

CABINET

12 MAY 2020

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Local Development Scheme (LDS) Revision2

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LDS) REVISION

1. Decision:

The Cabinet:

- 1.1 Noted the progress and next steps associated with the Local Plan Review.
- 1.2 Approved the revised Local Development Scheme timetable set out in paragraph 3.6 of the Cabinet report.
- 1.3 Delegated to the Cabinet member for Investment, Economic Growth & Tourism in conjunction with the Head of Economic Growth and Development the ability to amend the Local Development Scheme timetable subject to any change not delaying the submission of the Local Plan beyond Spring 2021.

2. Statement of Reasons:

Local authorities are required to prepare a Local Development Scheme (LDS), make it publically available and keep it up to date. The LDS must set out the local development documents for the Local Authority's area such as the local plan and any 'made' neighbourhood plans for the area along with the Council's three year programme for preparing any Local Development Documents

The reason for updating the LDS at this time is to propose a revised timetable for updating the Local Plan. The next version of the Local Plan will be the publication (regulation 19) version. At this formal stage, the document should be the Council's final position with limited scope for further alteration.

Whilst a range of supporting evidence to underpin the Local Plan has now been completed, further evidence is still required to support the publication (regulation 19) version of the plan. Furthermore, the evidence base completed to date is also being reviewed internally with additional 'critical friend' support provided externally by a Barrister and planning consultancy to ensure it is robust and can indeed support proposed plans and policies.

It is proposed to amend the current Local Development Scheme programme so that the publication version consultation date changes from May 2020 to July 2020. This will allow sufficient time for further work to support the evidence base needed for the publication version of the Local Plan. There is sufficient time within the current LDS programme for this alteration without change to the timing of the subsequent steps including the submission date of January 2021. Members will recall that there is a commitment in the adopted Lichfield District Local Plan Allocations to submit a review of the Local Plan by no later than December 2021.

In order to be able to respond flexibly to the changing impacts of Covid 19 restrictions on local plan preparation, it is also proposed that delegated powers to the Cabinet member for Investment, Economic Growth and the Environment in conjunction with the Head of Economic Growth be given to update the Local Development Scheme timetable where it would not result in the delay of the Submission version of the Local Plan beyond Spring 2021.

3. Any Alternative Options:

1. Lichfield District could seek to issue the publication version of the plan in accordance with the current Local Development Scheme timetable. However, there is insufficient time for the plan to be supported by consideration of the representations received at preferred options stage or for a sufficiently comprehensive and credible evidence base to be gathered to support the publication version.
2. To not prepare a Local Plan and Local Development Scheme. This would mean the Council would fail to meet its statutory obligations in law resulting in government intervention and potential legal challenge, and would also result in unplanned development and its associated impacts on delivering the Council's strategic priorities.