

**Caversham
And District
Residents
Association**

A guide to the consultation on the Reading Local Plan Partial Update.

The Consultation

The Reading Borough Local Plan was adopted on 4th November 2019. It sets out the planning policies and proposals for Reading up to 2036 and is the main consideration when deciding planning applications. The [Partial Update](#) is the first stage of the [Consultation](#) on the policies to be updated. It asks for your opinion on the scope and content of these changes, to provide information on their drafting and which policies should remain unchanged.

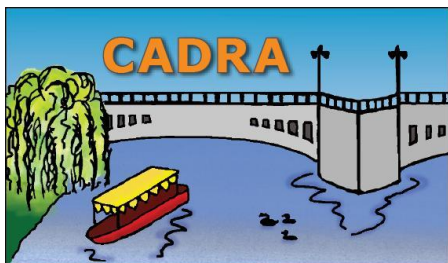
On 27th April 2023, the Council also publicised a 'Call for Sites', which is an invitation for sites to be nominated for inclusion in the Local Plan, generally for housing but also for other designations. There were [20 sites](#) nominated for inclusion and these are part of the consultation. Details of the proposals are in Appendix II.

Comments can be made using the [Online Survey](#), in writing or by email, but they must be received by 5pm on 31st January 2024. The e-mail or post addresses are:

planningpolicy@reading.gov.uk

Planning Policy Team
Reading Borough Council Civic Offices
Reading RG1 2LU

The online survey asks 83 questions, but you can choose which you want to answer. For each one we have provided a short description. We hope this will help you find the areas of interest and to send in your comments.



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The Questions

The [full document](#) highlights the online question and number at the end of each section, so it is easy find the relevant section in the report.

Questions 1, 2 and 3 - The **climate emergency**, declared since the Local Plan was adopted, and some suggested changes in wording.

Question 4 - Change of the plan period to 2023-2041.

Question 5 - A list of policies which should be identified as **Strategic**, as now required by national policy. The list includes some of fundamental local importance.

Question 6 - Cross-cutting policies (affecting other policies) to be updated or remain unchanged.

Question 7 - Standards for **sustainable design and construction**.

Question 8 - Requirement for new developments to adapt to the effects of **climate change**, for instance through orientation, shading during hot weather, ventilation, planting and drainage.

Question 9 - Opportunities for **decentralised energy** (solar, biomass, wind etc.) within major developments.

Question 10 - The publication of the National Model Design Code and the forthcoming requirement for all local planning authorities to develop their own **local design codes**.

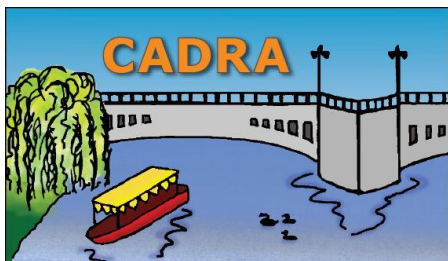
Question 11 - Changes to the wording on the **infrastructure levy**, recognising changes in national policy.

Question 12 - Policies on the **Built and Natural Environment**, to be updated or remain unchanged. Again, the list includes some of fundamental local importance.

Question 13 - Change in wording regarding **Local Listing**.

Question 14 - Proposed amendments to the boundaries of the existing Local Green Spaces and Public **Open Spaces** to reflect the development of the Heights School, Rivermead Leisure Centre, and the new Riverside Academy.

Question 15 - Land at Kentwood Hill and Armour Hill.



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Question 16 - Designation of Scours Lane and Ibis Club, which are not specifically covered by other policies.

Questions 17-20 - **Biodiversity.**

Question 21 - Updates needed in the event of land in Reading being identified for inclusion within the **Chilterns AONB.**

Question 22 - Updates to the **Tree Strategy.**

Question 23-25 - Land for **employment.**

Question 26 - List of which **housing policies** should be updated.

Questions 27-28 - Addresses the complex issue of determining **housing need and measuring the shortfall.**

Question 29 - **Minimum density standards** for town centres and other areas well served by public transport. This is relevant to much of North Reading.

Question 30 - Proposed increased focus on **family housing.**

Question 31 - Proposal to strengthen the wording on **self-build.**

Questions 32 -34 - **Affordable housing.**

Question 35 - Security of tenure in **Build to Rent.**

Question 36 - **Zero carbon standards** for new homes.

Question 37 - Specialist residential **accommodation for vulnerable people**, including older people and people with disabilities.

Question 38 - Flexibility in housing numbers to allow for increases in **family housing.**

Question 39 - **Residential conversions and HMOs.**

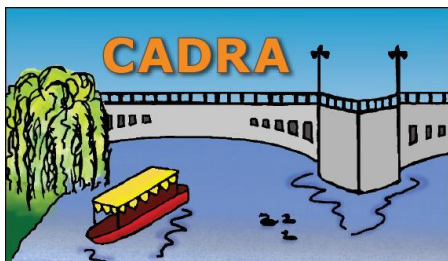
Question 40 - Specific opportunities for **suburban renewal and regeneration.**

Questions 41-42 - Cover new policies on **Co-Living.**

Question 43 - Which **Transport policies** should be updated.

Questions 44-45 - Changes to reflect the **Draft Transport Strategy.**

Question 46 - Changes to reflect the **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.**



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Question 47 - Updates regarding **electric vehicle charging**.

Questions 48-50 - Policies on **Retail Centres**.

Question 51 - **Gambling establishments**.

Question 52 - Extension of the **Detailed Emergency Planning Zone for AWE Burghfield**.

Question 53 - The provision of **telecoms masts** and other equipment.

Question 54 - Long list of site-specific policies (page 70) including **Caversham/Emmer Green, sites near the Thames and the Royal Berkshire Hospital**.

Question 55-59 - Different policies on **Central Reading**.

Question 60 - Progress on sites within the **Station/River Area**.

Question 61 - Proposal from the owner of Apex (formerly **Apex Plaza**) to increase the capacity of the site.

Question 62 - Amendments to reflect progress on sites within the **West Side Area**.

Question 63 - Proposal to increase the capacity of the **Cattle Market** site to accommodate 800 to 1,200 dwellings.

Question 64 - Amendments to reflect progress on sites within the **East Side Area**.

Question 65 - Changes to increase the emphasis on culture and heritage for **Reading Prison**.

Question 66 - Proposals to increase the number of dwellings on **Kenavon Drive and Forbury Business Park**.

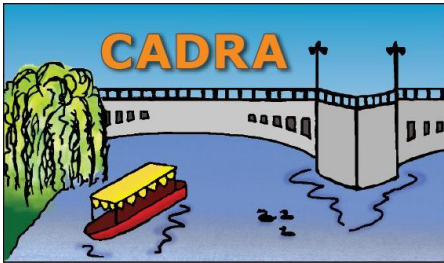
Question 67 - Proposed changes to the existing allocated sites in **Central Reading**.

Question 68 - Proposed 10 additional sites for development, including **Crowne Plaza Hotel and Reading Bridge House** - see Appendix II.

Question 69 - Proposes that **Reading Prison** should be considered as part of the **Abbey Quarter**.

Question 70 - **Island Road**.

Question 71-72 - **South Reading**.



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Question 73 - Leisure use of the **Kennetside**.

Question 74-76 - Sites for development in **West Reading and Tilehurst** – including **Yeomanry House**.

Question 77 - CA1: Sites for development and change of use in **Caversham and Emmer Green**, including updates for developments underway and potential changes to the capacity levels for **further development**.

Questions 78-80 - Sites in **East Reading** and the **University**.

Question 81 - **Royal Berkshire Hospital**.

Question 82 - **Infrastructure** with an extensive table of detail.