



**Policy, Finance and
Development
Committee**

**Tuesday, 31
January 2017**

Matter for Decision

Title: The Local Development Scheme 2017

Author: Adrian Thorpe (Planning, Development and Regeneration Manager)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Development Scheme is a statutory document that sets out the Council's proposal for the preparation of the Local Plan for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston.
- 1.2 The Local Development Scheme establishes a programme of work and identifies milestones that the Council will strive to meet. As well as timescales, the Local Development Scheme outlines the policies that make up the Development Plan for the Borough, whilst the new Local Plan is under preparation.
- 1.3 The sort of milestones that the Local Development Scheme outlines is key public consultation dates, dates at which draft documents will be produced and the dates that documents are expected to be adopted or agreed.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Members approve the Local Development Scheme for publication.

3. Information

- 3.1 On a periodic basis the Local Development Scheme is updated to reflect the ongoing preparation and development of the Council's Local Plan and other Local Development Documents, for example Development Plan Documents such as the new Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents such as the Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document.
- 3.2 The Local Development Scheme breaks down the preparation of the Local Plan and other Local Development Documents into specific stages and gives a timescale by which these stages will be completed as well as outlining the potential risks to meeting these timescales.
- 3.3 The various milestones set out for the new Local Plan within the 2017 Local Development Scheme have been amended from the 2016 version of the Local Development Scheme. The new Local Plan key milestones have been amended to:
 - Pre-submission Consultation - ~~March to April 2017~~ August to October 2017
 - Submission to SoS – ~~July 2017~~ December 2017 / January 2018
 - Examination – ~~October to November 2017~~ March 2018
 - Adoption – ~~February 2018~~ June 2018

- 3.4 The amendments allow for a 10 week public consultation (rather than the statutory 6 week minimum) for the Pre-submission draft of the Local Plan due to the fact that the consultation would potentially begin during the July to August holiday period.
- 3.5 The need to amend the Local Development Scheme is due to the HEDNA being significantly delayed from its original timetable that had its publication in autumn 2016. It is this (which has been out of the Council's control) combined with the further evidence base work required that has led to the scheme amendment.
- 3.6 The amendments also reflect that time is required to undertake the further work that is necessary in relation to joint working with other council's in the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (HMA) - once the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) is published - under the Duty to Cooperate. This joint work is required as the figures illustrated within the HEDNA are the starting point from which further evidence base work flows.
- 3.7 In order to minimise the impact that the delayed HEDNA has made, the Local Development Scheme is only proposing a 4 month (including 4 weeks additional consultation) delay in the proposed adoption date of the new Local Plan; February to June 2018.
- 3.8 As part of the Duty to Cooperate, the Council will (alongside all other local authorities within the HMA) need to consider a Joint Statement of Cooperation. The joint statement will be based on the outcomes of the HEDNA and identify the extent to which each local authority can meet the housing and economic development needs illustrated in the HEDNA. Any local authority that cannot meet its own needs will need to work with neighbouring local authorities to ensure its unmet need can be met elsewhere within the HMA. It is anticipated that a report on the Joint Statement of Cooperation will be on the agenda for the February meeting of Council for consideration.
- 3.9 It is worth noting that North West Leicestershire Council is currently holding an Examination in Public for its Local Plan, during which the HEDNA will be considered. Understanding the outcomes of this examination will be helpful in informing the Council's new Local Plan preparation.
- 3.10 More detailed information regarding preparation timescales and the key milestones for Local Development Documents is contained within the Local Development Scheme document.

4. Potential Risks to the Council

- 4.1 If the Council was minded not to delay the new Local Plan timetable, there is a significant risk that the Plan would be found unsound at Examination. Having sufficient time to produce robust evidence base to support the Plan and ensuring the Council has met the legal Duty to Cooperate is paramount.
- 4.2 If the Plan was to be found unsound, the Council would not be able to deliver future development in a planned and sustainable manner.

4.3 There is a potential risk to Council if the Local Plan timetable be delayed, as a result of the Government's suggested performance management of local authorities in terms of the speed of their plan making and any sanctions that may be imposed. This however, is seen as a lesser risk to the Council than the potential of the Local Plan being found unsound, particularly given the relatively short delay to the work programme, the good progress that the Council has made to date and the fact that the delay is as a result of matters which lie beyond the direct control of the Council.

5. Next Steps

5.1 As soon as the HEDNA is published the Council will circulate a summary document to inform all Members of its key findings and what they mean in the context of the Borough.

5.2 Once the HEDNA is published, the Council will also need to establish the extent to which it can meet its housing and economic development needs. If an unmet need is identified, discussions will need to take place with all other local authorities within the HMA to ensure that the unmet needs can be met elsewhere. This will be a key consideration in the preparation of the Joint Statement of Cooperation. It is anticipated that a report on the Joint Statement of Cooperation will be on the agenda for the February meeting of Council for consideration.

Email: jamie.carr@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Tel: (0116) 257 2652

Implications	
Financial (CR)	The Local Development Scheme itself will not require any financial contribution from the Council, however the preparation of the Local Plan and other Local Development Documents will. This is taken into account during the budget planning process.
Legal (AC)	No direct implications.
Risk (AT)	<i>Corporate Risk 1 Decreasing Financial Risk and Corporate Risk 4 Reputation Damage:</i> There are potential risks that could affect the preparation timescales as set out in the Local Development Scheme. These potential risks are outlined within the Local Development Scheme document itself in section 10. Potential Risk to the Council in terms of the preparation of the Local Plan are set out in section 4 of this report.
Equalities (AT)	The Local Development Scheme sets out when the public and key stakeholders can participate in the document preparation process, particularly through public consultation. External participation throughout the process is integral to shaping the future of the Borough. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required for the Local Development Scheme but is required for the Local Plan itself.
	No significant implications.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Initial Screening <input type="checkbox"/> Full Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable