

# Local Development Scheme 2019

Councillor Iain Eadie, Cabinet Member for Investment, Economic Growth & Tourism

Date:	10 September 2019
Agenda Item:	4
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Key Decision?	Yes
Local Ward Members	All



**CABINET**

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Local Authorities are required to prepare a Local Development Scheme (LDS), make it publically available and to keep it up to date. The LDS must specify the documents which comprise the Local Development Documents for the area, such as the Local Plan and any 'made' Neighbourhood Plans along with the Council's programme for preparing any Local Development Documents in the next 3 years.
- 1.2 This primary reason for updating the LDS is to identify a revised timetable for preparing the Local Plan.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Cabinet approves the revised Local Development Scheme as set out in **APPENDIX A** to this report and agrees to its publication.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 Councils are required under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to produce a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS must specify which documents form the local development documents for the area such as the Local Plan, any made Neighbourhood Plans and any other supporting documents such as supplementary planning documents.
- 3.2 The LDS enables the community, business, developers, service and infrastructure providers and other interested organisations to know the timetable for the production of the Local Plan and can identify any Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) which the Council wants to prepare during the next 3 years and when they are able to participate.
- 3.3 The meeting of the Economic Growth, Environment and Development (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee in June 2019 considered a revised timetable and based on the report they recommend to Cabinet that this timetable proceed. The timetable proposed is as follows:
  - Preferred Options consultation – November 2019
  - Publication – May 2020
  - Submission – January 2021
  - Examination in Public – May 2021
  - Adoption – February 2022
- 3.4 Within the existing Local Plan there is a commitment to revise the Local Plan. The proposed timetable will provide an 11 month buffer on the existing timetable whilst still meeting the timetable prescribed through the Main Modifications to the Allocations DPD which were adopted by Full Council 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2019. The additional time is needed in response to the additional pressures placed on the team, it enables the completion and preparation of further evidence to inform the Local Plan and adds a

further consultation period. Since the consultation in January 2019 a considerable body of evidence on a wide range of topics within the Local Plan has been completed. The additional stage of consultation will allow more detailed comments to be made on a preferred growth strategy and enables the refinement of policies within the plan, which will make them more robust for decision making. The current LDS should be refined as it proposes the next step in the preparation of the Local Plan is to consult on a Publication version of the Local Plan. The Publication stage represents the version of the Plan that the Council intend to submit to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination and as such there is little scope to change the Local Plan as a result of the consultation feedback. The programme within the current LDS is therefore considered to propose a risk to the Council as it would not enable all the evidence to be considered and feedback received before the Plan had to be submitted for Examination.

3.5 While the primary purpose of the LDS update is to enable a revised Local Plan timetable to be created the following updates have also been undertaken:

- Slimmed the document size;
- References to the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which has been recently amended and adopted;
- The Local Plan Document profile, following the adoption of the Local Plan Allocations Document;
- The number of made Neighbourhood Plans and designated Neighbourhood Plan areas;
- The status of the adopted supplementary planning documents (SPD's);
- The list of saved Local Plan documents and Local Plan policies;
- The list of background evidence which will inform the Local Plan Review; and
- The timetable for production of the Local Plan Review.

3.6 If approved it would supersede the previous LDS which was approved in December 2017.

Alternative Options	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cabinet recommends an alternative timetable for the Local Plan Review. Any alternative timetable will need to consider the various lead in dates required for the Council committee cycles, as well as taking account of the necessary evidence required for a draft plan.</li> <li>2. That the Cabinet recommend the current timetable set out in the approved Local Development Scheme be retained. This is not recommended because there is a risk the Council would submit an unsound Plan.</li> </ol>
Consultation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consultation has taken place with the Economic Growth, Environment and Development (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019.</li> <li>2. There is no requirement to undertake further consultation on the Local Development Scheme.</li> </ol>
Financial Implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There will be no cost implications with regard to the production of the LDS.</li> </ol>
Contribution to the Delivery of the Strategic Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supports the priority of a vibrant and prosperous economy as it assists in the delivery of the planning function of the Council.</li> <li>2. Supports the priority of Healthy and Safe communities by ensuring the provision of housing.</li> <li>3. Supports the priority of clean, green and welcoming places to live by assisting in allocating land for affordable housing, as well as supporting the delivery of residential and commercial developments.</li> </ol>

Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is important that local communities and interested parties can keep track of the progress of Development Plan documents. This opportunity is provided through the LDS which will be published on the District Council's website.</li> <li>2. The development of the Development Plan documents, and engagement and consultation on them is agreed and monitored through the Statement of Community Involvement which ensures that all sectors of the local and wider community have an opportunity to input into the planning process.</li> </ol>
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Crime & Safety Issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. None.</li> </ol>
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GDPR/Privacy Impact Assessment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Privacy Impact Assessment has been undertaken.</li> </ol>
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	Risk Description	How We Manage It	Severity of Risk (RYG)
A	If we do not have an up-to-date LDS our procedures may be found unsound at Public Examination of local development documents.	Ensure that an up to date LDS exists to support the development of Development Plan documents.	Yellow
B	The risk of changing legislation during the preparation of the Local Plan is a challenge. Publication of national policy statements can generate new issues that the Local Plan or its preparation must address.	Ensure that a review of the LDS is undertaken to ensure it remains up to date. LDS to support the development of Development Plan documents	Green
C	Not meeting the timetable proposed within the LDS.	Timetable should be set on realistic basis taking into account the staff resources available	Yellow
D	Staff turnover and difficulties in recruitment	Fill vacancies promptly where possible. Consider and assess options to meet key targets and milestones.	Yellow

<b>Background documents</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local Development Scheme 2017</li> <li>2. Lichfield Local Plan Allocations DPD 2019</li> </ol>
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<b>Relevant web links</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies of the submitted neighbourhood plans can be found via: <a href="http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plans">www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plans</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Local Development Scheme 2017</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Lichfield Local Plan Allocations DPD 2019</a></li> </ul>
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