



Briefing on Leicester's Draft Local Plan from Climate Action Leicester and Leicestershire.

The Local Plan sets out how the city will develop in the next 16 years - a key timeframe in terms of addressing climate change - and it's vital that we end up with something which makes things better rather than worse.

Please help us to make sure it contains the necessary policy to both reduce Leicester's carbon footprint so we contribute less to climate change, and also to reduce the impact climate change will have on the people who live here.

The council only received about 400 individual responses to their last local plan consultation.

If more than half the responses they get this time come from people who care about tackling climate change, we will have a real impact. Therefore we are aiming for 400 responses.

Please write a response to the consultation. It can be long or short, simple or detailed. Your voice is important.

What we are asking you to do:

1. **Write your own personal response** and email it to planning.policy@leicester.gov.uk. Make sure you put "Local Plan consultation response" in the subject line of your email, and include your postcode.
2. **Tell us when you have sent it in** using this online form we've set up: <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/i-have-sent-a-response-to-the-leicesters-local-plan-consultation>. It will mean we'll have some idea of how many responses have been sent in on this topic.
3. **Sign our Pledge**: <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/pledge-to-respond-to-leicester-city-councils-local-plan-consultation> committing to support other people to respond too.

The key thing to say in your own words in your response is that the Local Plan needs more specific detailed policy requirements, targets and standards to tackle climate change.

At the moment the limited climate policy it contains has good underlying principles but can be avoided by developers because it does not require specific standards to be met.

If you'd like to see stronger example policies which we have drafted, or our other Local Plan resources to help you respond, there are links on the front page of our website: www.climateactionleicesterandleicestershire.org.uk

You can download the draft Local Plan here: https://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/sec/draft-local-plan/user_uploads/draft-local-plan-final.pdf

If you would prefer to use the **council's consultation survey** instead of writing an email, you can find it here: <https://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/sec/draft-local-plan/>

What Climate Action feel is missing from this draft Local Plan is specific policies ensuring that Leicester's development is sustainable and tackles climate change both by reducing Leicester's carbon footprint and by reducing the negative impacts climate change will have on the people of Leicester. We propose:

1. Policy which ensures that all available brownfield sites are built on **before** greenfield sites in or around the city are developed.
2. **All housing** built on what was a green space required to be **deeply energy efficient and include solar generation**, designed to discourage car use and to encourage shared use of space and possessions/objects.
3. Policy which ensures that where **green spaces** are built on in or around the city, half of them are left undeveloped and instead they are **planted with trees, given ponds and good access for locals**.
4. **Higher housing density requirements** for new developments (70-100 dwellings per hectare as in the Oxford draft plan rather than the 30-50dph proposed in this one).
5. Where development is needed beyond the city, it should have **similar levels of density to the city** and be closely tied to the city - in the form of **extensions to existing urban areas**, not free standing new settlements or ribbon development along (new) roads.
6. Requirements are put in place for **50% of new housing to be affordable, and 80% of this to be affordable rental housing**, as this where the real need lies.
7. Specific **policy around food and water security** in the light of climate change.
8. Detailed policy for freight movement designed to reduce HGVs in the city and **shift freight to carbon neutral options**, such as rail, and e-cargo bike.
9. Specific targets and **policies to reduce car use** in the city and county.
10. Specific policies to genuinely **support cycling, walking and bus use**.
11. Land allocation and policy to support **solar and wind** farms, increasing renewable generation.
12. Land allocated beyond the city specifically for **tree planting**.

We'd all like to see no building on green spaces, a free and functioning bus service, and every home deep retrofitted to reduce its energy use and to generate solar power, along with a massive shift in attitudes and a big tree planting programme.

The question is, what does the city have the powers and resources to do and what is it allowed/not allowed to do by National Government? And therefore what can we realistically ask for which we could get?

The council owns much of the green space proposed for development, and have the legal right to make conditions on the development of their own land. On private land they should commit to prioritising this in their negotiations with private landowners and developers.

Examples of designing to discourage car use include parking not being directly in front of homes but instead concentrated on the edge of the development, limited parking permits except for blue badge users and ensuring good cycle storage and bus access.

This would reduce flood risk, overheating during heatwaves and improve biodiversity as well as creating more accessible green areas for local people.

However, this should not compromise the need for high quality design and building including accessibility and flexibility to allow for occupants different and changing needs. It should also be attractive and have reasonable floor space and light so that people will want to live in it.

This will allow people real opportunity to use sustainable active and public transport rather leaving them dependant on cars. It will also reduce loss of greenfield sites.

Such as planning for a new water reservoir, planting food trees on city roads and green spaces, encouraging allotment use, developing food growing skills and allocating land in and around the city for food trees and allotments.

For example 20 mph speed limit on all roads, less space in new housing developments given over to parking, and housing development design which makes walking, cycling and buses more attractive than car use, closing roads to car use outside

Such as connected networks of enforced, segregated cyclepaths, pedestrian routes and more 24 hour bus lanes across the city, i.e. reallocation of road space from cars to active and public transport.