

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
SUBJECT:	APPROVAL OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2012
DATE OF DECISION:	13 NOVEMBER 2012
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
Not applicable.	

BRIEF SUMMARY

The Council, as a Local Planning Authority, is required to produce a work programme setting out what planning documents will be produced and when. This programme is called the Local Development Scheme. The current version (3rd revision) was approved by the Secretary of State in February 2009. It is now necessary to update the Local Development Scheme to take account of the changes in Government requirements.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To approve the Local Development Scheme 2012 (Appendix 1) for the publication on the Council's website to have effect from 22nd November 2012.
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Senior Manager, Planning, Transport and Sustainability following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, to amend Part 2 of the Local Development Scheme 2012 as required in order to reflect changes in the programme

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 states that local planning authorities must prepare a Local Development Scheme and keep it up to date. This report brings forward for approval an updated Local Development Scheme to come into effect as soon as possible after the Cabinet decision.
2. Cabinet is asked to approve both parts of the Local Development Scheme. Delegation to the relevant Senior Manager is sought to enable the programme, and content of the individual plans (Part 2) to be updated quickly, as and when necessary.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by The Localism Act 2011) requires local planning authorities to prepare a Local Development Scheme. This document identifies the current and proposed statutory planning documents that the Council is intending to produce over the next 3 years until December 2015, and includes a programme of when each will be produced. This will be kept up to date and revised as appropriate, if there is a change to the programming of the documents which could affect the milestones set out in the LDS.

4. Having recent and relevant planning policies that set out a positive vision for sustainable economic development within a high quality environment is crucial to give confidence to businesses and residents to invest in the City. In addition, at the Examination into the soundness of new development plan documents (planning policies) such as the City Centre Action Plan; the plan could be found unsound if it is not prepared in accordance with the timetable set out in the most recent Local Development Scheme. The last version of the Local Development Scheme was prepared in 2009 and does not reflect the significant change in planning processes.
5. The Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 have made a number of significant changes to the planning system. This, alongside the passage of time, means that the current Local Development Scheme produced in 2009 is out-of-date. Thus the current Scheme requires a major overhaul to take out unnecessary information whilst updating the national context and setting out the current programme of proposed planning documents.
6. Currently the development plan for the City comprises of:
 - The South East Plan 2009 (soon to be abolished); plus
 - Adopted Southampton Core Strategy 2010 (city-wide) which sets out the strategic policies; plus
 - Saved policies from the Local Plan Review 2006 (city-wide) which set out site allocations and development management policies. All the policies except MSA8 were saved but some have subsequently been replaced or changed by the Core Strategy; plus
 - Saved policies from the Minerals and Waste Local Plan 1998 (to be replaced by the Minerals and Waste Plan, adoption in 2013).

Together the Core Strategy, Local Plan Review saved policies and Minerals and Waste Local Plan saved policies comprise the current Local Plan for the City.

7. The Local Development Scheme will explain how the emerging and proposed statutory plans (being prepared in the light of the National Planning Policy Framework) comprise:
 - City Centre Action Plan (being prepared by SCC)
 - Core Strategy Partial Review (city-wide, being prepared by SCC)
 - Minerals and Waste Plan (city-wide and beyond, being prepared jointly by the Hampshire Minerals authorities which include SCC)
 - City Local Plan for the whole City (to be prepared by SCC following the adoption of the above documents). It is intended that this plan will replace the Core Strategy, Local Plan Review, and the City Centre Action Plan.

Once the City Local Plan is adopted (estimated to be in 2017) the statutory development plan for the City will comprise the City Local Plan and Minerals and Waste Plan plus any Neighbourhood Plans (see below).

8. In addition to the plans being prepared by SCC, local communities can prepare Neighbourhood Plans provided they meet the statutory requirements and local criteria. As they are not prepared by the Council they are not included within this programme. However, where a Neighbourhood Forum and Neighbourhood Area have been designated by the Council (a pre-cursor to starting a Neighbourhood Plan) this will be identified.

Keeping the programme up to date

9. To enable the Council to quickly and frequently update the Local Development Scheme programme for new planning documents it is suggested that a two part document is produced. The first part will contain the context and a list of plans that will be prepared. This will not need to be updated very frequently. Part two will contain a timetable chart for the production of the documents and a profile of each plan.
10. It is proposed that initially both parts of the Local Development Scheme will be adopted by Cabinet. It is further proposed that Cabinet be asked to delegate powers to the Senior Manager, Planning Transport and Sustainability to update Part 2 (the programme for plan preparation) on the website without the need to gain further endorsement from Cabinet.

Consultation

12. A report explaining the changes to the Local Development Scheme has been discussed by senior officers sitting as the Planning Southampton 2026 Panel. Legal services, property services and finance have been consulted.
13. Since the Local Development Scheme is the Council's work programme for preparing the Council's statutory planning policy documents, it has not been the subject of public consultation. Once in force, it will be available for the public to access via the website.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

14. Not to revise the Local Development Scheme. The Council is required to produce and keep up-to-date a Local Development Scheme and prepare the documents identified within it according to the milestones set out. Having relevant and recent planning policies helps to attract investment to the City.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

15. There are no capital implications. Costs will be kept to a minimum as the Local Development Scheme will be published on the Council's website, no hard copies will be produced.

Property/Other

16. There are no property implications.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory Power to undertake the proposals in the report:

17. Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Other Legal Implications:

- 18. The revised Local Development Scheme is intended to respond to national changes to the plan making system, following publication of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, the new National Planning Policy Framework and the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

- 19. The Local Development Scheme sets out the timetable to produce the planning policy documents that make up the Development Plan which is part of the Council's Policy Framework.

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line

Appendices

1.	Local Development Scheme 2012
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Integrated Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject/recommendations in the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment to be carried out.	Yes/No
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Other Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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2.	None	
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Integrated Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
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