

3Bs Neighbourhood Development Plan - Referendum 2021

General Information Statement on Town and Country Planning

1. The Planning System

1.1 The planning system manages the use and development of land and buildings with the aim of creating better places to live and work. Without a planning system in place, development would be uncontrolled and could take place anywhere, without consideration of the impact on the environment and local people. Planning aims to strike a sustainable balance between the provision of housing, jobs, retail and transport and protecting the natural and historic environment.

1.2 The planning system has two parts which are usually the responsibility of the Local Planning Authority:

- Plan-making - setting out proposals for development and policies to guide development over a period of time.
- Development management – where planning decisions are made through the assessment of planning applications.

1.3 For development that requires planning permission, Birmingham City Council is responsible for determining planning applications. If 'made' (adopted), the 3Bs Neighbourhood Plan 2020-2031 will become part of the statutory development plan and be used in decision making on planning applications within the plan boundary.

2. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012)

2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The framework gives guidance to local planning authorities in drawing up development plans and on making decisions on planning applications. It sets out the core principles to be followed including economic, social and environmental aspects and a presumption towards sustainable development. National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) supports the NPPF and provides further guidance on planning issues such as neighbourhood planning.

3. Local Plans

3.1 Local Plans are prepared by Local Authorities for their area. They set out the strategic priorities and planning policies in the area, to deliver key development including the homes and jobs needed, the provision of retail, community facilities, leisure and commercial development and infrastructure for transport, waste and utilities. Policies relating to mitigating climate change, and conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment are also included. The Local Plan sets out

opportunities for development in the area and what will be permitted and where, providing a basis for decisions on planning applications.

3.2 The current Local Development Plan for Birmingham is the Birmingham Development Plan 2017-2031 (adopted in January 2017). Further information on the adopted Plan can be found here:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20054/local_plan_documents/78/birmingham_development_plan

4. Neighbourhood Planning

4.1 The Local Act 2011 introduced a new level of local planning which allows either an existing parish/town council or residents and businesses to form a Neighbourhood Development Forum to produce a plan for their area. It provides an opportunity for local communities to shape future development in their local area.

4.2 Neighbourhood Development Plans can be either be led by residents, businesses or by the parish/town council. Neighbourhood plans have to be produced by a 'qualifying body' for a designated neighbourhood area. In the case of the 3Bs Neighbourhood Plan, the qualifying body is the 3Bs Neighbourhood Forum.

4.3 Neighbourhood plans are required to meet several basic conditions in order to proceed to a referendum stage. An independent examiner was appointed to advise whether the 3Bs Neighbourhood Plan was considered to meet the basic conditions, which are set out below:

- Have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
- Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
- Be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area;
- Be compatible with and not breach European Union (EU) obligations; and
- Meet prescribed conditions and comply with prescribed matters.

5. Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

5.1 The 3Bs Neighbourhood Plan has been the subject of a pre-submission consultation stage ('Regulation 14' consultation) led by the 3Bs Neighbourhood Forum and a local planning authority led representation period ('Regulation 16' consultation).

5.2 An independent examiner (Mr Andrew Matheson) was appointed to examine the neighbourhood plan and provided his report to Birmingham City Council on 2nd August 2021. The report recommended that, subject to a series of modifications proposed, the neighbourhood plan should proceed to referendum based on the designated neighbourhood area. The Council accepted all the modifications proposed, and the

reasons for these, and were subsequently satisfied that the neighbourhood plan met the basic conditions and all other legislative requirements.

- 5.3 The 3Bs Neighbourhood Plan referendum will therefore be held on **Thursday 28th October 2021** with further details set out in the published Information Statement at: https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20054/local_plan_documents/1032/beeches_booths_and_barr_3bs_neighbourhood_plan
- 5.4 The neighbourhood plan needs to gain a 'Yes' vote from the majority of voters (more than 50%) in the referendum, to enable Birmingham City Council to formally 'make' the neighbourhood plan.
- 5.5 If the neighbourhood plan is made then it will become part of the statutory development plan for Birmingham and will be used in the determination of planning applications in the 3Bs Neighbourhood Area. If more people vote 'No' than 'Yes', then the neighbourhood plan will not be made and will not become part of the development plan for the area.
- 5.6 Further information on neighbourhood planning is available from the Government at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>