

# Public Document Pack



## **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

**MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2025, AT 6.00 P.M.**

**PARKSIDE SUITE - PARKSIDE**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS 1**

The attached papers were specified as "to follow" on the Agenda previously distributed relating to the above mentioned meeting.

3. Local Development Scheme (Pre-Scrutiny) (Pages 3 - 16)

S. Hanley  
**Chief Executive**

Parkside  
Market Street  
BROMSGROVE  
Worcestershire  
B61 8DA

11th February 2025

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2025**

**19<sup>th</sup> February**

### **Bromsgrove District Local Plan – Local Development Scheme 2025**

Relevant Portfolio Holder		Councillor Kit Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted		Yes
Relevant Head of Service		Ruth Bamford
Report Author Mike Dunphy	Job Title: Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager email: m.dunphy@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 881325	
Wards Affected		All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted		Yes via SPSG
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)		Communities which are Safe, Well Maintained and Green
Non-Key Decision		
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.		

#### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That Cabinet Recommend to Council that:-**

- 1. Appendix A: Bromsgrove District Council Local Development Scheme 2025 is approved as the Council’s programme for plan-making, effective as of 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025**
- 2. Delegated authority is granted to the Cabinet Member for Planning, Licensing and WRS to approve updates to the Local Development Scheme as required.**

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 On the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024 the Government published a consultation titled ‘*Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system*’. Following this consultation on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024 a new version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published.
- 2.2 The proposed changes to the NPPF and the Council’s response were discussed at length at the Council meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024, and prior to this at the Strategic Planning Steering Group (SPSG) held on the 29<sup>th</sup> August. The final changes to the NPPF were also discussed at the SPSG on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025.

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- 2.3 The issues raised by the new NPPF will be addressed through the development of the Local Plan, this report only addresses the new timetable which is required as a result of the new NPPF.
- 2.4 The following statement accompanied the publication of the NPPF: *'areas must commit to timetables for new plans within 12 weeks of the updated NPPF or ministers will not hesitate to use their existing suite of intervention powers to ensure plans are put in place.'*
- 2.5 In order to meet the requirement outlined para 2.4 above, a new Local Development Scheme (LDS) has been produced which can be seen at appendix A. The LDS is the timetable for the Planning Policies which the Council intend to produce. The LDS was also discussed at SPSG meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025.
- 2.6 The LDS outlines the likely path the Bromsgrove District Local Plan will take to adoption. It has been drafted to take into account the introduction of a new plan making system later in 2025. With that in mind, until the final details of the new system are known, the stages of plan making identified for 2026 and beyond are considered by officers to be the likely process, these stages may need to be amended at a later date. To enable amended versions of the LDS to be approved without delay, a delegation to the Cabinet Member has been included in the recommendations associated with this report. It is envisaged that any new timetables will also be discussed at a SPSG meeting as per normal practice.
- 2.7 The significant element to note on the timetable is the publication of a draft plan for wide ranging public and stakeholder consultation in May or June this year. The details of the draft plan and also the approach to engagement and consultation will be covered in further reports in due course.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 None at this stage an agreed budget exists to prepare the Local Plan.

### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Local Development Scheme is produced under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The legislation states that Councils must prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme specifying:

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- the Local Development Documents (LDDs) which are to be Development Plan Documents (DPDs);
- the subject matter and geographical area of each Development Plan Document;
- which Development Plan Documents (if any) are to be prepared jointly with one or more other local planning authorities;
- any matter or area in respect of which the authority has agreed (or propose to agree) to the constitution of a joint committee; and,
- the timetable for the preparation and revision of the Development Plan Documents.

4.2 Endorsing this LDS ensures that the Council meets the requirement of the above legislation.

### **5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Relevant Strategic Purpose**

5.1 The new Bromsgrove District Local Plan, as such will have potential implications on all of the Strategic Purposes.

- Run & grow a successful business
- Work & financial independence
- Living independent, active & healthy lives
- Affordable & sustainable homes
- Communities which are safe well-maintained & green

Further details on those impacts will be outlined when the draft Local Plan is considered by members later this year.

#### **Climate Change Implications**

5.2 It is not considered that the LDS will have any climate change implications. The Bromsgrove District Local Plan will have climate change implications and they will be detailed in future reports.

### **6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Equalities and Diversity Implications**

6.1 There are not considered to be any customer/equality or diversity implications.

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**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

7.1 A significant risk associated with this report is if the Local Development Scheme is not adopted. The Council will not have an up to date timetable for plan production as per the requirement stated at para 2.4 above. Not having a timetable in place may lead to intervention by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

7.2 In addition to having a timetable in place, it is also a requirement of the MHCLG that plan making needs to continue at pace. To that end, one of the changes made as part of the recent reforms is to add clarity to the intervention criteria by which MHCLG judge whether to intervene if plan making doesn't progress.

*'Decisions on intervention will be taken in line with relevant legal tests and should have regard to plan progress and local development needs. The Secretary of State may also consider other matters that they deem relevant to the case, including sub regional or regional or national development needs.'*

7.3 The paragraph above is taken from the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) and clearly identifies that a plan's progress, and meeting local development needs are going to be considered alongside wider sub regional, regional and national development needs when considering whether or not to intervene in a local authority's plan making process. Any attempt to delay plan making or not meet identified needs is likely to end in intervention.

**8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Appendix A: Bromsgrove District Council Local Development Scheme February 2025

**9. REPORT SIGN OFF**

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Kit Taylor	24 <sup>th</sup> January
	Guy Revans / Ruth Bamford	24 <sup>th</sup> January

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Lead Director / Assistant Director		
Financial Services	Peter Carpenter	24 <sup>th</sup> January
Legal Services	Claire Felton	24 <sup>th</sup> January
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	N/A	
Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply)	N/A	

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## Bromsgrove Local Development Scheme 2025

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## Introduction

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a project plan, which sets out details of key planning policy documents which the local authority seeks to produce over the next three years. The LDS outlines opportunities for public and stakeholder involvement, as well as periods of evidence gathering and plan preparation. A Local Development Scheme is required under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011). The legislation states that Councils must prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme specifying:

- the documents which are to be Local Development Documents (LDDs) and Development Plan Documents (DPDs);
- the subject matter and geographical area of each document;
- which documents (if any) are to be prepared jointly with one or more other local planning authorities;
- any matter or area in respect of which the authority have agreed (or propose to agree) to the constitution of a joint committee; and,
- the timetable for the preparation and revision of the documents.

The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) states that the LDS must specify (among other matters) the documents which, when prepared, will comprise the Local Plan for the area. It must be made available publically and kept up-to-date. It is important that local communities and interested parties can keep track of progress. Local planning authorities should publish the LDS on their website.

This Local Development scheme was agreed by the Council on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2025

## Existing Policy Context

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out how local planning authorities should produce planning documents that will guide the development and use of land within a local authority area. The NPPF requires each local authority to produce a local plan for its area.

The Bromsgrove District Plan (2011-30) was formally adopted by Bromsgrove District Council in January 2017, following an independent examination in public and receipt of the Inspector's Report into the examination of the plan, concluding that the plan was judged to have been found 'sound'. The adoption of the District Plan superseded all policies contained within the previous Bromsgrove Local Plan 2004 and became the statutory development plan for the District.

The District Plan comprises: a vision and strategic objectives for the development of the District over the course of the plan period; strategic policies including site allocation policies to meet the development needs of Bromsgrove and, where relevant, adjacent authorities; and, development management policies which guide more detailed development proposals. The adopted plan also includes a Key Diagram and Policies Map, representing the policies and proposals in the plan visually.

Under the Localism Act 2011, Neighbourhood Plans can be produced by a Parish Council, or an organisation or body designated as a Neighbourhood Forum to provide more detailed guidance on specific local issues. Neighbourhood plans are subject to independent examination and a local

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referendum. If ultimately approved by referendum then the Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' and the Council must bring the Neighbourhood Plan into force as part of the development plan for the local authority. As it is the decision of Parish Councils or Neighbourhood Forums to decide whether to produce a Neighbourhood Plan, it is not appropriate for the LDS to specify when or how they will be produced.

## LDS 2025 – Proposed Development Plan Document

### Bromsgrove District Plan

The adopted Bromsgrove District Plan (2011-30) provides a spatial strategy specific to the needs of Bromsgrove. It contains a set of policies for delivering the overall strategy and identifies strategic allocations for development through the production of a policies map. This map illustrates broad locations for strategic development and land-use designations.

This plan is now out of date and is in the process of being replaced with a successor plan. The new Bromsgrove District Plan Review will extend to a new time horizon, to approximately 2043 and will plan for the new development requirements for that period. Significant progress has been made and it is still the aim to progress the new plan to adoption at the earliest opportunity.

### Plan Preparation and Supporting Evidence

Progress on the Plan Review to date has comprised of two separate comprehensive consultation periods.

- September 2018 - Bromsgrove District Plan Review 'Issues and Options'
- September 2019 - Bromsgrove District Plan Review 'Review Update and Further Consultation' and Call for Sites.

The Call for Sites process has resulted in over 400 possible development sites across Bromsgrove District being brought to the Council's attention and understandably this has increased the time it will take to progress to a Preferred Option version of the Plan. As can be seen from the timetable the next significant stage is a draft plan consultation which has been timetabled in for publication in May/June 2025

Work on the evidence base has also progressed significantly with key pieces of work underway, ready to inform the decisions taken when putting together the draft plan. This evidence will be published as part on the consultation.

### Timetable

The following chart (Figure 1) indicates the timetable for the production of the new plan. This chart identifies the key indicative dates in the process. A further summary profile of the Plan Review is contained in Appendix1. This timetable has attempted to include the proposed reforms to the plan making process, should these reforms not be enacted in a timely manner or the content of these reforms differs from those which have been previously been published the LDS will be amended to reflect the final reforms.

Figure 1: Bromsgrove District Plan Programme 2025-2028

2025					2026											2027											2028																	
M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J											
Draft Plan Consultation					Notice of start of plan making under reformed					Gateway 1 (Advisory)					Public consultation (8 weeks)						Gateway 2 (Advisory)					Public consultation (6 weeks)						Gateway 3 (Stop/Go)						Examination						Finalisation and adoption
					1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						

**Table 1 – Summary Profile of Bromsgrove District Plan Review**

Bromsgrove District Plan Review		
Document Details	Role and Content	<p>New plan setting out the vision, spatial strategy and core policies for the spatial development of the District. Will include strategic allocations to accommodate Bromsgrove development needs to approximately 2043.</p> <p>A Policies Map will need to accompany the BDPR, which will illustrate geographically the policies in the plan and replace the current Policies Map associated with the existing BDP.</p>
	Status	Development Plan Document
	Position in chain of conformity	General conformity with National Planning Policy Framework
	Geographic coverage	District wide

## Contact Details

Strategic Planning and Conservation Team

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For further information please visit the Strategic Planning section of the website:

[www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/strategicplanning](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/strategicplanning)

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