

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Bromsgrove Planning - Statement of Community Involvement
Bromsgrove Planning - Local Development Scheme**

Cabinet

6th July 2016

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Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kit Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	No
Non Key Decision	Yes

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The following report outlines two revised documents which are part of the required suite of documents the Strategic Planning department is required to publish and maintain. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a simple document which identifies what development planning documents the Council will be producing, the scope of these documents and when they will be produced. The Statement of Community Involvement is a document which identifies how we will involve the community and other stakeholders in the planning process, both of these documents are updated versions of ones which have been previously approved.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That Appendix 1 to this report the Bromsgrove Local Development Scheme July 2016 (LDS) is adopted as the Council's current LDS.**

That delegated authority is given to the Head of Planning and Regeneration services in conjunction with the relevant portfolio holder to review and publish amended LDS timetables for the publication of Development Plan Documents.

To publish Appendix 2 the Draft Statement of Community Involvement 2016 for a 6 week period of public consultation in September – October 2016.

That delegated authority is given to the Head of Planning and Regeneration services in conjunction with the relevant portfolio holder to consider the response to the public consultation and subject to no significant issues being present amend and adopt the SCI.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

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- 3.1 Whilst there are no immediate direct financial implications of producing the revised Local Development Scheme, the costs to progress planning policy documents through an independent Examination and associated evidence gathering should be noted.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced the requirement for Councils to prepare and adopt an SCI and LDS. This legislation has since been amended through other new legislation, including the Localism Act 2011. Whilst the need for the SCI to undergo an Examination in Public, and the need for the LDS to be submitted to the Secretary of State no longer exists, although there is still a requirement for both documents to be prepared and kept up to date.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.3 The Local Development Scheme
The Local Development Scheme sets out the key Development Plan Documents (DPDs) to be progressed by the Council. The LDS outlines that Bromsgrove District Council is still progressing the Bromsgrove District Plan 2011 – 2030 (BDP). The main change in this version of the LDS is the amendment of the timetable for the BDP to reflect the ongoing progress of the Examination in Public. Whilst authority to commence working on a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was approved in June 2014, the timetable for the development of the CIL has also been removed in this LDS whilst the BDP remains un-adopted, the reason for is explained further below.
- 3.4 As of February 2016 the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) are using the published versions of the LDS to monitor how authorities are progressing with their plan making. The results of this monitoring will be published in the form of league tables. To avoid being unfairly penalised in the league tables we have removed the CIL from the timetable. This is because we are unsure of exactly when we will be able to progress it at this stage, once this is known and if a CIL is required it can be reinserted into the LDS. It is for this reason that we have asked for the delegation above. As it is often the case and as proved with the development of the BDP, the timetables for plan production can alter for a wide number of reasons many of which are outside of the officers' control. Having this delegation will allow us to amend the timetable for the production of a plan, and ensure that the Council's correct position is reflected when CLG publish their league tables. Approval will still need to be sought from Members if a new Development Plan Document is to be added into the LDS.
- 3.5 Statement of Community Involvement
The requirement for an SCI was introduced in 2004 under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act and was seen as part of the then new Local Development Frameworks (LDF), whilst the core legislation remains, much of the LDF processes have since been scaled back via newer legislation. Under the

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LDF format the SCI was required to be subjected to both public consultation and an Examination in Public, both these requirements have since been removed.

- 3.6 The SCI is a document which shows how we will engage with our communities and other consultees in the planning process; this covers both plan making and development control. The document at Appendix 2 is a revised version of the SCI previously examined by a Planning Inspector and subsequently adopted in September 2006. Many of the changes made are to remove now out of date references to LDF processes, and include a section on neighbourhood planning. Most of the processes around how we will consult remain intact, although they have been updated to reflect the passage in time and changes in technology, such as the ability that social media and the internet can now play in consultation.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.7 Whilst it is not a requirement to consult on the SCI it is proposed to carry out a 6 week period of consultation in September and October 2016. It is felt necessary to delay the consultation until after the BDP Main Modifications consultation to avoid confusing the issues. It is anticipated that officers will be using some of the consultation techniques in the document to ensure the consultation is well advertised. All the information will be placed on the Council's website, an advert will be placed in the local papers, and hard copies distributed to public buildings across the District. All Parish Councils will be notified alongside other statutory consultees, Members are also encouraged to advise officers of any groups in their ward who would benefit from being consulted and also ensure that in their role as ward councillors they share the details of the consultation across their communities.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The main risk associated with this report is, unless the LDS is amended regularly to reflect the current progress on the BDP, the league tables published by CLG will reflect an unfair and untrue position on plan making in Bromsgrove.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Bromsgrove Local Development Scheme July 2016

Appendix 2 - The Draft Statement of Community Involvement 2016

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