

**NEW HUNTINGDONSHIRE LOCAL PLAN
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME
(Report by Head of Planning Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting on 8th December 2011 Cabinet formally confirmed the Council's intentions to review and update the Huntingdonshire Core Strategy in the light of changing national and local circumstances, and endorsed the proposal to produce a new Local Plan in order to achieve this. It was agreed that a new Local Development Scheme (LDS) would be prepared to outline the timetable for preparing and delivering the new Local Plan.
- 1.2 The LDS provides details on the proposed scope, coverage and production timetable of the new Local Plan. It will be a public document and it informs the community and other stakeholders about opportunities for engagement in the Local Plan preparation process.
- 1.3 Cabinet's approval is therefore now sought for the new LDS (attached as Appendix 1 of this report) and its publication on the Council's website. Once approved, it will replace the existing LDS which was previously approved by Cabinet in February 2010.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires preparation of an LDS to formally describe the plan making process and preparation programme for development plan documents. The new LDS is more succinct than its predecessor in that it refers to a single Local Plan rather than the formerly proposed series of local development plan documents. Once approved by Cabinet the LDS can be brought into effect quickly and published on the Council's website. The Localism Act 2011 now removes the requirement for this LDS to be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.

3. PLAN MAKING PROCESS FOR THE LOCAL PLAN

- 3.1 The Local Plan will address all relevant planning policy matters, including site allocations and development management policies, and relevant site allocations and policy designations will be shown on a Proposals Map.
- 3.2 The format of the Local Plan will follow the framework of planning policy themes outlined in the emerging National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the process of preparing the Local Plan evidence base can be taken forward on this basis. The Government intends to issue the finalised NPPF in the Spring of 2012, and it is anticipated that this updated version of the document will also

clarify the national policy approach towards additional national issues such as planning for gypsy and traveller sites.

3.3 The LDS sets out the plan making process for the Local Plan, taking each of the policy themes into account and based on the relevant legislation, including:

- Public participation – as detailed in a Statement of Community Involvement
- Publication and submission of the Local Plan
- Sustainability Appraisals and Strategic Environmental Assessments
- Habitats Regulation Assessment
- Examination of the Local Plan by an independent Planning Inspector
- Ensuring that the Local Plan has been prepared in accordance with the 'duty to co-operate'
- The requirement to ensure that the plan is 'sound' in relation to statutory definitions

4. PREPARATION PROGRAMME FOR THE LOCAL PLAN

4.1 The LDS sets out the proposed preparation programme for the Local Plan, which can be summarised as follows:

- January 2012 to December 2012: Preparation of the draft Local Plan document and proposals maps, evidence base, Sustainability Appraisal, and appropriate public participation and consultation
- January 2013 to April 2013: Publication and pre-submission participation
- May 2013 to February 2014: Submission and Examination
- March 2014: Formal Adoption

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approves the new Local Development Scheme for publication and commencement on 24 February 2012.

Background Papers:

Cabinet Report and Minutes, 8 December 2011

Cabinet Report and Minutes, 11 February 2010

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