



# Dacorum Borough Council - Dacorum Single Local Plan 2020-2036: Update on current situation

February 2019

## 1. About the Project, service change or policy development

Responsible officer	Andrew Horner
Name and description of project, service or policy	
<b>Dacorum Single Local Plan</b>	
<p>The requirement to prepare a Local Plan is set out in Section 13 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended by the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017, Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012 requires Local Plans to be reviewed every five years. The 2018 NPPF states that Councils must regularly update Local Plans. The Council's current Core Strategy was five years old in September 2018.</p>	
<p>The update report demonstrates that the Council is taking steps to comply with these legal requirements. The report updates on the Council's approach to, and progress on, delivering a new Local Plan. The next stages of the process focus on Plan preparation including policy writing and site selection; this CIA focusses on the overarching development principles and the public engagement that is essential to this part of the local plan process.</p>	
<p>Whilst the report is for information only the Local Plan will affect anyone who lives in, studies in, works in, visits, or has an interest in Dacorum, such as:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The community (residents, businesses, voluntary and specialist groups (i.e. residents associations))</li><li>• Those who engage in planning matters in Dacorum</li><li>• Parish, Town and County Councils (including those surrounding Dacorum)</li><li>• Interested developers, landowners and agents</li><li>• Statutory consultees and various partners</li><li>• Council staff and elected members</li></ul>	
<p>The consultation carried out as part of the preparation of the Local plan, in accordance with the council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and this will involve the community and other organisations and interested parties at different stages of plan preparation.</p>	
<p>The Plan aims to promote equality for all through its objectives and policies.</p>	

## 2. Identifying the community impact

<b>What impacts will this change have on the community?</b> Information which might be useful in thinking about this includes our <a href="#">equality profiles</a> , available for a number of demographic groups in Dacorum, and <a href="#">Spotlight on Dacorum</a> , which provides information about the Borough as a whole and signposts users to detailed statistics at ward / postcode level through neighbourhood statistics.			
	Positive	Negative	<b>What are the positive and negative impacts?</b> How will the positive impacts be enhanced? How will the negative impacts minimised/eliminated?
<b>The community in general</b> e.g. social or economic benefits or negative impacts	✓		<p><u>Positive aspects enhanced:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Local plan will deliver a range of new development that will have a positive benefit on all members of the community through:               <p>Delivery of new homes, including affordable homes to meet housing need</p> <p>Delivery and protection of a diverse range of job and employment opportunities for all members of the community.</p> <p>Deliver infrastructure such as, but not limited to: schools, health care facilities, transport infrastructure and recreation facilities which would deliver benefits to all members of the community.</p> </li> <li>The Statement of Community Involvement which supports the delivery of the Local plan aims to engage people in planning matters, using a wide range of technical supports and methods. For example, diverse methods of involvement aimed at reaching groups that are not always involved and seeking community involvement to support community cohesion.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of engagement activities for all ages. The SCI includes consultation methods aimed at older people and younger people that can be used when appropriate e.g. the use of the internet and emails and online consultation may make it more accessible to younger people and the working population. Other forms of communication e.g. hard copy documents and use of local press should also ensure that all age groups, including older people are catered for.</li> <li>Ensuring accessibility to information - availability of information online both during the necessary consultation and following adoption of the plan may help reduce barriers to involvement for those with physical disabilities.</li> <li>People will be able to respond to</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**What impacts will this change have on the community?**

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	Positive	Negative	<p><b>What are the positive and negative impacts?</b></p> <p>How will the positive impacts be enhanced? How will the negative impacts minimised/eliminated?</p>
			<p>consultation on the emerging in a variety of formats i.e. on line or by letter/email. Feedback from the consultation will be taken into account in determining the planning application or when preparing the final draft of the plan making document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The approach taken to the Local Plan seeks to strengthen community involvement in the planning process, including the business community.</li> <li>• The local plan seeks to make best use of resources for community involvement (so it can be supported financially long term and provides value for money.</li> <li>• To provide a homes, jobs and other facilities/infrastructure which is accessible and affordable to all. The wide variety of consultation methods which will be employed should enable all to have an equal opportunity to be involved (if they wish to). Reasonable adjustments will be made where required.</li> </ul> <p><u>Neutral impacts:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not everybody wishes to get involved in planning (however much the Council may seek to engage with them).</li> <li>• <u>Rural areas/isolation</u> could be felt where accessibility and the range of facilities available is more problematic for some people.</li> <li>• Poor literacy skills or those with poor internet accessibility or notifications. The variety of engagement methods and formats of the local Plan (such as on line, hard copy) provides communities with every opportunity to engage on planning matters. We recognise that people with literacy issues may need assistance so Council officers are available to provide explanation of the process in order to make the process accessible to the widest audience. For those customers unable to access information</li> </ul>

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			<p>online alternative access methods are available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every effort is made to enable all to have an equal opportunity to be involved in plan preparation and view the plan, although if meetings or forums are held it may be harder to obtain the views of rural communities. Where such meetings are held, in the first instance the Council seeks to organise such events in easily accessible locations and venues. We will also take into account the scheduling (hours that the events run for and days of the week they are held).</li> </ul>
<b>On DBC as an organisation</b> e.g. on staff or operations			<p>Neutral aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will make sure as many people as possible know about our Local Plan through applying the policies and practices in the SCI and our commitment to work with the community on planning. This has benefits for increased officer understanding of the community.</li> </ul>
<b>The specific demographic considerations or characteristics</b> e.g. age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation - specify where impacts are different for different considerations	✓		<p>See above section about 'The community in general' where some demographic considerations or characteristics have already been covered.</p> <p><u>Positive aspects enhanced</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is awareness in the Planning &amp; Regeneration department that some individuals with protected characteristics<sup>1</sup> are not engaging with the planning system, for example, young people, ethnic community. The SCI supporting the local plan can potentially help improve the relationship between the Planning department and some individuals with protected characteristics<sup>1</sup> (as well as the rest of the community) by ensuring information is accessible and that people can participate / have their say.</li> <li>• As above, by using a wide range of engagement methods and tools, it gives an opportunity for some individuals with protected characteristics<sup>1</sup> to get further opportunities to get involved in planning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extensive use of the website in terms of access to planning information / consultations / documents is an opportunity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> E.G. age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation

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			<p>for a wide range of people to get involved in planning, including those who cannot go to events / come to the office (due to their age / disability).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will do all we can to deal with requests for help to access the documents</li> <li>• Interested parties are given ample time to engage in the planning process as consultation timeframes are aligned to meet the Regulation requirements. For example, complex plan making documents received 6+ weeks of public consultation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The environment</b> e.g. effects on the climate, trees, amenity space, biodiversity, water, energy, waste, material use, air quality</p>	✓		<p><u>Positive aspects enhanced:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electronic communication and responses limit printing (and associated costs) which have negative effects on the environment.</li> <li>• The drafting of the plan is subject to ongoing Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment which helps the Council to understand, and address, the impacts of policies and potential developments on environmental interests.</li> <li>• Assessment of proposals under the Habitats Regulations will also take place where necessary.</li> </ul> <p>The policies and allocations that will be part of the final plan will be underpinned by the principle of Sustainable Development set out in the National Planning Policy Framework 2018. The principles of sustainable development seek to protect, safeguard and enhance all aspect of the environment including effects on the climate, trees, amenity space, biodiversity, water, energy, waste, material use, air quality</p> <p><u>Future implications for the Local Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable development and Sustainable Communities are a key aim of the Planning process, as outlined in national policy and hence a key aim of the Local Plan. Sustainable communities are communities in which people wish to live work and spend time, for example, they meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of</li> </ul>

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			life. The Local Plan is part of a statutory process which aims to involve all interested stakeholders in the spatial planning of their area for the future.
<b>Any community issues identified for this location</b> , if the project is based in a specific area – state if this is not applicable e.g. if there are no specific issues for this location or if the project is district-wide	✓		The Local Plan relates to the whole Borough of Dacorum. <u>Positive aspects enhanced</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Known needs and issues will help to inform the proposals and policies contained within the Local Plan.</li> <li>• All stakeholders will be invited to make comments on the Local Plan during future rounds of consultation period which will feed into the final SCI document.</li> <li>• Regular monitoring is undertaken of development within Dacorum and is reported annually through the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR).</li> </ul> The Local Plan and the planning process aim to address other equality issues relating to ‘spatial planning’ (planning spaces and places) which can be linked to some individuals with protected characteristics <sup>1</sup> such as public transport, quality of place, and issues that are specific to rural communities.

What evidence have you used to assess the impact on the community?  
 What baselines have been established and what data will be used to monitor the impact?

There is national, regional and local evidence available (such as the Census 2011) which shows that some individuals with protected characteristics<sup>1</sup> can face barriers in employment, access to services and information, participation in decision making and in consultation.

This Community Impact Assessment has not identified any potential for discrimination or negative impact and all opportunities to advance equality have been taken. This is an update/replacement of existing planning policy documents and the fundamental principles which we have historically applied to planning policy formulation have not changed. However, the new plan and the consultation methods that support it have ensure that the wider community will be aware of any planning consultation.

What steps have you taken or plan to take to consult the whole community or specific groups affected by the service or policy development?  
 E.g. on-line consultation, focus groups, consultation with representative groups?

The Council has developed a Local Plans consultation database which records details of planning and land agents and their clients and private developers who operate within the district. The database also records details of service providers (public and private) who operate within the district, as well as people who wished to be updated on planning matters.

The mechanisms proposed to be used in the development and adoption of the local Plan as set out in the SCI are:

- use of the principles in the SCI
- engagement exercises (internally with members)
- Consultation on the Draft Local Plan document that will be conducted in accordance with the Council's adopted Local Development Scheme (subject to any necessary amendments). We will advertise the consultation on the website, via E-Digest and via Public Notice.
- We will mail out all those registered in the Local Plans consultation database (either via email or hard copy letter).
- We will use the comments receive to feed into the final version of the document
- We will provide feedback after the consultation

A summary of the way we engaged with the community in the preparation of the Local Plan will be available in a Consultation Statement (which will form part of the evidence base to support the Local plan when it reaches the examination stage).

**3. Review** – a monitoring and evaluation programme will form part of the restoration project with annual results submitted to the HLF.

How will you review the impact, positive or negative once the service or policy has been implemented?		
<i>Action</i>	<i>By when</i>	<i>By who</i>
Improved involvement of all individuals with protected characteristics <sup>1</sup> in planning matters. Ensure where possible that the responses received during the consultation are incorporated as appropriate into the policies and proposals in the Local Plan, to enable an improvement in how many individuals with protected characteristics <sup>1</sup> get involved in planning and are supported by the policies of the Local Plan	Summer 2019	Planning Policy team
Continue to monitor the demography of participants and consider how to increase participation from any under-represented groups	Annually	Planning Policy team
Review the consultation methods at the end of each consultation	Annually	Planning Policy team

How will you review the impact, positive or negative once the service or policy has been implemented?		
to determine if the SCI is working to support engagement in Local Plan preparation or if an early review of the SCI is necessary	or after key consultation exercises	
The Draft Local Plan will be presented to Cabinet to seek agreement to proceed with any formal consultation. This impact assessment will be reviewed and updated where necessary post consultation.	Summer 2019	Planning Policy team
Produce summary leaflets (to support the SCI) that succinctly outline the process to get involved with planning development or complex consultations run by the Council	As and when necessary	Planning Policy team

Name of responsible officer:

Reviewed and signed off by: (relevant Group Manager)  
Chris Taylor

Role:

Role: Group Manager (Strategic Planning and Regeneration)

Date:

Date: