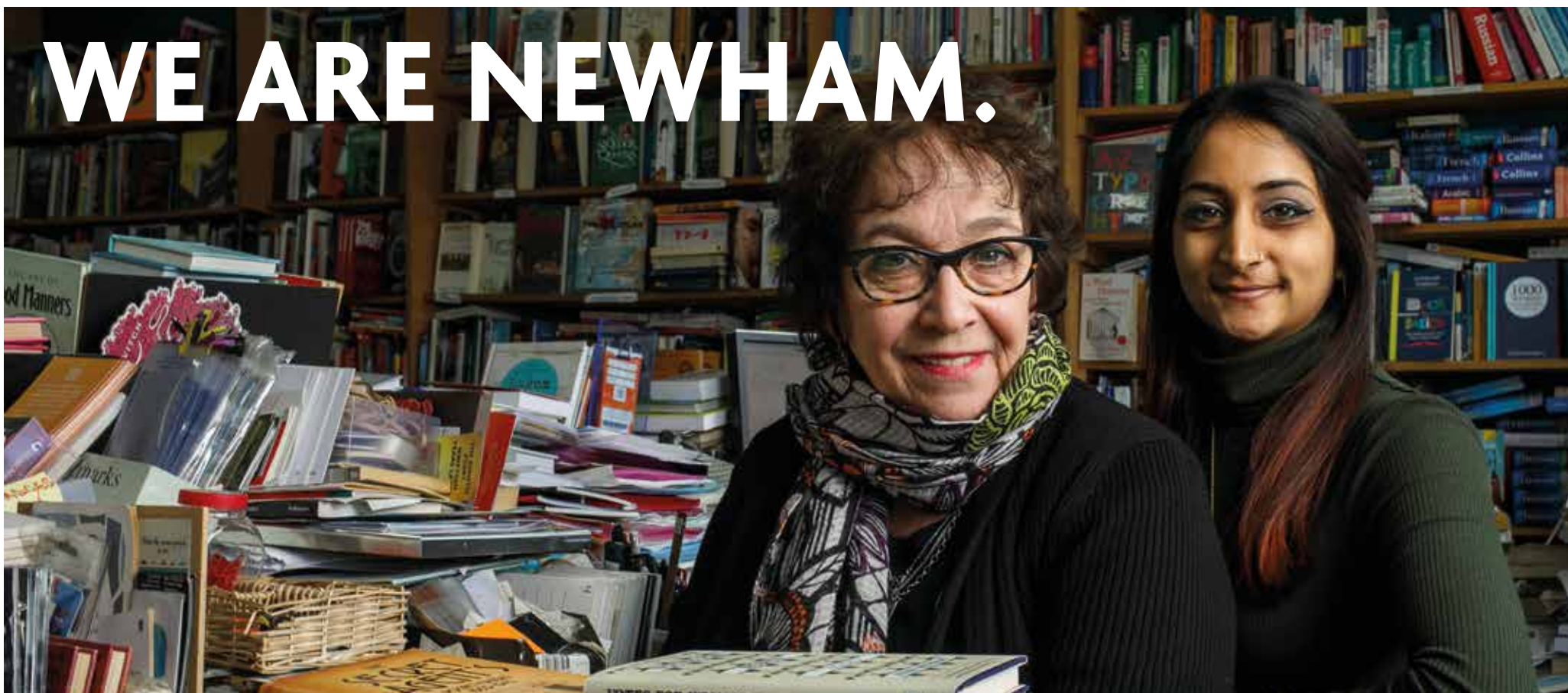


# WE ARE SHAPING.

# WE ARE NEWHAM.



# OUR PLAN.

## Introduction

The Local Plan has a wide range of users, from professional planners (both within the Council and working for external organisations and developers) to businesses considering investments to residents interested in proposals for their neighbourhood and householders making planning applications.

We want to make sure the Local Plan is as easy to use as possible, providing clarity to all users on what the aspirations, objectives and policies are and what we require from applications in order to deliver and meet them.

## What you've told us

Feedback from regular users of our current Plan have said they like the following about the current Plan:

- Use of hyperlinks.
- The way the Local Plan is broken down into categories and then policies, which are colour coded.
- That each policy clearly states which other policy it relates to.
- Maps/diagrams and visual information.

However there were also a number of areas for improvement highlighted:

- Large paragraphs – key points could be highlighted for improved clarity.
- Maps could be clearer with more street names and ability to zoom in.
- The document and policies are long and can be wordy and repetitive.
- Reducing the justifications under each of the policies would make it easier to navigate and more used.
- The Community Wealth Building document more effectively uses visuals to make an easy to read document.
- Bullet points rather than long sentences and long paragraphs would be clearer.

## What new trends and objectives to we want to address?

- The [London Plan 2021](#) has adopted a new policy **numbering system**, which is the same as our current Local Plan – this can make it confusing to quickly see which Plan is being referred to.
- National government has initiated a number of pilot projects to increase the **use of mapping and digital Local Plans** to improve ease of use. The [White Paper on Planning 2020](#) stated 'Local Plans should be visual and map-based, standardised, based on the latest digital technology'.

## Proposed policy changes

- 1. Shorter topic related chapters.** The current Plan has six policy chapters which include a range of topics. Some topics (like Town Centres) appear in more than one chapter. We propose to have more, shorter, topic related chapters so it is clearer which policies can be found where. The policy sections of this Issues and Options document has been laid out using our proposed chapter headings.
- 2. Simplify and shorten the policies.** The current Plan has relatively few policies per topic, which cover a number of different aspects of each topic within one policy and can be very long. The policies are accompanied by justification text and implementation text. We propose to have shorter policies each focused on fewer aspects of the topic. This may result in more policies overall. We propose to remove the justification text from under each policy and have a single justification section for each topic. The implementation text will be more clearly linked to each part of the policy.
- 3. Identify the spatial aspects of the policies more clearly.** Currently each policy has a spatial section which describes where different policies apply. This can create duplication between policies and with the spatial. We propose to consider ways to make the balance and location of spatial guidance clearer. This could involve a separate spatial policy for each topic or adding more of the spatial guidance to spatial policies.

- 4. More images and more maps.** The current Local Plan has no photos or diagrams. It does have a series of clear maps which are available as pdfs. We propose to include more images, including diagrams and photographs to provide clearer guidance and create a sense of Newham and our vision for the borough. We propose to introduce an interactive map which will allow users to choose which mapping layers to view and click on sites and buildings to know which policies apply there.
- 5. Adopt new unique numbering system and provide clear guidance on links between policies.** The current Local Plan now has a similar numbering system to the new London Plan which can cause confusion. It provides clear guidance on how policies link to each other. We propose to adopt a unique numbering system to reduce confusion.







## You tell us

- Do you agree with the proposed changes?
- Are there other changes we should consider?
- Is there anything missing?
- Are there any planning documents you consider to be particularly easy to use?

