

Local Development Scheme 2018

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kit Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford
Ward(s) Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	Non-Key Decision

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The previous Local Development Scheme (LDS) was adopted by the District Council in July 2016 during the ongoing examination of the Bromsgrove District Plan 2011 - 2030 (BDP). This new LDS is required to update the programme of preparing and consulting on strategic planning documents, whilst continuing to reflect the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Since the previous LDS, the District Plan has been adopted in January 2017 with a requirement to prepare a Local Plan Review, including Green Belt Review, prior to 2023. This is the principle reason for producing a new LDS; it in effect begins the formal process of preparing a replacement plan for the recently adopted BDP.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Cabinet is asked to RECOMMEND to the Council:

That appendix A Bromsgrove District Council Local Development Scheme 2018 is approved as the Council's programme for strategic plan-making, effective as of 24th January 2018.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 Whilst there are no immediate direct financial implications of adopting the revised Local Development Scheme, the costs to progress strategic planning documents through all stages of the plan-making process, including independent examination and associated evidence gathering will be considerable. The allocation of financial resources for progression of the District Plan review will be considered through the budget setting process

Legal Implications

- 3.2 The Local Development Scheme is produced 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.

3.3 The Localism Act 2011 removed the requirement to submit the LDS to the Secretary of State. It is however important for Councils to continue to publish up-to-date information on the progress of local development documents. The District Council thus has flexibility to decide how best to present this information to the public, although as a minimum Planning Practice Guidance states that the LDS should be published on the Council's website.

Service / Operational Implications

Bromsgrove District Plan Review

- 3.4 The LDS sets out the key strategic planning documents to be progressed by Bromsgrove District Council. The LDS outlines that Bromsgrove District Council adopted the Bromsgrove District Plan (BDP) in January 2017. Furthermore it states the Council's intention to commence work on a Plan Review, as required by Policies BDP3 and BDP4 of the current District Plan, to identify land to meet development requirements for the period 2023-2030. Policy BDP3 sets out the quantum of housing development which remains outstanding in order to meet the overall housing target of 7,000 dwellings within the BDP plan period of 2011-2030.
- 3.5 Additionally, Policy BDP4 of the District Plan commits the Plan Review to identify land that can help deliver the objectively assessed housing needs of the West Midlands conurbation. Evidence gathering by West Midlands' local planning authorities, including Bromsgrove District Council, is ongoing in relation to strategic housing needs across the sub-region. In particular, up-to-date information on any unmet need originating from the conurbation and other surrounding authorities will be an important consideration to inform the content of Bromsgrove's District Plan Review. As a result the availability of this evidence, to an extent, influences the timeframe of the District Plan Review programme.
- 3.6 The Plan Review will be informed by an updated evidence base, including a Green Belt Review. The timeframe for carrying out the Green Belt Review is incorporated within the overall evidence gathering stages of the District Plan Review. It is envisaged that the first options consultation on the Plan Review will also include consultation on a methodology for the Green Belt Review and site selection process.

- 3.7 Following finalisation of the methodologies, work can then proceed on assessing land within the Green Belt as part of evidence gathering for the Plan Review. The first outputs from the Green Belt Review should inform a preferred option, which will be further consulted on as part of the plan-making process, as outlined in the Plan Review programme at figure 1 of appendix a to this report. The Green Belt Review and site selection process will identify any potential areas to be removed or added to the Green Belt within Bromsgrove District, assessed on their planning merits.

LDS Timetable

- 3.8 The LDS timetable (see appendix A) indicates the schedule for the production of the strategic planning documents. The chart identifies the key dates in the process although the dates are only an indication at this stage, further information will be provided on the publication consultation as the process moves on. The examination date is subject to consultation with the Planning Inspectorate, the body responsible for holding examinations into local plans.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 A Local Development Scheme is essential to set the overall programme and identify how strategic planning documents will be managed and progressed.
- 4.2 Without an up to date Local Development Scheme, development plan documents at independent examination could be found unsound due to the Council failing to comply with a statutory duty contained in the Localism Act 2011. Not being able to adopt statutory planning documents could subsequently result in the Council being more vulnerable to speculative development proposals that do not accord with the development plan for the District.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix A - Local Development Scheme 2018

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Local Development Scheme – adopted July 2016
Bromsgrove District Plan (2011-30) – adopted January 2017

7. KEY

DPDs – Development Plan Documents
LDS – Local Development Scheme
NPPF – National Planning Policy Framework
SPDs – Supplementary Planning Documents

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Mike Dunphy

Email: m.dunphy@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Tel: 01527 881325