

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Title/Subject Matter:** Local Development Scheme

**Meeting/Date:** Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economy and Growth) –  
8th March 2016  
Cabinet – 17th March 2016

**Executive Portfolio:** Strategic Planning and Housing

**Report by:** Planning Policy Team Leader

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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**Executive Summary:**

The report presents a revised Local Development Scheme setting out the timetable for preparation and examination of the Local Plan to 2036. It is essential that the Council has an up to date Local Development Scheme to ensure the Local Plan meets the legal compliance checks as part of its statutory examination. It is also important that the Scheme is up to date because the Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report, which the Council publishes each December, reports in relation to the Local Development Scheme in place at the end of March that year.

**Recommendation(s):**

That the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economy and Growth):

- 1) Comments on the recommendation to approve the new Local Development Scheme (March 2016) for publication and commencement on 24th March 2016

That the Cabinet:

- 1) Approves the new Local Development Scheme (March 2016) for publication and commencement on 24th March 2016

## **1. WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT/PURPOSE?**

- 1.1 The report presents the new Local Development Scheme to set out the scope and timetable for production of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036.

## **2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The previous Local Development Scheme was published in April 2014. Significant additional work has been carried out on the Local Plan and an additional phase of 'targeted consultation' incorporated such that the timetable then envisaged is no longer appropriate. The report is necessary as it is an essential element of the legal compliance checks for the Local Plan at examination to be in accordance with an up to date Local Development Scheme (LDS). It is also important that the Scheme is up to date because the Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report, which the Council publishes each December, reports in relation to the LDS in place at the end of March that year.

## **3. SUMMARY OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME TIMETABLE**

- 3.1 The LDS provides a brief explanation of the necessary elements of the plan preparation process and how it interlinks with the preparation of neighbourhood plans. It identifies the scope and coverage of the Local Plan to 2036 and the stages at which people can engage with its preparation.
- 3.2 The LDS provides a timetable identifying all the key stages in the preparation of the Local Plan. This notes the extensive work already completed in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012. It then sets out the timetable of work yet to be carried out. Once the remainder of the evidence base documents are completed this autumn the intention is to undertake the statutory 6 week consultation on the proposed submission version of the Local Plan as required by Regulation 19 during January and February 2017.
- 3.3 The timetable has been calculated using the experience of other local planning authorities who have published or submitted plans during 2015 or have successfully concluded examinations during 2015. Thus, formal submission to the Secretary of State of the Local Plan for examination is targeted for July 2017. This sees the beginning of the examination phase of the Local Plan when the timetable moves into the hands of the Planning Inspectorate. The duration of the examination will depend on the availability of an appropriate Inspector, the scope and complexity of issues raised and the need for further consultation on modifications arising out of the examination. The average duration of examination for local planning authorities whose plan was found sound in 2015 was 18 months; thus, an estimated date for receipt of the Inspector's report has been set at January 2019 leading to an estimated date for adoption of February 2019.

## **4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL**

- 4.1 The comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economy and Growth) from the meeting on 8th March 2016 are appended to the report.

## **5. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN**

- 5.1 This report links to the corporate objective 'Enabling sustainable growth: 2 (a) to improve the supply of new and affordable housing to meet future needs.

## **6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The resources required for examination of the Local Plan are difficult to predict as the scope and duration of the examination are set by the appointed Inspector.

## **7. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

- 7.1 The report is to seek agreement for a revised LDS to ensure that interested parties have access to the most up to date information on the Council's intended Local Plan production timetable and to assist with the legal compliance checks required at examination.

## **8. APPENDICES**

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - Local Development Scheme for Huntingdonshire.
- 8.2 Appendix 2 - Comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economy and Growth) from the meeting on 8th March 2016

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Cabinet – 19th November 2015

Overview and Scrutiny (Environmental Wellbeing) – 10th November 2015

Local Development Scheme April 2014

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

Clare Bond, Planning Policy Team Leader

Tel: 01480 388435