



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Name and date of Committee	CABINET – 13 JULY 2022
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM No 8
Subject	LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LDS) UPDATE
Wards affected	ALL
Accountable member	Cllr Carl Rylett Cabinet Member for Planning and Sustainable Development Email: carl.rylett@westoxon.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Chris Hargraves, Planning Policy Manager Tel: 01993 861686 Email: chris.hargraves@westoxon.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	To approve an update of the District Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS) which provides information on which planning policy documents the Council intends to prepare and when, to ensure transparency and enable effective community engagement. The LDS also provides information on Neighbourhood Planning.
Annexes	Annex A – Local Development Scheme (2022 – 2025)
Recommendation/s	<i>a) That the updated Local Development Scheme attached at Annex A to the report be approved.</i>
Corporate priorities	The LDS is a procedural document and has no direct effect/implications in terms of the priorities and objectives set out in the Council Plan (2020 – 2024) however, the planning documents it refers to relate to a large number of the plan's priorities and objectives including climate action, strong local communities and healthy towns and villages.
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	None.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1.** Members will be aware that a Local Development Scheme (LDS) is required under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).
- 1.2.** The LDS must specify (among other matters) the development plan documents (i.e. Local Plans) which form (or will form) the development plan for the area. Local planning authorities are also encouraged to include details of other documents which form (or will form) part of the development plan for the area, such as neighbourhood plans. The LDS can also include details of any supplementary planning documents (SPDs) which the authority has adopted or intends to adopt.
- 1.3.** The LDS must be made publicly available including on the Council's website and must be kept up to date, being revised at least annually or more frequently where the need arises.
- 1.4.** The Council's most recent LDS was approved in May 2021, however since then, a number of issues have arisen which mean that it is necessary to agree a further update.

2. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME UPDATE (2022 – 2025)

- 2.1.** The updated LDS is attached at Annex A and covers the period July 2022 – July 2025. The main changes from the previous version are summarised below.

West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2041

- 2.2.** The previous LDS set out the a commitment to prepare a new Local Plan covering the period to 2040 with a process of informal engagement due to start in November 2021.
- 2.3.** That process of engagement has been purposefully deferred in part due to slippage with the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 timetable (which the new Local Plan will complement). The process of informal engagement on the new West Oxfordshire Local Plan is now expected to start in August 2022.
- 2.4.** The LDS has been updated to reflect this and to set an ambitious commitment to formally submit the new Local Plan for examination by December 2023. This would enable examination and adoption in 2024.
- 2.5.** The end date of the new Local Plan is now proposed to be 2041 so as to ensure a period of at least 15-years from the assumed date of adoption (2024).

Salt Cross Garden Village Area Action Plan (AAP)

- 2.6.** The LDS has also been updated to reflect the current position of the Salt Cross Garden Village AAP which is currently going through independent examination by the Planning Inspectorate.
- 2.7.** Following formal submission in February 2021, hearing sessions were held in June/July 2021, following which the Inspector wrote to the Council, effectively 'pausing' the examination and inviting the Council to undertake further work on the phasing essential infrastructure.
- 2.8.** That additional work was published and consulted upon earlier this year and on 26 May 2022, the Inspector wrote to the Council to confirm that the AAP can be found 'sound' subject to a number of Main Modifications.
- 2.9.** It is anticipated that consultation on those Main Modifications will take place in July 2022 after which point, the Inspectors will consider the responses received and look to issue their final report.

- 2.10. On this basis, the District Council hopes to be in a position to formally adopt the AAP during autumn 2022. The AAP has been updated to reflect these anticipated timings.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

- 2.11. The LDS has been updated to reflect the fact that the Council's Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was formally adopted last year and to provide revised timings for the Developer Contributions SPD which remains in preparation, with further consultation proposed in August 2022, followed by formal adoption in November 2022.

- 2.12. An update is also provided in relation to the preparation of a new masterplan for Hanborough Station, with the LDS explaining that although the scope/brief for this work has now been agreed, the exact timings are still to be determined but that there is a broad expectation that it will have been significantly progressed by the end of the year.

- 2.13. At that point, Officers will take a view on whether there would be merit in progressing the masterplan as a formal SPD (the currently agreed budget not allowing for this).

Neighbourhood Planning

- 2.14. The section dealing with neighbourhood planning has been updated to reflect the fact that the Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan has now been formally 'made' (i.e. adopted) and that a neighbourhood plan is also now underway for Stonesfield.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

- 2.15. Some additional text has also been added to the section of the LDS which explains the date and purpose of the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

- 2.16. Essentially this is to highlight the fact that that moving forwards, the Council expects to adopt a much greater digital focus for its planning policy related consultations, with the introduction of a new Digital Engagement Platform. This follows on from a successful funding bid to central Government through Round 2 of its PropTech Digital Engagement Fund.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. The LDS update raises no direct financial implications although there are financial implications associated with the various documents referred to therein including in particular the new Local Plan 2041.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The preparation and maintenance of an up to date Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a legislative requirement.

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1. The report raises no significant risks. Failure to maintain an up to date LDS could put the Council at risk of legal challenge through the plan making process.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 6.1. The report raises no specific implications for any particular equality strand. The new Local Plan 2041 will be the subject of an Equality Impact Assessment – either standalone or forming part of an integrated assessment picking up other requirements including Sustainability Appraisal (SA).

7. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1.** The report raises no specific implications in relation to climate change although the various documents referred to in the LDS clearly present an opportunity to address the climate emergency through various mechanisms.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 8.1.** No alternatives have been considered. The Council could choose not to update the LDS but that would be contrary to legislative requirements

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1.** None.