

## **Portfolio report – Local Plan: Cllr Anita Leech**

Following the decision of the Council in January to move ahead with consultation the formal consultation on the options for the Local Plan began. These are taking place over eight weeks and will finish on Monday March 23.

As part of this process there have been a number of drop-in sessions held at locations across Wirral for people to find out more about the options being put forward.

Around 1,000 people attended the drop-in sessions, while at the time of writing nearly 1,600 people had also registered through our online portal which opened for comments on the Council proposals.

It is important that as many people as possible take part in this consultation and let us know what they think of the proposals put forward so that the final Local Plan meets the needs of the borough's residents.

Wirral's Draft Local Plan will, when agreed, set out our vision for future development in the borough up to 2035, and will be reviewed at least every five years.

As a Council we are determined to use the process of developing the Local as an opportunity for regeneration in the borough, tackling inequality and in doing so improving the health and lifestyle of the residents, encouraging inward investment and boosting job opportunities. This is even more important now than ever before as we move ahead with development at Wirral Waters, push forward the regeneration of Birkenhead's town centre and continue to work to attract investment into the borough.

Under the proposals key regeneration locations in Birkenhead and Wallasey will play a crucial role in helping deliver the housing needed into the future, with many more brownfield and urban areas across the borough also being put forward to provide sites to meet the housing requirements, and opening up the chance for major regeneration of large parts of the eastern side of Wirral. The Council will continue to work closely with the Liverpool City Region and Homes England to secure the necessary funding to help deliver the preferred option.

In addition the development of the Local Plan will a major opportunity to support Wirral in playing its part in tackling climate change, laying the foundations for a greener future.

Following the end of the consultation Council officers will analyse the responses and use that information to begin taking the development of the Draft Local Plan to the next stage, with further consultation to take place later in the year.

The Council is currently making excellent progress in preparing the new Local Plan for Wirral which will set out how the Borough should be developed over the next 15

years, in line with National policy and legislation. We are meeting the key milestones for the extremely demanding timetable agreed with the Government.

Access to the evidence documents and consultation portal is available from [wirral.gov.uk/localplan](http://wirral.gov.uk/localplan)