

# Waltham Forest Core Strategy

## Preferred Options Summary Document



**Waltham Forest**  
It's happening here



**Waltham Forest**

## INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATION ASSISTANCE

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<p>Dokumenti apo përmbledhja e tij mund të sigurohen në gjuhë tjera, shtyp të madh, Braille, audiokasetë apo i përkthyer sipas kërkesës. Nëse ju keni nevojë për këto shërbime, ju lusim na kontaktoni në adresën e dhënë më poshtë.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Albanian <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>આ અહેવાલ કે એનું સંક્ષેપ બીજી ભાષાઓમાં, મોટા અક્ષરોમાં, બ્રેઈલમાં, ઓડિયો ટેપ પર અથવા ભાષાંતર સેવા દ્વારા ઉપલબ્ધ થઈ શકે છે. જો તમને આ સેવાની જરૂર લાગે, તો કૃપા કરીને અમને નીચેના સરનામે સંપર્ક કરો.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Gujarati <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>يمكن توفير هذه الوثيقة أو ملخصها بلغات أخرى أو بالطبعة الكبيرة أو بلغة بريل أو على الشريط. ويمكن توفير خدمة ترجمة عند الطلب. وإذا احتجت منلا من هذه الخدمات الرجاء الاتصال معنا على العنوان المذكور أدناه.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Arabic <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>यह पचां या इसका संक्षेप अन्य भाषाओं में, बड़े अक्षरों में या सुनने वाली टेप पर माँग कर लिया जा सकता है, और अन्य भाषाओं में अनुवाद की सुविधा भी मिल सकती है। यदि आपको इन सुविधाओं की जरूरत है तो कृपया निम्नलिखित पते पर हमारे साथ संपर्क करें।</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Hindi <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>অনুরোধক্রমে এই ডকুমেন্ট অথবা এর সারসর্ম অন্যান্য ভাষায়, বড় ছাপার অক্ষরে, ব্রেইল বা অক্ষলিপিতে, অডিও টেইপ বা বাজিয়ে শোনার কেসেটে অথবা অনুবাদ করে দেয়ার ব্যবস্থা করা যাবে। আপনার যদি এসব সেবাসমূহের প্রয়োজন হয়, তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে আমাদের সাথে নীচের ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করুন।</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Bengali <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>ਇਹ ਪਰਚਾ ਜਾਂ ਇਹਦਾ ਸੁਲਾਸਾ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ, ਜਾਂ ਸੁਣਨ ਵਾਲੀ ਟੇਪ 'ਤੇ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ ਲਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ, ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਤਰਜਮਾ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਸਹੂਲਤ ਵੀ ਮਿਲ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ। ਜੇ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਸਹੂਲਤਾਂ ਦੀ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਪਤੇ 'ਤੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Punjabi <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>我們可以按照您的要求向您提供此文件或其摘要的母語譯本、大字印刷版本、盲文版本、錄音帶或者提供其他翻譯服務。如果您需要以上服務，請通過以下的地址與我們取得聯繫。</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Chinese <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>İstekte bulunursanız, bu broşürü ya da broşürün özetinin Türkçesini size gönderebiliriz. Ayrıca broşürün iri harfli baskısı, görme engelliler için parmak ucuyla okunabilen Braille alfabesiyle yazılmış kabartma şekli ve ses kaseti de olup istek üzerine broşürün özetini sözlü olarak da size Türkçe okuyabiliriz. Bu hizmetlerden yararlanmak için aşağıda yazılı adresten bize ulaşabilirsiniz.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Turkish <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Ce document ainsi que son résumé sont disponibles dans d'autres langues, en gros caractères, en braille et sur support audio. Une version traduite peut également être obtenue sur demande. Pour obtenir l'un de ces services, veuillez nous contacter à l'adresse ci-dessous.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">French <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>یہ دستاویز یا اس کا خلاصہ دیگر زبانوں، بڑے حروف، یا آڈیو ٹیپ کی شکل میں دستیاب ہو سکتا ہے، یا درخواست کرنے پر ترجمے کی سروس دستیاب ہو سکتی ہے۔ اگر آپ ان سروسز تک رسائی حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو براۓ مہربانی ہم سے نیچے دیئے گئے پتے پر رابطہ کیجئے۔</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Urdu <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Name _____ Address _____ _____ _____ Telephone No _____</p>	<p><b>CONTACT:</b> Spatial Planning Unit Environment and Regeneration London Borough of Waltham Forest Fir Tree House, Waltham Forest Town Hall Forest Road, Walthamstow, London, E17 4JF Tel: 020 8496 3000 Email: <a href="mailto:planning.policy@walthamforest.gov.uk">planning.policy@walthamforest.gov.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk">www.walthamforest.gov.uk</a></p>

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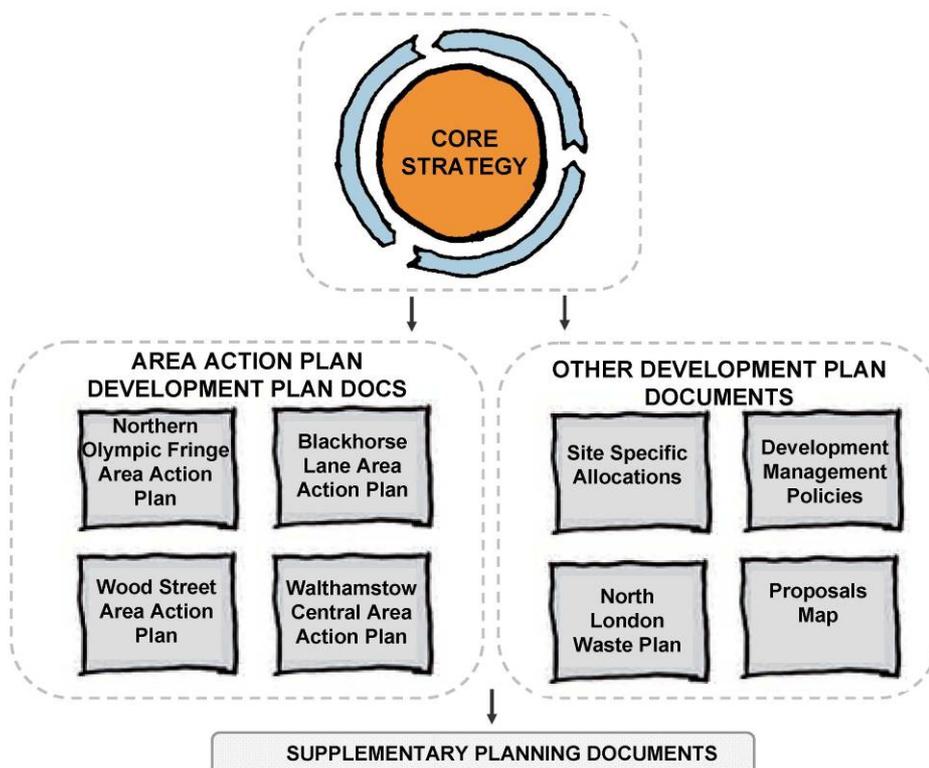
This document provides an overview of the key elements of the Core Strategy document, namely the Vision, Strategic Objectives, Key Diagram and Policies. This document has been developed to allow for an easy-to-read and streamlined overview of the Core Strategy. The Council recommends that readers refer to the Core Strategy document in full for further detail and justification as to the detail of the policies or any other part of this document.

## 1.0 Introduction

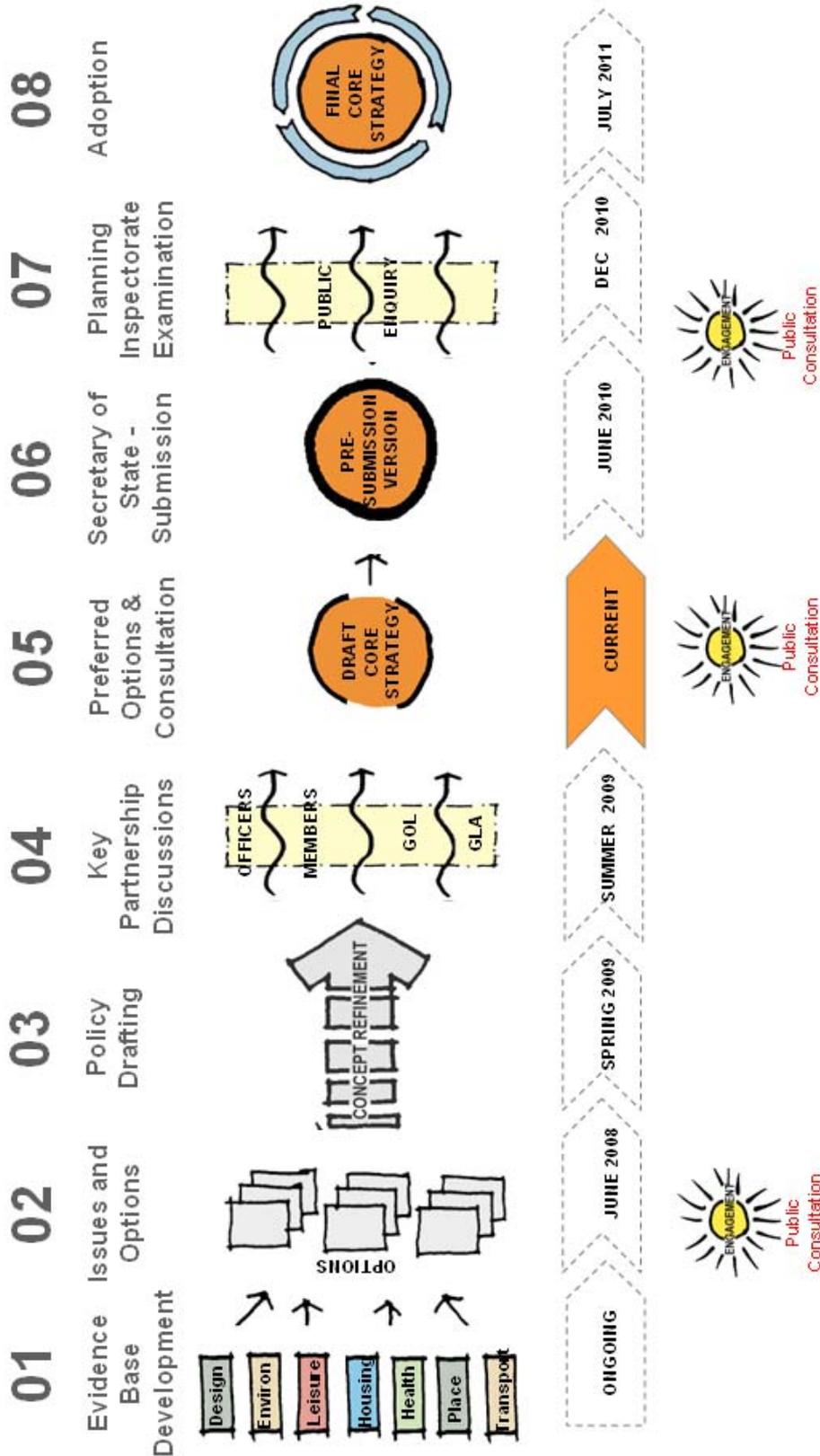
The LDF Core Strategy identifies the overarching objectives for spatial planning outcomes in Waltham Forest, and is a spatial iteration of the priorities outlined within the Council's Sustainable Communities Strategy document. It will be used by everyone who wants to see how Waltham Forest will change or how new development will be planned for and managed over the next 15 years. It deals with the big, strategic planning issues facing the borough. As a result it is not concerned with individual development sites or detailed policies.

The purpose of the Core Strategy is to set the overall framework for the future. It seeks to 'join up' town planning issues with plans and strategies that deal with issues such as health, community safety, climate change, social cohesion, housing, employment, education, transport, the environment and regeneration. All other planning documents need to be prepared in line with the strategic direction provided by the Core Strategy.

The below diagram shows how the Core Strategy will be the basis for the development of a range of other development plan documents, such as Area Action Plans and other development plan documents.

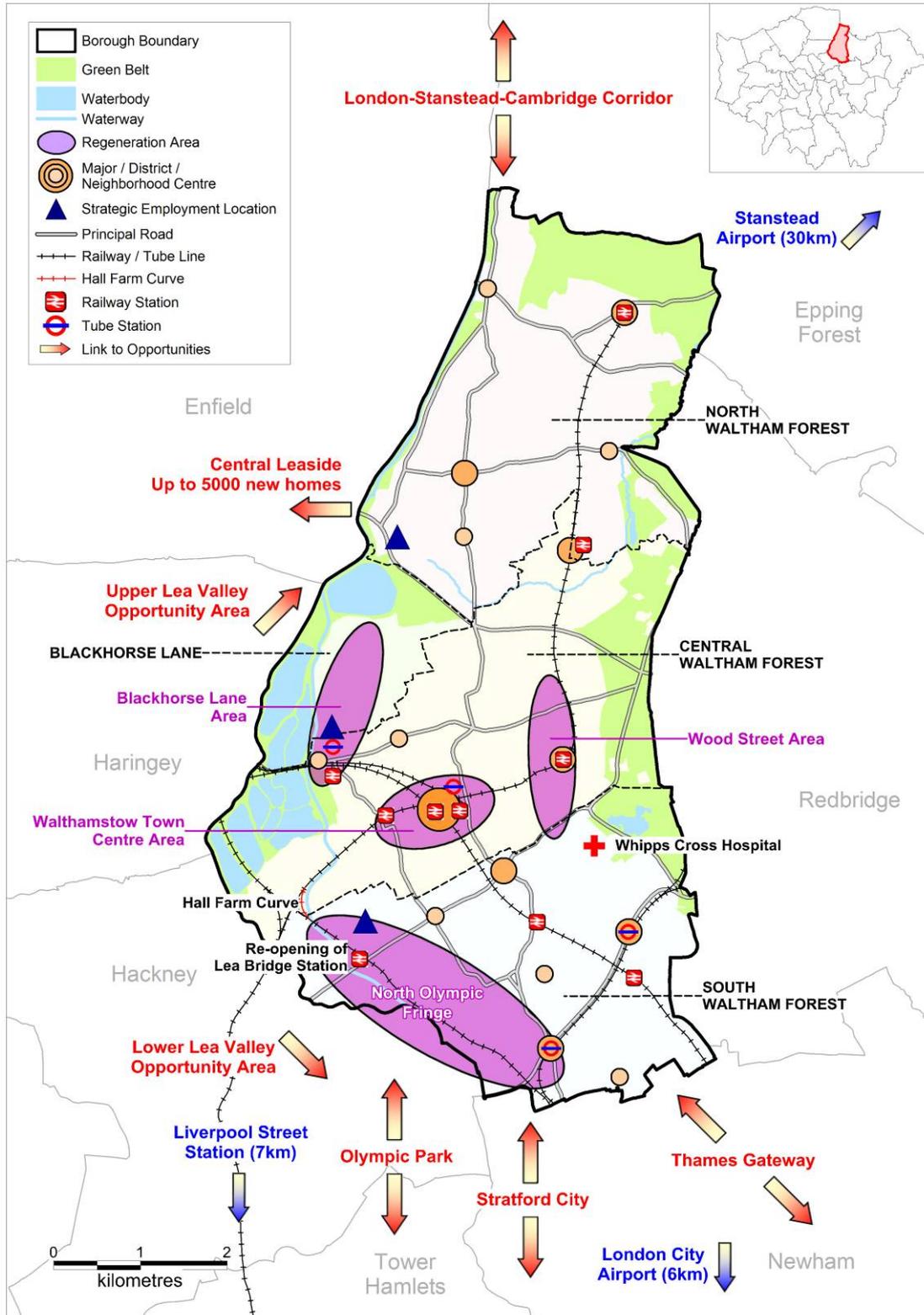


The below diagram shows the Core Strategy process that will be followed to the point of implementation of the document.



## 2.0 Key Diagram

The Key Diagram gives an overview of how the Council see the Borough developing in the next 15 years.



## 3.0 Vision

*This section sets out the spatial planning vision for Waltham Forest in 2026. To achieve the community's ambitions for the future, the LDF must echo and implement the overarching ambition and guiding principles from the Sustainable Community Strategy entitled "Our Place in London". This vision is the starting point for the Core Strategy document and is a statement of where the Council, its partners, stakeholder and residents would like to be in 2026.*

Waltham Forest has firmly established its place in London.

We are proud of the many high quality, exciting developments that have redefined Waltham Forest as modern, stylish place in which to live, visit and do business. We are known across London for our rich heritage and many people come to our festivals. The places and spaces we all love are thriving. Our residents expect the best services and facilities in London – and they get them!

Their high expectations and aspirations are matched by the opportunities available to them easily, both locally and within the rest of East London.

Regeneration schemes have brought us great opportunities which we used well. We have a strong and stable economy providing secure, well-paid jobs for local people. Waltham Forest is now a magnet for emerging and new creative businesses. Our policies on the environment have got a reputation all over England - our businesses are in some of the most sustainable buildings in the country and the energy which lights and heats our homes and businesses is clean and efficient.

Our residents live in the nation's highest quality homes, built to the highest sustainable standards. They play their part in tackling climate change so minimise their use of energy and materials in the way they live and run their homes. These homes range from single person flats to large, family properties. All of our homes are within the price range of anyone who wants to live in them.

The introduction of the Hall Farm Curve railway line and the re-opening of the Lea Bridge railway station mean that more of our residents, especially those in the north of the borough travel to Stratford City, Canary Wharf and other parts of East London for their jobs and in their free time. Bus services are safe and reliable and allow people to get around easily. Each year, more people use public transport, cycle or walk in and around the borough. As a result, the streets and spaces of Waltham Forest are vibrant and safe both day and night. People get on with each other and say they like living here.

Our town centres are thriving and vibrant, attracting residents and visitors to their shopping, leisure and cultural activities. Shops and businesses offer a range of services, with many centres appealing to people looking for more specialised, niche attractions. Walthamstow is the borough's major centre, boasting one of the best markets in Europe. Its evening economy helps boost our local economy attracting residents and visitors to spend in Waltham Forest. Award winning, iconic buildings have made Waltham Forest a place where people come to see what is best in modern architecture.

Our cultural and leisure facilities complement the main attractions offered by London's West End and are seen as a great way of spending a day in the Capital. Ranging from a day out in the revamped Lea Valley Regional Park, now one of London's most visited parks, to a night at the cinema followed by a meal in our many quality restaurants. Our residents particularly love the choice of activities available to them on their doorstep.

Our schools and higher education institutions are amongst the best in London. The facilities and learning opportunities offered by our excellent schools and universities are benefiting all of our residents. Our young people get very good exam results and most go on to top universities and jobs. Young people feel empowered and play an active role in making Waltham Forest a better place for us all.

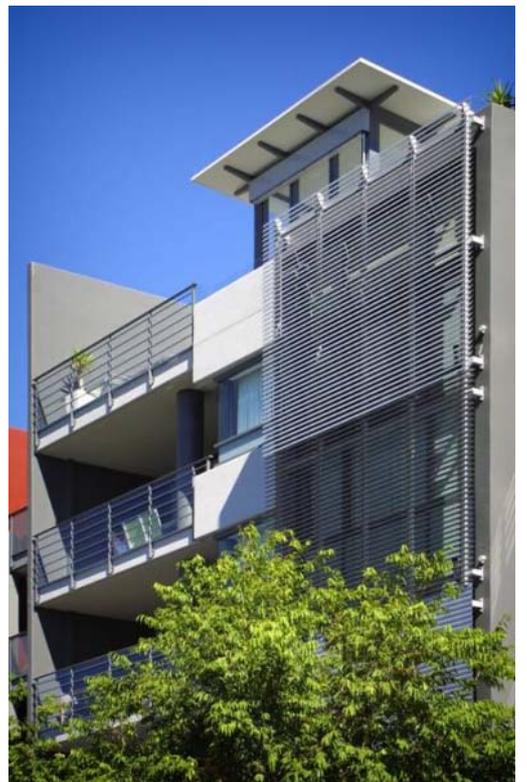
Nestled between the Lea Valley Regional Park and Epping Forest, we continue to be London's greenest borough and attract local people and visitors who want to enjoy the Capital's best green open areas. Our parks are safe and clean and are recognised nationally as being of the highest quality, with facilities second to none.

Our residents have convenient access to some of the best sporting and leisure facilities in the world, thanks to the legacy of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. People are fit, healthy and enjoy life. As a result of the success of the 2012 Olympics, Waltham Forest now forms part of a centre for national sporting excellence. The Drapers Field Urban Beach now acts as the UK's main centre for beach volleyball – having hosted the hugely successful 2025 Beach Volleyball World Cup.

Finally, one of our proudest achievements over the past 15 years has been the manner in which we have successfully tackled the root causes of social and economic exclusion. Our community now is celebrated as one of the most diverse in the UK and is acknowledged as an exemplar of how multi-cultural Britain works to everyone's advantage.

In 2026, our residents and businesses are justifiably proud to be from Waltham Forest.

# Waltham Forest Core Strategy: Preferred Options Summary Document

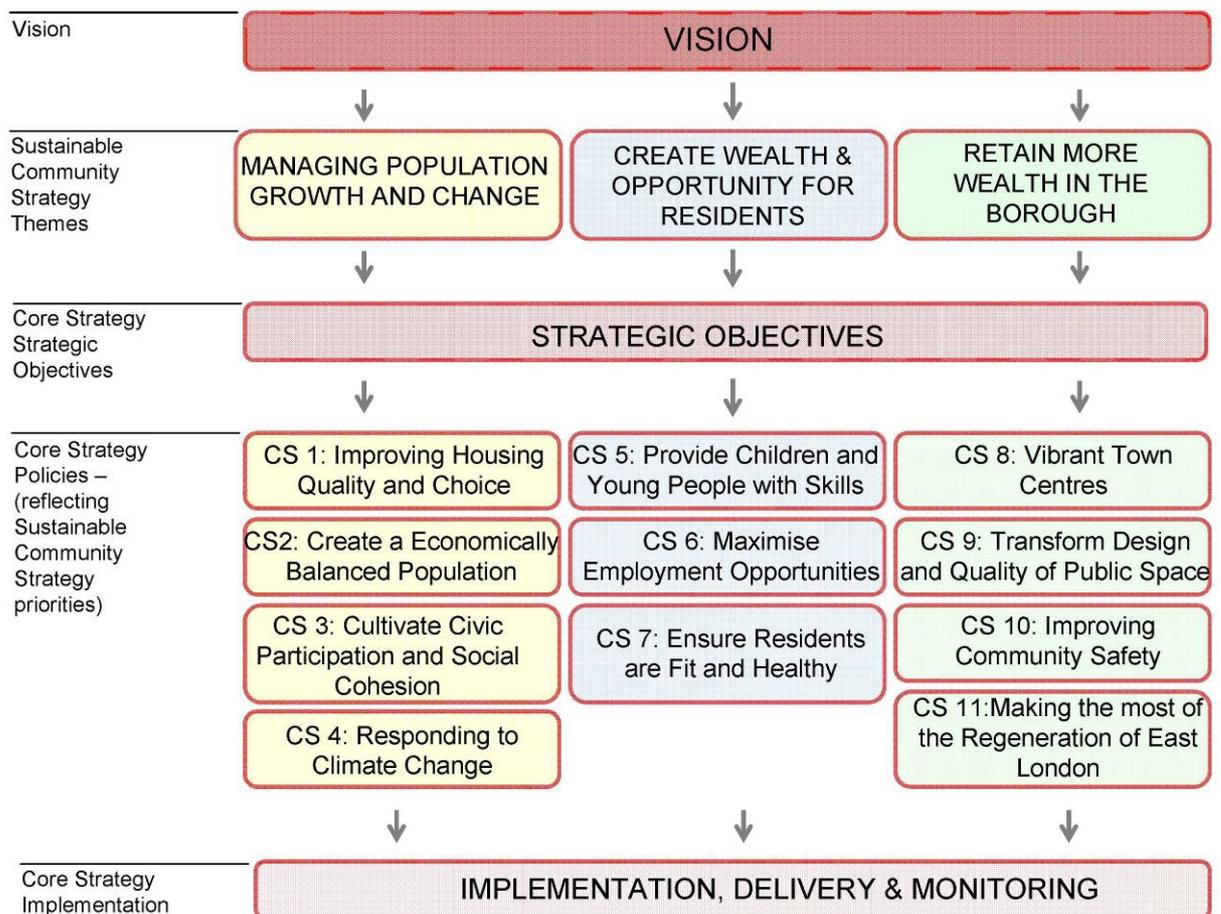


*Our Place in London: images of our vision for the future of Waltham Forest (bottom image courtesy of Lea Valley Park)*

### 3.0 Core Strategy Policies

The purpose of the Core Strategy Policies is to spatially implement the principles of the Sustainable Community Strategy. As such, the policies have been developed in direct reference to the SCS, with spatial policies assigned under each of the SCS priority.

The below diagram shows how the vision correlates with the themes and ambitions of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). It is then shown how the SCS ambitions have informed the Core Strategy Strategic Objectives, which directly relate to the 11 Core Strategy Policies and their associated implementation, delivery and monitoring actions.



## Core Strategy Policy 1: Improve Housing Quality and Choice

*Strategic Objective 1 - Ensure a continuous supply of land and homes to meet a range of housing needs including affordable housing, family housing and accommodation needs of specific groups within the community, whilst doing more to offer a range of housing choices which are of high quality in the right places.*

The Council will seek to facilitate the provision of the right kind of homes in the right places and support the creation of sustainable, functional, high quality and affordable neighbourhoods for residents by:

A) Delivering housing supply to meet our annual London Plan housing target by focusing on large brownfield sites for housing in Walthamstow Central, Blackhorse Lane and the North Olympic Fringe growths areas, encouraging investment in small site housing development, making the most efficient use of existing housing estate sites and bringing empty homes back into use. All sites will need to be well serviced by public transport and provide convenient access to employment opportunities and social infrastructure. (Also see Policy CS3);

B) Seeking to provide the maximum reasonable level of affordable housing on sites with a capacity of 10 or more units. Using the 'Dynamic Viability' approach (to be updated annually), the level of affordable provision will relate to changing market conditions, ensuring flexibility and

responsiveness to the changing economic climate. Such an approach will seek to ensure the financial viability of individual housing sites and enable the amount of affordable housing on each site to be maximised;

C) Achieving a 60:40 split of social to intermediate homes to ensure a balanced variety of homes are provided to meet the needs of residents in a manner that supports the development of a sustainable community;

D) Creating more sustainable, attractive, mixed and balanced community that retain residents by ensuring that the sizes, types and tenures of new housing meet the identified priority need of new and existing households at local and sub-regional level, including families, older people, people with special support needs, and young adults;

E) Protecting family housing by resisting the conversion of existing properties, preventing the loss of existing family homes and maximising the number larger homes in new developments;

F) Seeking high quality design in all new housing development across the borough. Seeking to ensure high internal and external amenity space standards are met to enable a high quality of life to be enjoyed by residents over changing family life cycles and that developments contribute to the overall enhancement of the neighbourhood (Also see Policy CS4);

G) Making efficient use of housing land whilst ensuring the density of

development respects the character of the area, public transport capacity and social infrastructure capacity.

H) Ensuring sufficient good quality, appropriately located residential pitches are provided to satisfy the unmet need specified in the London Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment.



*The Council will be promoting high quality and affordable homes that provide choice for residents.*

## **Core Strategy Policy 2: Create an Economically Balanced Population**

*Strategic Objective 2 - Facilitate sustainable economic growth by safeguarding and enhancing an appropriate range of employment land to meet the demands of local businesses and growth sectors.*

The Council will enable the expected increase in jobs; facilitate the intensification and reduction of surplus employment land; and provide local people with the skills required to obtain new jobs being created by:

A) Intensifying and upgrading existing employment lands in the regeneration areas of Blackhorse Lane, the Northern Olympic Fringe Area, Wood Street and Walthamstow Town Centre;

B) Promoting, managing and, where appropriate, protecting Strategic Industrial Locations (SILs) in Blackhorse Lane and the Northern Olympic Fringe Area in accordance with the London Plan;

C) Taking a more flexible approach to employment land allocation so that non-designated employment land and premises that are no longer viable and surplus to requirements can be released for more productive uses. This released land will be allocated on a sequential needs basis. Priority will be given to social infrastructure, followed by mixed use development that incorporates compatible residential development, especially affordable housing;

D) Seeking opportunities for growth and development in the borough's regeneration areas, with Walthamstow Town Centre and Blackhorse Lane as preferred locations for office developments as part of mixed use schemes;

E) Encouraging a mix of employment facilities and types, including the provision of employment spaces suitable for small and medium sized enterprises;

F) Maximising the Borough's potential as a desirable location for creative/ cultural industries by providing attractive, high quality, affordable sites with high speed internet connections;

G) Promoting Green Industries and ensuring that new industries and employment facilities address climate change objectives stipulated in policy CS4;

H) Supporting new Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in the regeneration areas of Blackhorse Lane, Northern Olympic Fringe Area, Wood Street and Walthamstow Town Centre.

I) Incorporating estate improvements such as signage, surfacing, landscaping, lighting, safety measures and energy efficient measures;

J) Directing business developments to appropriate locations across the borough to reduce the need to travel and enhance the accessibility of jobs being created; and

K) Supporting local enterprise development, employment and training schemes for Waltham

Forest residents in accordance with the Waltham Forest's Strategy for Enterprise, Employment & Skills as set out within the Enterprise, Employment and Skills Strategy (5 Year Plan) and Action Plan as well as policy CS6.



*Existing employment lands will be more efficiently used and green and cultural industries will be supported.*

## Core Strategy Policy 3: Cultivate Civic Participation and Social Cohesion

*Strategic Objective 3 -Strengthen and improve sustainable communities, and reduce existing deprivation in the Borough, by ensuring the timely delivery of appropriate social, physical and green infrastructure.*

The Council will ensure that community, social and physical infrastructure within Waltham Forest caters to the needs of the existing community as well as future populations by:

A) Resisting of the loss of community facilities, and where the loss of these facilities is justified it will seek to ensure that resulting development compensates these uses to ensure no net loss;

B) Supporting the retention and enhancement of existing facilities;

C) Encouraging the development of multi-purpose facilities that can provide a range of services and facilities to the community at one accessible location;

D) Promoting of innovation in service provision and recognises that there are a range of modes appropriate for providing for all parts of the community;

E) Requiring development to contribute towards the provision of community facilities to meet the needs of new communities and mitigate impacts on existing communities;

F) Locating libraries, health facilities, leisure facilities and

community centres, in town centres or other accessible locations to maximise community access, sustainable transport and build a sense of local community identity;

G) Ensuring new facilities demonstrate how they will tackle climate change, in line policy CS4; and

H) Providing facilities and services that are accessible and inclusive to all potential users regardless of age, ability, gender or socio-economic status.



*Social infrastructure such as schools, libraries, health facilities and community gathering places are essential to the quality of life in the Borough.*

## **Core Strategy Policy 4: Responding to Climate Change**

*Strategic Objective 4 - Ensure that our patterns of development and use of resources support the long term sustainability of our environment and respond to climate change in a practical and effective way.*

In responding to climate change, the Council will seek to address issues holistically, relating to the four key themes of minimising climate change and achieving CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets while adapting to climate change; protection and enhancement of the natural environment; sustainable waste management; and sustainable transport.

### *Minimising and Adapting to Climate Change*

Waltham Forest will promote the requirements and actions in minimising and adapting to climate change by:

A) Seeking to prioritise the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in new and existing buildings and ensuring design, construction and occupation minimises energy use, uses energy efficiently and makes use of energy from the most efficient sources including the achievement of applicable CO<sub>2</sub> reductions or minimum energy sourcing requirements from renewable or low carbon energy;

B) Requiring new and existing buildings to be designed and constructed to take account of the impacts of climate change over their lifetime including use of sustainable methods for heating

and cooling as well as flooding, water scarcity and overheating; and to not put people or property at unacceptable risk while ensuring development has sufficient emergency planning measures in place;

C) Setting specific requirements for environmental performance of new and existing development in line with appropriate standards such as BREEAM, Code for Sustainable Homes and EcoHomes assessments;

D) Establishing a system for improving existing buildings' resilience to climate change as well as energy and water efficiency, which will be applied through area and/or site specific requirements;

E) Promoting and facilitating the delivery of decentralised energy systems in appropriate areas of the borough; particularly the regeneration areas of Walthamstow, Blackhorse Lane, Wood Street and the North Olympic Fringe;

F) Promoting the use of renewable energy in development; and

G) Promoting the use of innovative energy technologies that reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and use of fossil fuels such as electrical, hydrogen, and energy from waste sources.

### *Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment*

The Council will protect and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity by:

F) Seeking to protect and enhance nature reserves, protected species

and areas, sites of importance and green corridors, through new development and improvements to existing open space;

G) Identifying and improving the quality of biodiversity and natural spaces in areas of the borough that are deficient in access. We will achieve this by looking to improve the quality or access to existing open spaces, protecting private garden space and securing opportunities for additional open spaces that increase biodiversity in the borough; and

H) Establishing specific requirements for new and existing development in relation to provision of new or enhanced habitat where possible and promoting opportunities for positive gains for nature through the layout, design and materials of development proposals.

### *Sustainable Waste Management*

Waltham Forest will seek to manage its waste in a sustainable manner by:

I) Promoting the reduction of waste produced in the borough, increasing the reuse of waste and materials wherever possible, and seeking to increase recycling and composting of waste. To support this, development should provide adequate and well designed facilities for recycling, storage and collection of waste. New developments should use materials sustainably as well as source sustainable materials for construction, particularly the reuse of construction and demolition materials in new development; and

J) Ensuring there is sufficient land for waste management purposes and establishing appropriate policies for waste applications, through the Joint North London Waste Plan and apply its policies to waste development. Additionally the Council will safeguard existing waste management facilities within Waltham Forest.

### *Developing a Sustainable Transport Network*

The Council will seek to develop a sustainable transport network to reduce the need for travel and encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport by:

K) Promoting mixed use development in appropriate circumstances and supporting the careful location of high trip-generating development;

L) Establishing requirements for development to provide information that will allow the Council to assess the transport impacts of new developments and ensure they are mitigated and managed;

M) Promoting sustainable parking provision that is appropriate for the essential needs of the development, as well as encouraging low-car and car-free development;

N) Considering proposals which make use of waterborne transport favourably; and

O) Improving sustainable borough wide transport connections, infrastructure provision and positive conditions for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users.

## Core Strategy Policy 5: Provide Children and Young People with Skills

*Strategic Objective 5 - Provide a quality of education that ensures that the young people of the Borough can capitalise on the opportunities in Waltham Forest and London, and are able to succeed and prosper.*

As the main educational provider, the Council will ensure that all young people in the borough have access to high quality educational facilities by:

A) Providing appropriate educational capacity in schools to ensure that young residents in the Borough are able to easily access education in proximity to their homes;

B) Ensuring that nursery, pre-school, school and further / higher education facilities are well designed, energy efficient and highly sustainable, well related to neighbourhood services and amenities, and easily accessible by sustainable transport modes;

C) Ensuring that wherever possible, educational establishments have access to play spaces, local playing fields and sporting facilities, ensuring education is contributing to healthy lifestyles in the Borough;

D) Developing educational establishments which contribute positively to borough's environment, with opportunities for linking in with the wider physical environment considered, including the creation of habitat space to contribute to biodiversity networks;

E) Ensuring that proposals for the redevelopment of redundant educational sites support the creation of sustainable, linked communities. Educational establishments should include, where appropriate, provision for community use in addition to their educational functions; and

F) Ensuring that all developments seek to adapt to and prevent further climate change, in line with policy CS4.



*High quality schools at the centre of the community*

**Core Strategy Policy 6: Maximise Employment Opportunities**

*Strategic Objective 6 - Reduce inequalities, unemployment and worklessness in the borough by improving training, employment opportunities, skills and access to jobs.*

The Council will reduce inequalities, worklessness and unemployment in the borough by increasing skills, training and employment opportunities to ensure that residents can benefit from economic growth. This will be achieved by:

A) Ensuring developments provide financial contributions towards employment and training initiatives where appropriate.

B) Supporting local labour agreements with developers to provide on-site employment, training and apprenticeship opportunities for local people both during the construction phase and post-construction.

C) Encouraging jobs brokerage initiatives to require developers to work in partnership with local employment and training programmes and delivery agencies in order to maximise opportunities for local people.

D) Supporting the City Strategy Pathfinder/Worknet programme to successfully deliver in-to-work, skills and training services to the most vulnerable and deprived sections of the community.

E) Promoting local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and supporting local business

agreements which benefit local SMEs.

F) Promoting the delivery of additional educational and training facilities in new and existing developments and encouraging learning providers to re-shape courses to match the forecast needs of business growth sectors in terms of skills and knowledge.

G) Promoting investment in public transport to improve the accessibility of jobs, particularly in growth areas in the region, for residents in all areas of the borough.

H) Improving levels of internet accessibility within the borough, particularly for unemployed and disadvantaged people.

I) Providing sufficient community facilities in order to enhance the role that voluntary, community, cultural and faith organisations perform in motivating unemployed people, particularly in low employment localities and hard-to-reach populations, by providing work placements and volunteering opportunities.



*Skills development and training to provide for greater career choices.*

## Core Strategy Policy 7: Ensure Residents are Fit and Healthy

*Strategic Objective 7 - Improve the health and well-being of Waltham Forest residents by positively influencing the wider and spatial determinants of health, such as physical activity and food choices.*

The Council will use spatial planning to improve the health and well-being of Waltham Forest residents by influencing the wider determinants of health and improving access to facilities which can improve health by:

A) Protecting the existing open spaces such as Green Belt areas, Metropolitan Open Land, playing pitches and parks. Development on open spaces will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances and where it can be proven that the proposed development will provide essential social infrastructure or significant community benefits that could not otherwise be achieved;

B) Wherever possible providing new open spaces or play spaces in the form of parks or within new developments, especially in areas of open space deficiency;

C) Improving the poorest quality open spaces where possible;

D) Increasing access to opportunities for formal physical activity through development of better quality Leisure Centres;

E) Promoting everyday, exercise by designing better quality public realm which is conducive to higher levels of incidental exercise from walking and cycling;

F) Protecting people and the environment from unsafe, unhealthy and polluting activities;

G) Promoting increased access to affordable nutritious food and education by encouraging people to grow their own food and limiting the proliferation of unhealthy foods outlets such as Hot Food Takeaway shops; and

H) Ensuring appropriate and equitable access to clinical health services across the borough.



*Healthier food choices, physical activity and open spaces are key to healthier communities*

## Core Strategy Policy 8: Vibrant Town Centres

*Strategic Objective 8 - Safeguard and strengthen the function of Walthamstow Town Centre, the District and Neighbourhood Centres capitalising on their respective roles for shopping, culture, leisure, tourism and employment etc, while ensuring they continue to develop as distinctive, vibrant, attractive, safe and welcoming places.*

Healthy and vibrant centres are vital to the Waltham Forest economy. There is already a well established network of centres in the borough made up of Walthamstow (as Major Centre), District and Neighbourhood Centres. The Council will promote the development of these centres as the principal focus and catalyst for future growth and revitalisation in the provision of town centre services and facilities. This will be achieved by:

A) Ensuring that new proposals for town centre uses including retail, leisure, office, entertainment, hotel, cultural and service uses are directed to the designated centres through the 'sequential test', whilst also ensuring that the scale of development proposed in a centre is appropriate to the role and character of the centre and its catchment;

B) Promoting the dominant position of Walthamstow Town Centre as a key growth centre, particularly for higher order comparison shopping and other commercial uses. In addition, the development of complementary activities including housing, entertainment, cultural

and leisure facilities will be encouraged in this centre;

C) Creating a sustainable pattern/distribution of town centre uses in Waltham Forest by consolidating retail activities within compact retail core areas of the designated centres and local retail parades;

D) Resisting proposals likely to have a harmful impact on the vitality and viability of the designated centres/parades;

E) Creating distinctive town centres by encouraging differentiation and specialisation between centres with regard to their 'offer' and place setting;

F) Encouraging the development of appropriate clusters of complementary evening and night-time economy uses in town centres;

G) Encouraging housing in and around town centres as part of mixed use developments;

H) Promoting the rejuvenation of town centres areas through the redevelopment of under used sites and premises; and

I) Supporting the establishment and operation of Business Improvement Districts where appropriate to create an improved environment for business and secure improvements in town centre performance.



## **Core Strategy Policy 9: Transform Design and Quality of Public Space**

*Strategic Objective 9 - Create positive and inclusive environments (buildings and spaces) of high quality that contribute to the distinctiveness of Waltham Forest's neighbourhoods, whilst also protecting and enhancing the borough's built heritage assets.*

In Waltham Forest, we want to strengthen and enhance the best of what we already have whilst also influencing the creation of high quality and more distinctive places through greater urban design intervention. In managing changes to the built environment we will seek to maintain and enhance our distinctiveness and built heritage whilst also creating high quality places with well designed and maintained buildings and spaces. New development proposals will be expected to:

A) Give strong recognition to local distinctiveness and spatial context within the borough's neighbourhoods of Chingford, Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone and the unique characteristics they present as defined by the combination of common elements such as block structure, urban grain, building typology, street pattern and public realm, building density/height, richness, private and public space and the presence of street trees,

B) Create new distinctive and legible areas/spaces based on a design-led approach to redevelopment particularly in the identified regeneration/growth areas,

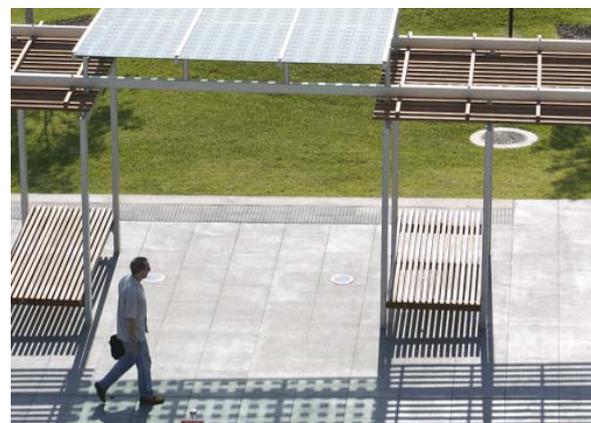
C) Create places of high architectural and urban design quality that are well used and valued and founded on a careful analysis and understanding of local distinctive characteristics as applicable to individual sites and the surroundings,

D) Ensure compliance with good urban design principles including layout, connectivity, legibility, form, scale, massing, materials, detailing, sustainable construction and climate change implications generally,

E) Apply good practice design standards – in particular the CABE/HBF Building for Life criteria,

F) Incorporate high quality inclusive design measures to create an attractive, safe, healthy, accessible and sustainable environment throughout Waltham Forest, and

G) Safeguard designated areas of historic importance such as conservation areas and archaeological priority zones and protect buildings and spaces of historic value including listed buildings and parks and gardens of historic interest.



*Better urban design and retention of local character.*

## Core Strategy Policy 10: Improving Community Safety

*Strategic Objective 10 - Ensure that Waltham Forest is a safer, more accessible and inclusive place where people want to live, work and visit and where anti-social behaviour, crime and the fear of crime no longer reduces the quality of people's lives.*

The Council will aim to improve community safety and cohesion and reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour by:

A) Requiring all forms of new development in the Borough to demonstrate that they have incorporated principles of 'designing out crime by providing well designed, legible routes and spaces, appropriate levels of natural surveillance and activity and by creating a sense of ownership and responsibility by clearly defining public and private spaces.

B) Promoting safer streets and public realm improvements throughout the Borough, especially in areas which experience proportionally higher levels of crime.

C) Developing a network of safe walking and cycling routes, particularly in the regeneration areas of Blackhorse Lane, Walthamstow Central and Northern Olympic Fringe Area, to link homes with town centres, employment areas, recreation/leisure facilities and open space.

D) Ensuring Waltham Forest's businesses and organisations take responsibility for reducing the

opportunities for crime through effective management, maintenance and design.

E) Providing opportunities for sporting, recreational, cultural and community based activities for people in the borough in order to reduce involvement in criminal activities and anti-social behaviour.

F) Encouraging well designed security and public safety measures in all buildings, spaces and transport systems.



*Safety and reduction of anti-social behaviour as key to good quality public spaces and wellbeing in the Borough.*

## Core Strategy Policy 11: Making the Most of Regeneration

*Strategic Objective 11 - Capitalise on redevelopment opportunities to secure physical, economic and environmental regeneration of the borough and ensure the delivery of key benefits for the wider community.*

Waltham Forest is superbly positioned for change. Working with our partners, stakeholders and our communities, we will capitalise on the opportunities, benefits and linkages from the regeneration of East London. In pursuing our ambition for growth and change, we will seek to achieve greater convergence with the rest of London in delivering regeneration outcomes. Through renewal and revitalisation we will transform and improve our urban area by:

A) Working in partnerships with a range of organisations including neighbouring boroughs, stakeholders, delivering agencies, community groups, and other private and public sectors, locally, sub-regionally and regionally to ensure that regeneration is delivered in a joined up way;

B) Focusing regeneration activities in the key growth areas including the Area Action Plan areas of Blackhorse Lane, Walthamstow Town Centre, Wood Street and the Northern Olympic Fringe and encouraging design led regeneration in these areas;

C) Tackling the smaller spatial concentrations of deprivation in the middle and north of the borough through action plans, planning frameworks and targeted projects.

D) Supporting and facilitating the delivering of key improvements to our local transport network – including the reinstatement of the Hall Farm Curve and the Lea Bridge Station;

E) Maximising funding opportunities available to the Council and its partners through developer contributions, bidding and funding regimes etc;

F) Applying a comprehensive set of actions including the establishment of business improvement districts and the use of compulsory purchase powers to tackle land issues which inhibit regeneration.



*Regeneration and investment to promote better public realm, iconic and modern buildings and spaces, and better community facilities.*



## 4.0 Implementation and Monitoring

The Core Strategy, working with the other Local Development Framework documents, will be delivered through two delivery mechanisms. The first mechanism will be the Delivery Programme, and the second is by providing a regulatory framework for development decisions.

The Delivery Programme integrates a number of new and existing programmes to ensure the long term provision of housing, infrastructure and services in the Borough. This programme will be particularly important to meeting and delivering the Core Strategy's strategic objectives. This approach reflects Waltham Forest's commitment to ensuring future growth in the Borough is sustainable and meets the aspirations of the Core Strategy's spatial vision.

A major element of the Delivery Programme is the Infrastructure Plan. Developing the necessary infrastructure in the Borough - in parallel with housing growth - such as schools, health services and community facilities, will be key to the sustainable development of Waltham Forest. Therefore, a key element of this plan will be identifying where required infrastructure will be delivered and the key partners that the Council will be working with to make this happen.

In addition to providing a guide for the delivery of positive change in the Borough, the Local Development Framework will provide a clear framework for making development decisions using regulatory mechanisms. Generally, this will be through a prescriptive approach to plan and decision making, with most decisions being made at the development pre-application and application stage in accordance with the documents.

A number of documents under the Local Development Framework umbrella will be produced to act as these regulatory mechanisms, including the Development Management DPD, Proposals Map DPD, supplementary planning documents and other planning documents and briefs.

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