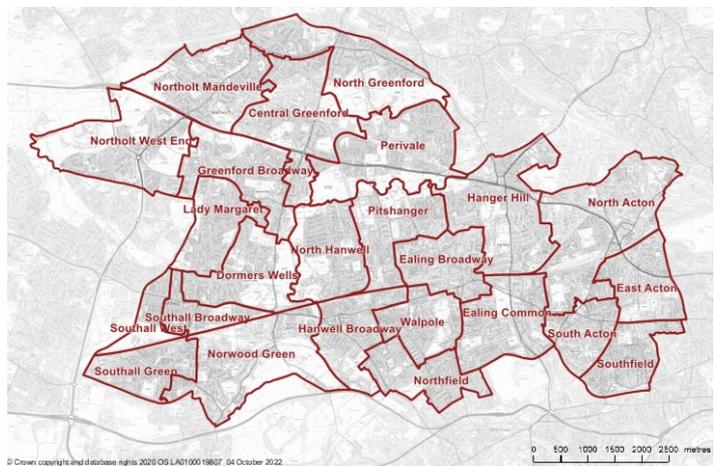


Hello everyone. It is over a year since our last newsletter. Much has happened in the meantime, and with the main public consultation on the Local Plan set to start later this month, we want to share what we know to help you make your views known. In this issue, we focus on what has been happening in the borough as a whole. Issue 13 will cover what has been going on in the individual towns within the borough. Further issues will follow dealing with the Council’s proposals for its new Local Plan and how you can have your say.

EALING COUNCIL UPDATE

Local election results

Local elections on 5 May used new boundaries, increasing the number of wards from 23 to 24, and councillors from 69 to 70. Despite a small increase in registered voters (+3.69%), turnout was lower in 2022 (40.31%) than in 2018 (46.57%). The number of Labour councillors grew to 59 confirming the Leader, Cllr Peter Mason’s mandate. However, Labour’s share of the vote shrank from 56% in 2018 to 51% in 2022, notably in Southall, Greenford, and Ealing. This benefited the Liberal Democrats, (now the official opposition party) whose share rose from 12% to 16%, and the Greens, from 4% to 7%.



No change in Leader and Cabinet

The Leader and Cabinet and their roles remain as outlined [in our last newsletter](#). As the main decision-making body within the Council it’s worth noting that, since Cllr Mason took over as Leader, the ten members who make up the Cabinet have been drawn from only four of Ealing’s seven towns, while the rest (notably Ealing with as many wards as Southall) are not represented. This hardly seems inclusive.

CABINET COMPOSITION		
Town	No. of wards	No. of Cabinet members
Southall	6	3
Northolt	2	3
Acton	4	2
Greenford	3	2
Ealing	6	0
Hanwell	2	0
Perivale	1	0

All change in the Council

In contrast to Cabinet, there have been big changes within the senior ranks of the executive.

The first of these was the controversial appointment of Tony Clements as Chief Executive in April. Mr Clements had already worked at Ealing Council from 2017, latterly as the Executive Director for Place, before leaving in 2020 with a pay out of £74,000 for ‘loss of office’ (not redundancy). As Chief Executive, Mr Clements’ starting salary is more than £192,000 plus benefits.

Following Mr Clements’ arrival in post, the Council published [a new organisational structure](#) last month, comprising six internal directorates rather than the previous three, and a complete change of executive directors. A couple of points are worth noting.

EALING COUNCIL STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM (October 2022)	
Chief Executive	Tony Clements
Strategic Directorates	Executive Director
Children	Carolyn Fair (acting up)
Adults and Public Health	Kerry Stevens (interim)
Economy	Sandra Fryer (interim)
Housing and Environment	Darren Henaghan (interim)
Corporate Resources	Emily Hill (interim)
Strategy and Change	Kieran Read (acting up)
West London Alliance	David Francis

The new Council structure includes planning, regeneration and growth under the Strategic Directorate for Economy. This is surprising. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) says planning is the means of pursuing sustainable development through the pursuit of three overarching but interdependent objectives – economic, social and

environmental. The Council structure suggests that in Ealing economic objectives will trump the other two.

We highlighted in our last newsletter the woolly nature of the Cabinet portfolios. This, combined with the very varied responsibilities of each of the new directorates, means that accountability for decision making is all but impossible to determine. For example, the Strategic Director (SD) for Economy has responsibilities that touch eight out of ten Cabinet members, the SD for Housing and Environment six members. This makes it hard to know who is responsible for what.

NEW LOCAL (DEVELOPMENT) PLAN

We have stressed many times the importance of updating the 2012 Local Plan. The NPPF states that policies in Local Plans should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years.

[Ealing's Local Plan](#) is 10 years old and work on updating it has dragged on for the past four years. The lack of progress has allowed developers free rein to ignore local policy, as our next issue will highlight.

Local Development Plan Advisory Committee (LDPAC)

[LDPAC meetings](#) are the main forum for residents to find out what's happening on the Local Plan, and to hear the different strands of evidence that will feed into its creation. At the time of our last newsletter these meetings were due to re-start. Under Cllr Conlan's chairmanship there were six further meetings, the last taking place in February this year. Following another gap, the meetings re-started in September with Cllr Louise Brett as Chair, and more are scheduled.

Evidence base

As mentioned in the previous section, the Local Plan proposals will be supported by [an evidence base](#) compiled by Ealing Council. This is drawn from different sources, including the reports from within and outside the Council presented at LDPAC meetings among others. It continues to be updated, but currently comprises the following sections with links to the relevant documents.

- [Climate action](#) (including the Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy)
- [Design](#) (including a Character Study of the borough and a Housing Design Guide)
- [Employment and economy](#)
- [Healthy lives](#)
- [Housing](#)
- [Infrastructure delivery plan](#)
- [Integrated Impact Assessment \(IIA\)](#)
- [Open space, sport and biodiversity](#)
- [Retail](#) (including town centre health checks)

Authority Monitoring Reports (AMRs)

AMRs are an important part of the Local Plan, their purpose being to publicly evaluate at least annually the Council's implementation of the different elements of the plan to check that it is on track or to otherwise adjust it. This had not happened since 2013/14, and developers have been using its absence to their

advantage when seeking planning permission. Ealing Matters members and others have been fighting to get the Council to produce AMRs since 2016.

The Local Government Ombudsman to whom we had complained in April 2021, agreed with the Council in September last year that it would publish an interim AMR for 2014 to 2019 inclusive as a first step, and that the most recent AMR for 2019/20 including all housing development data (including the housing trajectory, five year housing land supply etc.) should be made public no later than mid-December 2021. [An interim AMR report appeared in October 2021](#), but it lacked key housing statistics that were promised in a final report that is yet to be published. In the meantime, the Ombudsman has refused to intervene any further.

The Council’s most recent excuse for not publishing the 2019/20 AMR has been the difficulty in migrating data to the GLA’s new Planning London Datahub. We contacted the GLA about this claim on 28 September, and were told that the Datahub is now fully operational for Ealing, so where is our report?

LDS LOCAL PLAN KEY DATES (September 2022)	
Stage	Start date
Regulation 18 Consultation 1	16 Nov 2022 – 11 Jan 2023
Regulation 18 Consultation 2 (topic based)	Feb/Mar 2023
Regulation 19 Consultation	Oct/Nov 2023
Submission for Examination in Public	Jan 2024
Examination in Public (Reg 24)	TBC (2024)
Adoption	TBC (2024)

Local Development Scheme (LDS)

[The Local Development Scheme \(LDS\)](#) is the rather obscure name given to the timetable for the development and adoption of the Local Plan. The Council is responsible for publishing and updating this document on its website, which Ealing had also failed to do since 2015.

Ealing Matters has been asking for an updated LDS since December 2020. The first updated version was published on the Council’s website in March this year, but was revised in September due to slippage. The table opposite shows the key dates to which the Council is supposed to be working. Coming up are several

rounds of public consultation, the first scheduled to start in mid-November (although we believe that this has since slipped to the end of November).

It is really important that as many people as possible participate in the upcoming consultation as that should offer the greatest scope to influence the Local Plan that will shape the borough for years to come. We will publish a special newsletter on the initial proposals consultation once we have a clearer idea of the shape it will take.

SHAPING EALING AND OTHER RESIDENT INPUTS TO THE LOCAL PLAN

Part of the evidence base will be *Shaping Ealing*¹, a survey by Ealing Council of residents and other stakeholders within the borough. This ran from November 2021 to May 2022 and attracted responses from 10,661 people, mostly residents. A summary and an extended summary of the findings can be found on [the Shaping Ealing page](#) of the Council’s website.

Having read both reports, Ealing Matters is concerned about a number of aspects of the survey, including the questionnaire design, partially inaccurate reporting and sometimes faulty interpretation as set out in [our critique of the survey](#). One example of this is the fact that among the set of statements that respondents were asked to evaluate, there is not one that deals with the amount of development overall or the scale of development on individual sites. This is despite the fact that the built environment is a direct responsibility of the Council, a key component of the Local Plan and consistently controversial among local people.

¹ Both *Shaping Ealing* and *The State of Ealing* were conducted online with a self-selecting sample of respondents, with the result that neither sample, regardless of size, was representative of the borough as a whole. Both survey samples tilted towards older respondents, *Shaping Ealing* somewhat less so than *The State of Ealing*.

The significance of this omission is further highlighted by a survey of resident attitudes – [The State of Ealing](#) – conducted between mid-November and the end of December 2021 by a group of local residents’ associations including Ealing Matters, and achieving full responses from 1,292 Ealing residents aged 18 years or more. This did ask respondents to say how happy they were with the amount of development overall and on individual sites, and these were the issues that most respondents were most unhappy about compared with other aspects of Council activity.

ELIZABETH LINE (CROSSRAIL)

You may already have been taking advantage of the Elizabeth Line, with its rather clunky interchange with the central section of the line at Paddington Station. The good news is that, from 6 November, passengers travelling east will be able to get all the way to Abbey Wood without changing. The only niggle to begin with is that trains will wait before entering Paddington, in some cases for as long as seven minutes. By May 2023, all sections of the line (including that to Shenfield) will be connected.

