

# Our Newham Local Plan: COMMUNITY FACILITIES

## Main Changes from the Draft (Regulation 18) to the Draft Submission (Regulation 19) Newham Local Plan

### **Change to chapter and policy titles and clarity on approach to social infrastructure** Social Infrastructure Chapter and policies

The title of this chapter has changed from 'Community Facilities' to 'Social Infrastructure'. The introduction to the chapter has been updated to provide a better definition of the different types of social infrastructure we plan for and the evidence we have used to inform our approach. The term 'social infrastructure' includes:

- facilities we have a statutory duty to provide: schools; some early years provision.
- facilities with a nationally set target: playing pitches; built sport and recreation facilities; health facilities.
- council delivered facilities: youth zones; libraries; some community halls, galleries, museums and theatres.
- community/charity/market-led facilities: wider youth provision; faith facilities; private built sport and recreation facilities; some early years provision; public houses; some community halls, galleries, museums and theatres.

Policy S11 now provides a definition of community facilities and health facilities. Policy S13 now provides a definition of cultural facilities and sport and recreation facilities. We consider this change was necessary to make it easier for the reader to understand range of facilities this chapter addresses and which policies need to be applied to which type of social infrastructure.

### **Burial space** Policy S15: Burial Space

A new burial space policy has been introduced. This change has been made to address Newham's burial space needs. Newham is actively working on its approach to addressing the need for burial space, including discussions with neighbouring boroughs.

This change has been made following a recommendation by the Local Plan Scrutiny Commission and a representation, received from a neighbouring borough, expressing concern that Newham needed to address its burial need in the Local Plan. We consider this change was necessary to ensure we are considering the need for burial space in line with the London Plan.



### **Approach to the location of small scale social infrastructure**

#### **S12: New and re-provided community facilities and health care facilities, formerly CF2**

This policy approach has now changed to allow greater flexibility on the location of small scale social infrastructure (smaller than 1,000 sqm GIA). This makes it easier for smaller facilities to locate outside of a main town centre but still in locations which are considered suitable. This includes being able to bring forward facilities in a neighbourhood parade, next to a park or school or in an area of the borough which is considered to have access to few facilities without the need to apply a sequential test.

This change has been made following representations from the City of London, a developer, a representative from the voluntary sector and a resident. Concerns were raised around the affordability of space in Newham's existing town centres and that these central locations did not always best meet the needs of the users of a particular types of facility. We consider this change was necessary to make it easier for social infrastructure, which is smaller in nature, to be located where it is needed to meet the day to day needs of people living in Newham's neighbourhoods and to deliver a network of well-connected neighbourhoods.

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## Public toilets / cycle storage

**SI2: New and re-provided community facilities and health care facilities, formerly CF2**

A size threshold for the provision of public toilets has been added to Policy SI2. Large-scale development, and where possible smaller-scale facilities, should provide free, publicly available provision of accessible toilets. The implementation text to Policy SI2 has also changed, giving details of hours of operation, signage and that facilities should be open to anyone regardless of whether or not they are using the facility.

Residents and community groups raised the need for more public toilets and for there to be cycle storage at community facilities. One developer asked for greater clarity around the provision of public toilets and at what scale of development are they expected. We considered this change was necessary to provide further clarity on when public toilets should be provided, ensuring alignment with the London Plan, and to direct the reader to the correct location for policy requirements for cycle storage in the Local Plan.

## The need for sport and recreation facilities

**SI3: Cultural facilities and sport and recreation facilities, formerly CF3**

New policy requirement to deliver new or re-provided sport and recreation facilities on identified site allocations.

This change has been made following recommendations from the completed Built Leisure Needs Assessment (2024). Sport England also raised the need for the Built Leisure Needs Assessment to be completed to ensure that a robust and up-to-date evidence base informs and supports our approach to the protection and provision of sport and recreation facilities. We considered this change was necessary to meet the Local Plan's objective to deliver improved access to social infrastructure for existing and future residents.



Submit your comments online, by email, by post or in-person at our drop-in sessions. Find out more by scanning the QR code or by visiting your local library.

**Have your say before  
5pm, 6 September 2024!**

