

**Report of the Director of Place & Wellbeing
To
Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities
On
11 September 2017**

Local Plan - Local Development Scheme

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is essentially the timetable for the production of the Council's Local Plan. It sets out the various stages of the process for the adoption of the Local Plan and indicative dates.
- 1.2. As part of the Council's Local Plan approach this document will need to be adopted by the Council and kept under review.
- 1.3. A copy of the Draft document is attached as Appendix A. It will be placed on the Council's website once adopted and will be updated as and when required.

Key Decision – This is not a key decision as it simply relates to a timetable of forthcoming work.

2. RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to Council

- i. That the Local Development Scheme, as outlined in Appendix A, be adopted by the Council and have effect from 30th September 2017.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) setting out the time line for the Local Plan has been updated to reflect the current Local Plan timetable.
- 3.2 Appendix A shows the proposed LDS for the Local Plan. This is essentially a list of documents the Council will be preparing and when they are expected to be prepared.
- 3.3 This timetable indicates that the overall Plan will be submitted for examination in summer 2018. The timescale for examination is largely at the discretion of the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).

- 3.1 The LDS has been amended to allow for further work to be completed on the Preferred Options Consultation document and supporting evidence base documents. The consultation on the Preferred Options will now begin in October 2017.
- 3.2 In the Housing White Paper 2017, the Government set out its intention to consult on a new way for councils to assess their local housing need. The consultation on the new methodology is due to begin in September 2017. The Local Plan will need to take account of the changes that are being made to the way in which the districts housing needs are calculated. Once further information is known on the implications of the new housing need for the district and the local plan timetable members will be updated.
- 3.3 Any further unexpected and untimely changes in Government guidance or the interpretation of legislation by practitioners and PINS, usually demonstrated through other examinations is a key risk to the adoption of the local plan. To mitigate this risk, PINS will continue to be kept informed of Mansfield's progress with its emerging Local Plan. The Council will seek an advisory visit by PINS prior to the publication of the Draft Local Plan (Publication Version). In addition, decisions issued by PINS will be monitored to ensure soundness is maintained.

4 OPTIONS AVAILABLE

- 4.1 The LDS needs to be updated and therefore the only alternative option is to propose a different set of dates. However, the current approach is considered to be the best approach at present.

5 RISK ASSESSMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPTIONS

Risk	Risk Assessment	Risk Level	Risk Management
Reputation	Adopting a new LDS avoids the risk of future criticism that the LDS is not up to date and current	Low.	The new LDS shows that the Council is committed bringing forward a Local Plan.
Legal	May face legal challenges in the future related to the Local Plan if we maintain an out of date LDS	Low	The revised LDS would prevent any legal challenge from being successful.

6. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- 6.1 Production of a Local Plan is one of the specific actions that need to be undertaken as part of the Corporate Priorities and the Local Development Scheme is central to that.

7. IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 It is important to note that adoption of this document simply re-enforces our commitment to bringing forward a local plan and it will also help in providing for good community involvement in within the consultation periods.
- (a) Relevant Legislation – The Council is required to prepare a Local Development Scheme under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011). It must be made publically available and kept up-to-date to ensure that local communities and interested parties can keep track of progress.
 - (b) Human Rights - No impact as the document simply provides a timetable of intended work and is in accordance with legal requirements under the Planning Acts
 - (c) Equality and Diversity No impact as the document is a simple work programme in accordance with legal requirements under the Planning Acts
 - (d) Climate change and environmental sustainability- No impact as there are no changes to relevant policies as a result of the adoption of this document.
 - (e) Crime and Disorder- No impact as there are no changes to relevant policies as a result of the adoption of this document.
 - (f) Budget /Resource- This document does not in itself generate greater costs than those associated with meeting our legal duties.

8. COMMENTS OF STATUTORY OFFICERS

- (a) Head of Paid Service – No specific comments
- (b) Monitoring Officer – No specific comments
- (c) Section 151 Officer – No specific comments

9. CONSULTATION

Overview & Scrutiny Place was consulted on the draft LDS on 15th August 2017.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Report Author - Katie Mills
Designation - Planning Policy Team Leader
Telephone - 01623 463195
E-mail - kmills@mansfield.gov.uk

