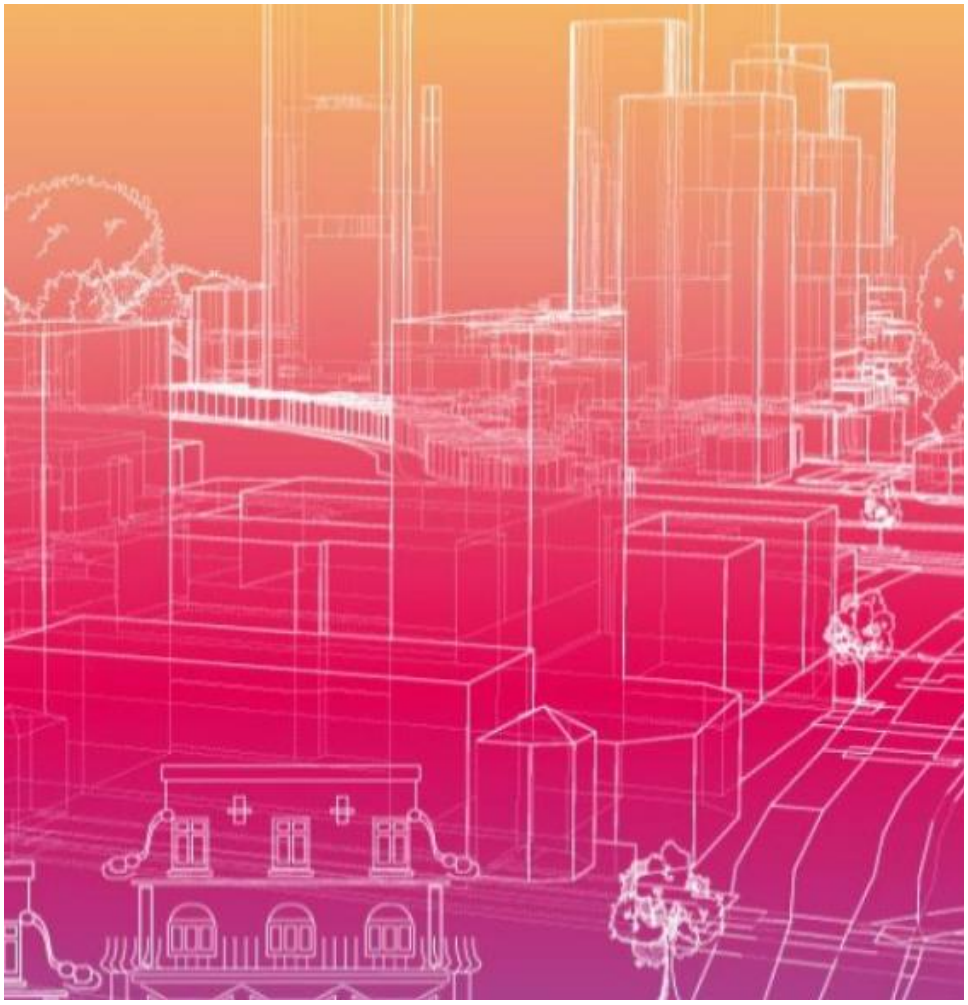
Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Explainer to Support Public Consultation



Introduction

Westminster is growing and the City Council has proposed a plan to ensure we have the infrastructure we need to support that growth.

More people and jobs are coming to Westminster, just like is happening across London. Our population is expected to increase by nearly 80,000 by 2040, an increase of nearly 40%. During the same time, we plan for an additional 63,000 jobs to be created in the city.

Growth can be a good thing, but it must be positively and pro-actively managed to create high-quality places where people choose to live, play, learn and earn.

As part of that pro-active approach, the draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan (draft IDP) is proposal for how growth will be supported by infrastructure. It is a strategic vision, a comprehensive list of planned infrastructure, a tool to inform funding decisions, and evidence to support planning policy and collecting funding from developers.

We are consulting on the draft IDP to inform the public about Westminster's infrastructure planning and to get feedback on how the final IDP should be presented to make it useable and helpful. The consultation runs from 20 November 2024 to 17 January 2025.

This document summarises the draft IDP for those who do not have a technical background in infrastructure and/or planning.

Please join our online consultation portal at:

https://draftinfrastructuredeliveryplan.commonplace.is

Or email us at:

IDPconsultation@westminster.gov.uk

Infrastructure

Infrastructure includes the things, services and places that help people and communities to live our lives.

It ranges from softer infrastructure, such as schools, libraries, and GP surgeries to hard infrastructure, such as utilities, cycle lanes and waste management facilities.

Most of us take infrastructure for granted in our daily lives. When we get ready in the morning, we don't think about the utilities that bring clean water to our taps so we can brush our teeth or the electricity that turns on the lights. When we leave for the day, we don't pay attention to the systems that get us where we're going, the pavements we walk down or the bus we hop on. We don't recognize that the places we visit, like our schools or GP surgeries or leisure centres, are all infrastructure. But we do pay attention when it doesn't work like we expect, like if the tube is running late, or we cannot make a call on our mobile because the cellular network is overwhelmed.

What is infrastructure?

The draft IDP defines infrastructure as "the framework of physical assets, e.g. facilities and equipment, services and systems needed to support and sustain a community of people."

Who provides infrastructure?

The infrastructure set out in the plan will not all be delivered by the council. Many projects in the plan will be funded and carried out by external infrastructure providers, but the purpose of the IDP is to demonstrate what will happen within the borough, even if the council does not control it.

External infrastructure providers include the National Health Service, Metropolitan Police, Thames Water, BT, Transport for London, and UK Power Network.

Where the council does not have direct control over infrastructure, we still have tools we can use – such as planning control and funding – to encourage infrastructure provision to align with the positively managed approach set out in the draft IDP.

Who pays for infrastructure?

Infrastructure is paid for in different ways, depending on who is responsible for providing it.

WCC collects money from developers, through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and section 106 agreements, to help fund infrastructure we deliver. In the last reporting period, more than £2.5 million of CIL and nearly £48 million of section 106 money was spent on infrastructure, and £95 million of CIL and £185 million of section 106 funding was allocated but not yet spent.





Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan

The draft IDP is WCC's plan for infrastructure. It is a strategic vision, a comprehensive list of planned infrastructure, a tool to inform funding decisions, and evidence to support planning policy and collecting funding from developers. Different people will use it differently. For example, an infrastructure provider might use it to calculate the infrastructure funding gap, whilst a resident might be interested in learning what infrastructure is planned in their local neighbourhood. The things the draft IDP does are:

1. set out a strategic vision for infrastructure;
2. list the What, Where, and When of planned infrastructure;
3. inform infrastructure funding decisions; and
4. evidence the City Plan (showing how infrastructure will support growth) and the CIL (calculating the funding gap required to justify collecting CIL)

The IDP is a 'live document' which will be reviewed every year and updated when needed, as development is completed, and new needs arise.

The document is in three parts:

1. Narrative – introduction to infrastructure planning and context, and the strategic vision for infrastructure in Westminster;
2. Infrastructure Chapters – separate chapter for each type of infrastructure, set out the context, current and planned provision; and
3. Infrastructure Delivery Schedule – list of planned projects.

Narrative: What is the council's strategic vision for infrastructure?

Infrastructure projects should be delivered in ways that maximise benefits, not just in terms of the direct impacts of that infrastructure but also in helping to deliver broader ambitions and priorities. Those ambitions, such as becoming a carbon neutral city by 2024, reducing inequalities, and creating economic opportunities for residents, are set out in the council's Fairer Westminster Strategy.

The draft IDP prioritises infrastructure and also sets out how infrastructure can be prioritised when the council and others make decisions on which ones to fund.

Infrastructure Chapters: What is the council's strategic vision for infrastructure?

There are separate chapters for each type of infrastructure. Each chapter gives a sense of what that infrastructure is and why it is important, and sets out current and future needs.

Infrastructure Delivery Schedule

The final section is a comprehensive list of planned infrastructure.

There are nearly 300 entries. Some refer to specific projects, whilst others are multiple similar projects combined into what we call a 'programme'. Each entry includes details including the name, type, location, costs and funding, stakeholders, phasing, source of authorisation, and more, where available.

The list is based on information submitted and verified by infrastructure providers, including WCC teams and external providers.

Public Consultation
What do we need from you?

The consultation runs 20 November 2024 to 17 January 2025. Depending on who you are, and your input into infrastructure planning, we will ask you different questions.

Are you a resident, visitor or user of the document?

We want your feedback on:

1. Your understanding of infrastructure, the council's role in providing it, and what infrastructure is important within your local communities;
2. the usability of the document and how you think it could be improved;
3. How you think the council could do a better job of highlighting infrastructure delivered within your local communities.

How will we address to your feedback?

Once the public consultation ends, we will produce a schedule of comment and a written consultation report.

This will detail all the changes we have decided to make in accordance with your responses, or if we have decided not to amend the document, we will provide an explanation why.

Our intention is to be as transparent and collaborative as possible, as ultimately, the IDP is a collaborative document.

Are you an infrastructure provider who provides infrastructure within Westminster or that otherwise serves Westminster?

As an infrastructure provider, you will be asked the same questions in the survey.

We will then invite you to engage with us to provide further details.

If you already submitted data as part of our evidence gathering exercises, we will ask you to review your projects to update existing, add new, or remove previous schemes in the draft schedule.

If you provide infrastructure within Westminster or that otherwise services Westminster or our residents, but you have not yet submitted information to the IDP, we will ask you to fill out a template schedule to ensure that your planned projects are included in the final IDP.

If you identify yourself as an infrastructure provider, we will reach out to you directly, or you can email us IDPconsultation@westminster.gov.uk.

How to participate in the consultation

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