

PLANNING POLICY AND LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE

23 JULY 2024

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

A.3 UPDATED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2024-2027

(Report prepared by William Fuller)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To seek the Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee's agreement to publish an updated 'Local Development Scheme' (LDS), updating the proposed timetable for reviewing the Local Plan in light of a delay caused by the General Election.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Local Development Scheme (LDS) is to set out an indicative timetable for preparing key Planning documents. It is particularly useful for members of the public, partner organisations and third parties to understand the broad programme of work and how the Council proposes to resource and manage it.

The LDS covers the review of the Local Plan, the preparation and adoption of Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community (TCBGC) Development Plan Document (DPD), and the production of other key planning documents. It includes the anticipated timetable of consultation periods, examinations and expected dates of adoption.

An update to the LDS was brought before this Committee in February of this year. This updated LDS is presented to Members in order to ensure it reflects the delay in updating the Local Plan caused by the General Election.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning Policy and Local Plan Committee approves the updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) 2024-2027 (attached as Appendix 1) for publication on the Council's website.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

Priorities within the Corporate Plan 2024-2028 (Our Vision) include promoting pride in our area and

services to residents, raising aspirations and creating opportunities, championing our local environment, working with partners to improve quality of life, promoting our heritage offer, and financial sustainability and openness. Having an up-to-date framework of Planning policies, other Planning documents and supplementary guidance in place is critical to achieving such priorities and the LDS is a requirement of Local Authorities to set out the timescales and resources required to achieve that.

RESOURCES AND RISK

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) has been prepared by the Council's Officers in the Planning Policy Team within the agreed Local Plan Budget. The LDS itself identifies the resources required to progress the Local Plan Review and the Garden Community DPD. Without an up-to-date LDS containing a realistic timetable for reviewing the Local Plan and preparing other Planning documents, it will be difficult to ensure the Council makes the most efficient use of its resources.

The LDS itself contains an assessment that identifies the possible risks to delivering the Local Plan Review and other Planning documents on time and 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

Every Local Planning Authority must prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS) in accordance with section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The LDS is the Council's rolling project plan (often covering a period of three years) for producing its Local Development Documents and sets out a timetable for their delivery.

The LDS must specify (among other matters) the development plan documents (such as Local Plans) which, when prepared, will comprise part of the Development Plan for the area. Local Planning Authorities are encouraged to include details of other documents which form (or will form) part of the development plan for the area, such as Neighbourhood Plans. The Local Development Scheme must be made available publicly and kept up to date. It is important that local communities and interested parties can keep track of progress. Local planning authorities should publish their Local Development Scheme on their website.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

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 Update and other planning documents.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is designed to set out the process for preparing key Planning documents. It includes the anticipated timetable of consultation periods, examinations and expected dates of adoption for the Local Plan Review and the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community (TCBGC) Development Plan Document (DPD). Publishing the LDS ensures that stakeholders, including members of the public, Town and Parish Councils, landowners and developers, partner organisations and the Planning Inspectorate are kept aware of the timetable the Council is working to and can organise their time and resources accordingly. The LDS is usually updated to cover three-year cycles of Plan preparation.

Members will recall that an update to the LDS was presented at Planning Policy and Local Plan Committee in February of this year. That update was in response to a Ministerial Statement which set time limits for preparing an LDS.

On 22 May 2024 the Prime Minister announced there would be a general election on 4 July 2024. The pre-election period began on 25 May 2024.

During the pre-election period, holding events or launching consultations should be considered with care. At the meeting on 28th May 2024, the Planning Policy and Local Plan Committee was informed that the Issues and options Consultation would therefore not be able to take place in the early summer as planned, and it would instead need to be held in September.

This in turn will push back other key stages of Plan preparation. The draft stages will now follow the timings set out below:

Indicative timetable for Future Review of Local Plan	
Issues and Options Consultation	Summer 2024
Consultation on Preferred Options draft Local Plan	Winter 2025
Publication of Submission draft Local Plan	Spring/Summer 2025
Submission	Summer 2025
Examination and main modifications	Autumn 2025
Adoption	Early 2026

Whilst there is movement of some stages within the LDS, the updated Local Plan will still be submitted to the Secretary of State in Summer 2025 in accordance with Government requirements.

As well as these more substantive changes, the preparation of the Garden Community DPD and the two Neighbourhood Plans have been updated to better reflect current progress.

The updated LDS can be found at Appendix 1.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) 2024-2027.
