

LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE

29 JANUARY 2019

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (PLANNING & REGENERATION SERVICES)

A.1 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2019-2021

(Report prepared by Ashley Wood)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To seek the Local Plan Committee's agreement to publish a new Local Development Scheme (LDS) which includes a revised timetable for completing the examination of the Local Plan, taking into account the Planning Inspector's latest advice.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is designed to set out the process for producing the Local Plan and other planning documents, including the anticipated timetable of consultation periods, examinations and expected dates of adoption. This document is an essential tool that will help to ensure the Council sticks, as best as it can, to a set timetable and therefore makes the most efficient use of its resources. Publishing the LDS also ensures that stakeholders, including members of the public, Town and Parish Councils, landowners and developers, partner organisations and, critically, the Planning Inspectorate are kept aware of the timetable the Council is working to and can therefore organise their time and resources accordingly.

The Council's last LDS, published in 2017, proposed a timetable of work that aimed to have the new Local Plan published for two rounds of public consultation, examined by a Planning Inspector and formally adopted by the Council by September 2018, in line with the relevant planning regulations.

The Local Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspector in October 2017 and Examination in Public of Section 1 of the Plan commenced in Spring 2018. Examination in Public of Section 1 has currently been paused by the Inspector, to allow the three North Essex authorities to carry out further work.

Examination in Public of Section 1 is currently anticipated to recommence in Autumn 2019, with the Inspector's Section 1 report expected in Winter 2019/20. Subject to the Inspector finding Section 1 of the Plan 'sound', commencement of Examination in Public of Section 2 of the Plan is expected to commence in Spring/Summer 2020. Adoption of both Section 1 and Section 2 of the Plan is currently anticipated to take place in Winter 2020/21, with the potential to adopt Section 1 in Spring 2020, if adopted independently of Section 2 of the Plan. Should this timetable change as a result of further delays, an updated LDS will be produced.

The LDS has therefore been revised to reflect the change to the timetable and is attached as Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Plan Committee approves the Local Development Scheme (LDS) 2019-2021 (attached as Appendix 1) and agrees to its publication on the Council's website.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The Local Plan helps to implement place shaping priorities in the Corporate Plan 2016-2020 for Tendring District Council through:

- Community Leadership by engagement with the community and effective partnership working with technical stakeholders, developers and other interested parties;
- Health and Housing through policies that promote healthier lifestyles, a quality living environment, local regeneration and council house building; and
- Employment and Enjoyment through policies that support business growth and skill development and the protection and promotion of the natural and built environments.

RESOURCES AND RISK

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) has been prepared by the Council's Planning Policy Team under the leadership of the Planning Policy Manager within the agreed 'LDF Budget'. The LDS itself identifies the resources required to progress the Local Plan and other planning documents including the need for some additional technical evidence. Without an up to date LDS containing a realistic timetable for producing a new Local Plan and other planning documents, it will be difficult to ensure the Council sticks to a set timetable and makes the most efficient use of its resources.

The LDS itself contains a risk assessment that identifies the possible risks to delivering the Local Plan and other planning documents on time with advice on how the Council will aim to minimise the likelihood and potential impact of these risks, which include public opposition, the loss or turnover of planning staff, a financial shortfall, changing political priorities and legal challenges.

LEGAL

The preparation of planning documents including the Local Development Scheme is regulated by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended by the Localism Act 2011 (part 6, Planning, section 111 Local Development Schemes) in line with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.

Crime and Disorder / Equality and Diversity / Health Inequalities /Area or Ward affected / Consultation/Public Engagement.

Area or Ward affected: All wards.

Consultation/Public Engagement: The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the anticipated timetable for public consultation on the Local Plan and other planning documents.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1) – The Tendring District Council Local Development Scheme (LDS) 2019-2021.