

Proposed Engagement Plan for updating Islington planning guidance for inclusive buildings and well-designed parks and streets

We propose to work with residents, local businesses, community organisations and design professionals during three stages of engagement to update the crucial design guidance. The events will be coordinated by Planning Policy Team and run by council officers involved in design of buildings, streets and parks across the borough.

The first stage of engagement is currently live and it is aimed to discuss the scope of the proposed guidance updates and the programme of detailed design workshops as suggested in the list below. This stage of engagement will involve five drop-in sessions at local accessible community venues, an online drop-in session, as well as an online Let's Talk Islington survey. These activities and surveys are open to all people who live, work or visit Islington as well as built environment professionals. We particularly encourage input from people who experience barriers across the built environment to share their views. We have also approached a number of established community and advocacy groups to encourage input. The feedback will help us shape the future events planned in the second stage of engagement, and will inform the guidance content.

The second engagement stage planned for early autumn 2026 will inform the detailed content of the guidance. It will include detailed design workshops for people who share a specific characteristic protected under Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation), as well as drop-in sessions and an online survey open to all.

The detailed design workshops are intended to make sure that comfortable and open conversations around barriers to access inform the detailed content of the design guidance. The following detailed design workshops are proposed to understand participants' experiences of places and spaces in Islington and to understand how to best design out barriers to inclusion:

- Child-friendly Islington – a parents', carers' and children's drop-in with fun activities.
- Young Islington – a workshop for young people at one of the youth centres in the borough.
- Students in Islington – a workshop for people live in student accommodation or attend university in Islington.

- Older Islington and dementia-friendly design – a workshop for older people and people living with dementia, as well as carers.
- A workshop for neurodivergent people, Deaf or hard of hearing, disabled people with physical, sensory, and/or cognitive disabilities, and carers supporting disabled people to discuss accessibility and inclusive design of buildings.
- A high street walkabout and workshop for neurodivergent people, Deaf or hard of hearing, disabled people with physical, sensory, and/or cognitive disabilities, and carers supporting disabled people.
- A public open space/park walkabout and workshop for neurodivergent people, Deaf or hard of hearing, disabled people with physical, sensory, and/or cognitive disabilities, and carers supporting disabled people.
- Culturally inclusive Islington – a workshop to discuss the links between experiences of culture and religion, and design of buildings, streets and open spaces.
- People of Global Majority in Islington – a workshop for People of global majority people to discuss the links between experiences of race and ethnicity, and design of buildings, streets and open spaces.
- Gender inclusive Islington– a walkabout and workshop for Women and Girls and LGBTQIA+ people.
- Queer Islington – a workshop for LGBTQIA+ residents.

Accessible venues will be chosen for all of the in-person events. Participation in the detailed design workshops will be compensated for all at London Living Wage rates in a form of vouchers to local shops. Taxis will be arranged for participants on accessibility grounds on request.

The results of the workshops will feed into and inform the detailed drafting of the guidance.

After a few months of drafting, **the third stage of the engagement** will include a consultation of a full draft of the guidance. This stage is planned for late 2026 and will involve structured workshops, drop-in sessions and an online survey open to all.

Following the review and implementation of feedback, adoption of the guidance is then planned for spring 2027.

Key questions for the current consultation: Is the engagement plan appropriate? Is there anything missing at any stage of engagement, including the detailed design workshops?