on the following matters in relation to the Local Plan:

- Springfield Hospital Draft Allocation;
- Designation of Metropolitan Open Land;
- Design-led approach;
- Social and Community Infrastructure;
- Health and Wellbeing;
- Delivery of Residential accommodation;
- Affordable Housing;
- Energy and Sustainability; and
- Car Parking.

## **Background**

Before setting out our comments on the above matters, we set out a brief overview of the South West London and St Georges Mental Health NHS Trust (SWLSTG), in particular in relation to Springfield Hospital, Tooting and its Estate Modernisation Programme.



The Trust was established in December 1994 and provides local mental health services to approximately 1.2 million people in South West London and much needed programme for the modernisation of mental health facilities serving south west London.

In 2012 the Secretary of State granted planning permission and listed building consent for the development of Springfield Hospital, which once completed, will provide a new state-of-the art mental health hospital alongside new homes, a new care home, school and a major new public park.

Following the 'original' permission a number of amendments have been made which have enabled the scheme to be brought forward.

The site benefits from allocation 89 within Wandsworth's Local Plan Site Specific Allocations Document March 2016). In September 2017 the South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust selected its preferred developer, STEP, and works in relation to the new hospital facility and infrastructure began in early 2019. STEP were further officially appointed in December 2019 as Master Developer for the Site. The following phases of the development have or are in the process of being brought forward:

- Phase 1 26 dwellings (brought forward by Bellway– completed);
- Phase 2 Park and Infrastructure (Implemented by STEP);
- Phase 3 Hospital (Implemented by STEP);
- Phase 4 Care Home (brought forward by STEP);
- Phase 5a 227 dwellings (Implemented by Barratt);
- Phase 5b 71 dwellings (Implemented by Barratt);
- Phase 6a 72 conversion dwellings (Implemented by City and Country);
- Phase 6b Reserved Matters and Listed Building consent for 110 units (Reserved Matters and Listed Building Consent approved and to be brought forward by City and Country);
- Phase 6c Reserved Matters and Listed Building consent for 80 units (Reserved Matters and Listed Building Consent approved and to be brought forward by City and Country);
- Phase 6c Full Application for the erection of 32 residential units (to be brought forward;
- Phase 6d Reserved Matters consent for the conversion of Glenburnie Lodge (Reserved Matters and Listed Building Consent approved and to be brought forward by City and Country); and

# **National Planning Policy Context**

In preparing these representations significant weight has been given to national planning policy set by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (July 2021).

Paragraph 9 of the 2021 NPPF requires sustainable development objectives to be delivered through the preparation and implementation of plans. Paragraph 11 of the NPPF requires that during the plan-making process, plans should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area, and be sufficiently flexible to adapt to rapid change. Part b of paragraph 11 requires that strategic policies should, as a minimum, provide for objectively assessed needs for housing and other uses.

Section 3 of the NPPF deals with plan-making specifically and identifies under Paragraph 16 that the planning system should be genuinely plan-led. Paragraph 16 requires plans to achieve the following:



- a) be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development;
- b) be prepared positively, in a way that is aspirational but deliverable;
- c) be shaped by early, proportionate and effective, engagement between plan-makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure provides and operators and statutory consultees;
- d) contain policies that are clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evidence how a decision maker should react to development proposals;
- e) be accessible through the use of digital tools to assist public involvement and policy presentation; and
- f) serve a clear purpose, avoiding unnecessary duplication of policies that apply to a particular area.

With regard to Strategic Policies, Paragraph 20 of the NPPF states that Strategic Policies should set an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development and make sufficient provision for housing, employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development, infrastructure for transport, community facilities and the conservation and enhancement of natural, built and historic environment.

Paragraph 23 goes on to identify Strategic policies should provide a clear strategy for bringing sufficient land forward, and at a sufficient rate, to address objectively assessed needs over the plan period, in line with the presumption in favour of sustainable development. This should include planning for and allocating sufficient sites to deliver the strategic priorities of the area (except insofar as these needs can be demonstrated to be met more appropriately through other mechanisms, such as brownfield registers or non-strategic policies). This reflects Paragraph 15 of the NPPF which states that a framework for addressing housing needs should be provided through a genuinely plan-led system.

Turning to producing new Local Plans specifically, Paragraph 31 states that the preparation and review of all policies should be underpinned by relevant and up-to-date evidence. Local Plans should be informed throughout their preparation by a sustainability appraisal that meets the relevant legal requirement (Paragraph 32).

# The London Plan

Consideration has also been given in the preparation of these representations to the London Plan. The London Plan was adopted in March 2021 and places emphasis on the need to build strong and inclusive communities (Policy GG1), making the best use of land (Policy GG2), creating a healthy city (Policy GG3), delivering the homes Londoners need (Policy GG4) and growing a good economy (Policy GG5).

# Wandsworth Publication Version Draft Local Plan - January 2022

The following sections respond to specific policies outlined within the London Borough of Wandsworth (LBW) draft Publication Version Local Plan.

# Springfield Hospital Allocation

It is acknowledged that the Site has been reallocated under the Publication Version of the Local Plan following representations made during the Regulation 18 stage of the Local Plan review requesting that the site's allocation is reinstated. Draft allocation OUT 3 (Springfield Hospital, Burntwood Lane/Glenburnie Road, SW17) identifies the Site for new and improved hospital facilities, residential and small scale commercial / retail uses serving the hospital, residential and school facilities. The draft allocation also requires the retention of the Open Space for use as a public park with recreational use and the retention of the locally listed chapel for community facilities.



With regards to the draft development considerations set out within the allocation, it should be noted that the public park will be delivered as part of the extant masterplan. The main areas of the park are due for phased completion: in July 2022 opening to the public in Summer 2023 following a landscape bedding in period (Park Area B) and in June 2023 opening to the public in Spring 2024 following the bedding in period (Park Area A). Park Area C (the last part of the park to be delivered) is linked to the Trust's final residential land sales and relevant approvals, but is likely to reach practical completion during 2024. Any future development on the Site will continue to integrate the wider Springfield Hospital Masterplan into the wider area and would seek to improve pedestrian and cycle links through the Site. The draft allocation notes that any future development on the Site should improve bus facilities including stops, stand and driver's facilities to mitigate the impact on Burntwood Lane/Trinity Road. Whilst it is agreed that any future development on the Site should seek to mitigate any impacts on the surrounding highway as a result of the development, the requirement to deliver any improved facilities should be in consultation with both the London Borough of Wandsworth and Transport for London. In light of this, the allocation should include a provision of 'if required' with regards to supporting bus facilities.

Furthermore, the draft allocation provides prescriptive requirements for how the layout of the Site is to be brought forward. The draft allocation requires the delivery of small urban blocks to create a distinctive neighbourhood alongside a new public square. A new public Square will be brought forward as part of the outline and is programmed to be completed in August 2022. In line with Policy GG2 (Making the best use of land) of the London Plan, the most efficient use of the Site is required to be achieved. As such it is not considered appropriate therefore to attribute a development type, such as small urban blocks, within the allocation as any future development brought forward on the Site of an appropriate density for the Site should be tested through a design-led approach.

Finally, the draft allocation identifies that the Site is not located within a tall or mid-rise building zone which means that development proposing five or more storeys would not be acceptable in this location. Whilst it is acknowledged that the London Plan directs Development Plans to define and determine the location of 'tall buildings', which under the draft Local Plan is defined as seven storeys or over 21 meters, there is no requirement for LPAs to identify 'mid-rise' buildings which are defined in the emerging Local Plan as five or more storeys or 15 meters or more from the ground level to the top of the building (whichever is lower).

Paragraph 130e of the NPPF states that 'planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments optimise the potential of the site to accommodate and sustain an appropriate amount and mix of development (including green and other public space) and support local facilities and transport networks'. In light of the need to optimise the development potential of land, it is considered onerous to restrict the delivery of buildings over five storeys to certain places within the Borough given the national, regional, and local drive to deliver additional housing and the urban and sub urban context of the Borough. Subject to ensuring proposals are design-led which appropriately balance the surrounding local context, including typologies, whilst ensuring the most efficient use of land is achieved the delivery of five or more storey buildings in a number of locations should be considered acceptable across the Borough.

The Springfield Hospital Site is extensive and provides a strategic opportunity for the delivery of further uses including additional residential accommodation in the future. Restricting development to no more than four storeys would impinge on the nature of development which could come forward on the Site and the potential for the Site to maximise it's potential in delivering much needed housing in line with national, regional and local policies. It is therefore requested that the LBW review their approach to allocating 'mid-rise' areas in the Borough as it could, on many sites, prohibit their optimisation to ensure they deliver an appropriate amount and mix of development. This would leave it for site specific design approaches and responses to be developed.



Notwithstanding the above, if the approach is not revised it is therefore requested that the Site is designated as within an area appropriate for mid-rise development in light of the Site's context and typology. Paragraph 14.33 of the emerging Local Plan further sets out that opportunities for mid-rise buildings and notes that these should be generally concentrated within five different area types. This includes areas 'alongside large scale open spaces'. The Springfield Hospital site includes a proposed area of open space equating to approximately 13 hectares and therefore in line with the LPA's criteria for allocating mid-rise areas it is considered that the Springfield Hospital Site should be allocated within a mid-rise area.

In summary, the re-introduction of the allocation is welcomed however the restrictive conditions attached to the allocation is likely to prohibit the optimisation of the Site. In order therefore for Policy GG2 of the London Plan to be achieved these should be removed/revised as set out above.

#### Designation of MOL Land

Under the emerging Local Plan, part of the Springfield Hospital site continues to be designated as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL). Draft Policy LP53 (Protection and Enhancement of Green and Blue Infrastructure) of the emerging Local Plan states that areas identified as MOL will be protected, enhanced and made more accessible.

Chapter 13 of the NPPF concerns the protection of Green Belt Land, which is applied equally to MOL. Paragraph 138 identifies that the Green Belt serves the following five purposes:

- a) to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
- b) to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;
- c) to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
- d) to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
- e) to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

Policy G3 (Metropolitan Open Land) of the London Plan states that MOL should be afforded the same protection as Green Belt and requires land designated as MOL to meet one of the following criteria:

- 1) it contributes to the physical structure of London by being clearly distinguishable from the built-up area
- 2) it includes open air facilities, especially for leisure, recreation, sport, the arts and cultural activities, which serve either the whole or significant parts of London
- 3) it contains features or landscapes (historic, recreational, biodiverse) of either national or metropolitan value
- 4) it forms part of a strategic corridor, node or a link in the network of green infrastructure and meets one of the above criteria.

The policy goes onto note that alterations to the boundary of MOL should be undertaken through the Local Plan process. Any alternations to the boundary should only be considered in exceptional circumstances when this is fully evidenced and justified, considering the purposes of including land in the MOL as set out above.

As set out above, the wider Springfield Site benefits from outline permission which approved the comprehensive redevelopment of Springfield Hospital in 2012 and had been lawfully implemented. The wider outline includes the provision of a publically accessible park within the MOL which in line with London Plan Policy G3 and will contribute to the physical structure of London and contain leisure and culture activities.

The emerging Local Plan and its subsequent designation has not been revised to reflect the development which has been permitted on the existing designated MOL (namely parcels P, Q, part of G, X, Y and Z). It is considered that the part of the MOL which falls within parcels P, Q, part of G, X, Y and Z no longer achieves the functions / purposes as set out within the NPPF and the London Plan. For completeness, the most recently approved parcel plan is contained at **Appendix 1** of this letter.

In line with Policy G3 (Metropolitan Open Land) of the London Plan the current Local Plan review process provides an appropriate opportunity to refine the MOL boundary on the Site to account for the development parcels approved. It should be noted that the revision of the MOL Boundary would only be in relation to the development plots and the proposed park



and open space would remain subject to such designation. The MOL boundary should therefore be revised, in consultation with key stakeholders of the Site, to reflect the permitted development of parcels P, Q, part of G, X, Y and Z.

#### Design-Led Approach

Draft Policy LP1 (The Design-led Approach) requires development proposals to reflect and demonstrate that a design led approach has been adopted to optimise the potential of sites is welcomed by the Trust. The requirement to ensure the most efficient use of land is achieved and Site optimisation accords with the NPPF and Policy GG2 (Making best use of Land) of the London Plan. The Trust recognise the importance of using brownfield sites to deliver much needed residential and social infrastructure and welcomes the requirement for future developments to ensure that they respond, where appropriate to the existing site character.

#### Tall Buildings

As set out above, the Site does not currently lie within an identified tall or mid-rise building zone and as such, under draft Policy LP4 (Tall and Mid-rise Buildings), developments which comprise of more than four storeys would not be permitted on the Site. Whilst it is acknowledged that Policy D9 (Tall Buildings) of the London Plan encourages LPAs to identify locations for tall buildings as part of the Local Plan process, to which this draft Policy attempts to do, the restrictive nature of including mid-rise zones within this Policy prohibits the optimisation of sites in appropriate locations. This could in practice prohibit the ability for mid-rise developments coming forward which could assist in delivering much needed residential accommodation for not only the Borough but also Greater London. It is encouraged that the LBW adopt a design-led approach when determining the acceptability of this quantum of massing (i.e. less than 7 storeys) rather than a blanket approach to all sites which do not fall within the allocation. Notwithstanding this, if the LBW do not adopt such an approach, it is requested that the Springfield Hospital Site benefits from a mid-rise allocation.

## Social and Community Infrastructure

Draft Policy LP17 (Social and Community Infrastructure) of the emerging Local Plan states that the Council will work with its key partner organisations and developers to ensure that high-quality, inclusive social and community facilities and services are provided and/or modernised in order to meet the changing needs of the whole community.

The Policy outlines that this will be achieved through supporting the dual use of social, education and community facilities, supporting the investment plans and strategies for health facilities and services including mental health care. The acknowledgement of mental health facilities alongside other key health and community facilities is supported and SWLSTG welcomes the support from the Council in delivering investment plans and strategies for the strategic delivery of these services. The support for the provision of education facilities is further supported by our client and the promotion of combined use of social, education and community facilities to accommodate a mix of sporting, social, cultural and recreational uses is also welcomed.

Part B of the draft Policy discusses the loss of social, community or cultural infrastructure. The policy states that proposals that involve the loss of such infrastructure will need to demonstrate clearly that there is no longer an identified need for facilities or future demand, or the facilities are being re-provided in a different way and the potential of re-using or redeveloping the existing site for the same or an alternative social infrastructure use for which there is a local and future need has been fully assessed. Section 6 of Part B states that for existing health or emergency services facilities loss will only be permitted where facilities are declared surplus as part of any strategic restructuring of health or emergency services. This will need to be demonstrated through an overarching estates strategy or similar needs-based assessment. The introduction of the acknowledgment of estate strategies as justification for the loss facilities / services at a particular



site is welcomed by the SWLSTG. As set out within the representations made on behalf of SWLSTG during the Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation, acknowledgment should be made that the relocation and consolidation of services may be beyond the LBW boundary and as such needs assessments and estate strategies cannot always be borough specific. The inclusion of this cross boundary approach would align with London Plan Policy S2 (Health and Social care facilities) which requires needs assessments to be produced that assess both local and sub regional need to ensure that services which span across boroughs are appropriately considered.

#### Health and Wellbeing

As set out previously, the inclusion of draft Policy LP15 (Health and Wellbeing) within the emerging Local Plan, which identifies that the Council will promote and support developments that enable healthy and active lifestyles, is welcomed. SWLSTG supports the Council's policy position which seeks to ensure developments provide access to green infrastructure, sustainable modes of travel, local community facilities, healthy food opportunities, high quality inclusive design and public realm and active design, which meet the needs of all populations in order to generate healthy communities. The Council's aspiration to ensure developments promote healthy and active lifestyles accords with both national and regional planning policy and is therefore welcomed. The approved development at Springfield Hospital will bring forward a number of health and wellbeing benefits which accord with the aspirations and requirements of the draft Policy. The NPPF requires planning policies and decisions to aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places and local Plan should plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities and other services which enhance the sustainability of community and residential environments. The introduction of the Policy further accords with Policy GG2 (Creating a Healthy City) of the London Plan which seeks to improve Londoner's health and reduce heath inequalities through the promotion of more active and healthier lifestyle and enable Londoner's to make healthy choices.

Part B of the draft Policy requires existing facilities to be retained where there continues to meet resident' needs. As noted above and within representations submitted pursuant to LBW's Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation, it is encouraged that LBW consider need on a basis which is wider than the borough's need. The Trust's wider Estate Modernisation Programme (EMP) seeks to provide two new hospital facilities at Springfield Hospital, Tooting and Tolworth Hospital, Tolworth (RB Kingston upon Thames) and as such any loss of facilities should be considered at both a local and strategic level which includes robust evidence that spans wider than the LBW.

#### Delivery of Residential Accommodation

Draft Strategic Policy SDS1 (Spatial Development Strategy 2023-2038) of the emerging Local Plan states that over the plan period of 2023-2038 the Local Plan will provide for a minimum of 20,311 new homes. The provision of 'minimum' in the draft strategic policy is welcomed as it should be reminded that housing targets set are minimum targets and should not be considered maximums. Within the Tooting area, of which the Springfield Hospital Site is located within, the capacity for new homes has been identified as 206 during the plan period. SWLSTG would encourage the LBW to clearly depict within the plan that again, these are minimum indicative requirements and do not set a prescriptive maximum quantum of development to be brought forward in one specific part of the Borough.

Part C of the draft Policy sets out how the identified target will be achieved which includes making the best use of land whilst ensuring that development densities are appropriate to the location and size of the site. The encouragement of ensuring the best use of land to deliver much needed residential accommodation is welcomed. It should also be noted that this aligns with both London Plan Policy GG2 and the NPPF which places emphasis on optimisation of sites including brownfield land to deliver residential accommodation. The Springfield Hospital Site presents an opportunity to ensure the



most efficient use of this brownfield Site is achieved which would contribute to ensuring that the LBW can achieve their minimum housing targets set out above.

#### Affordable Housing

The provision of affordable housing across the Borough is supported by SWLSTG. Draft Policy LP23 (Affordable Housing) seeks to maximise the delivery of affordable housing in accordance with the London Plan. Part E of the draft Plan states that 'site-specific viability information will only be accepted in exceptional cases, as set out in Policy H5 of the London Plan'. Part F of Policy H5 (Threshold Approach to Applications) states that where an application does not meet the criteria set out in Policy H5 it must follow the Viability Tested Route, which requires detailed supporting viability evidence to be submitted. Policy H5 of the London Plan does not make any reference to or provide clarification on 'exceptional' circumstances where viability testing would be allowed. Whilst SWLSTG supports the introduction of affordable housing, in line with the London Plan, proposals which do not meet policy compliant thresholds should be subject to viability. When assessing the viability of a proposal the wider social infrastructure (e.g. health care, education etc facilities) that are delivered as part of an application should be balanced appropriately with the provision of affordable housing.

SWLSTG welcomes the inclusion of key worker accommodation within the social objectives within the draft Local Plan. We would further encourage LBW to recognise within the draft Policy the valuable contribution staff accommodation has on the delivery and operation of healthcare services. Whilst it is acknowledged that the LBW includes key worker accommodation in their social objectives, the policy currently makes no reference to ensure that any such provision of affordable housing is secured for key workers of the NHS.

#### Energy and Sustainability

SWLSTG welcomes the LBW commitment to ensuring that the Council achieves its ambition of becoming zero carbon borough by 2050. In order to achieve this, it is noted, under draft Policy LP10 (Responding to the Climate Crisis), development proposals will be required to achieve net zero carbon standards in line with the London Plan with a minimum onsite reduction of 35%. A consistent approach with the London Plan is welcomed. It is noted that the emerging Local Plan further requires new non-residential buildings over 100 sqm to meet BREEAM 'Outstanding' Standards. Whilst the encouragement of high quality sustainable buildings is welcomed, the provision of *unless it can be demonstrated that this would not be technical feasible* is further welcomed. Developers should seek to deliver the most sustainable development possible whilst balancing other social, environmental, and economic benefits.

# Car Parking

The provision of parking in line with the standards set out within the London Plan (draft Policy LP 51 Parking, Servicing and Car Free Development) is welcomed. It is acknowledged that the adjoining text supports the provision of car parking spaces for key workers within new developments. Paragraph 20.36 of the emerging Local Plan states that The Mayor of London is currently producing a list of key workers which Wandsworth will use to provide guidance on the distribution of car parking spaces that are created for key workers including the amendments to Car Parking Zones to allow key works who require use of vehicles greater access to parking permits.

The Trust supports the Council's strategic objectives to support the reduction of the use of personal vehicles and the promotion of more sustainable methods of transport however careful consideration will need to be given to ensure that there remains provision to support key workers and their use of vehicles to access work.

# Closing



We trust that these observations are useful at this consultation stage. We wish to maintain an active role in the engagement process moving forward, specifically in relation to the allocation of the Springfield Hospital Site and look forward to receiving an update as LBW proceed through to publishing their new Local Plan.

If you have any comment / queries please do not he	esitate to contact Anna Russell-Smith	
or Nadine James		of this office in
this first instance.		_
Yours sincerely		
Montagu Evans LLP		

# APPENDIX 01 Parameter Plan Parcel Plan-PL 03

