

Planning and Transportation Policy

Working Group Meeting

Meeting Date	6 July 2022
Report Title	Local Plan Review: Local Development Scheme
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Flo Churchill, Interim Head of Planning
Lead Officer	Jill Peet, Planning Policy Manager
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. Members note the content of the report and recommend the LDS contained in appendix i is approved and published

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 The latest Local Development Scheme (LDS) was published in October 2021 and set out an undertaking to progress with a Regulation 19 consultation in February to April 2022. Detailed traffic modelling that was reported to Members via the Local Plan Panel in February 2022 showed that the results were unexpected, and that further traffic modelling evidence would be needed to inform the Regulation 19 consultation document. As a result, there has been a delay to the programme. This report includes a revised LDS (appendix I) to reflect the changes to the programme that are necessary to ensure the additional work can be completed and fed into the emerging local plan review.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Council is required by Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) (as amended) to maintain an up to date Local Development Scheme (LDS). The current LDS was approved in 2021. The revised LDS is attached in appendix I and sets out a new programme for the LPR.
- 2.2 The programme set out in the 2021 LDS sought for the Council to proceed to Regulation 19 consultation in February 2022 and submission to the Secretary of State in May 2022. This has not been possible as a result of unexpected traffic modelling results. A significant amount of high level traffic modelling had been completed, concluding that in terms of the potential quantum of development for Swale, there were no significant show stoppers. However, more detailed evidence that was reported to the Local Plan Panel in February 2022 identified concerns that would result in unacceptable impacts on the road network. With this in mind, the council has progressed with additional traffic modelling work to

assess alternative growth numbers and locations along with assessments of the top three worst performing junctions to determine if there are design solutions that could improve capacity. The outputs from these assessments and the additional modelling work will be reported to a later meeting of this working group and placed on the local plan review webpages when it becomes available.

- 2.3 Given that the traffic modelling evidence has resulted in the need for further work to be carried out, this has impacted the initial programme.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 The proposed new LDS and the programme to achieve the delivery of the LPR is set out in appendix I. Members of this working group are asked to recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee that it be approved for publication to guide and monitor progress on the Local Plan Review. The date it becomes effective would be the date of the that meeting should the recommendation be agreed.
- 3.2 The revised programme puts forward a timeline for the Regulation 19 consultation in October/November 2022. Examination would commence on submission to the Secretary of State in February/March 2023. Adoption is anticipated to be in early 2024 although the examination timescales are beyond the control of the Council.
- 3.3 In addition, the revised LDS includes references to three Supplementary Planning Documents which are intended to support the LPR:
 - Sittingbourne Town Centre SPD
 - Sustainable Design and Construction SPD
 - Housing SPD

As they are SPDs, they are not development plan documents that must be set out as part of the official LDS programme. The indicative programme for the production of these SPDs is included in appendix (ii) of the LDS for information.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 Production and maintenance of an up to date LDS is a statutory requirement and compliance with it is a measure of a local plan's legal compliance and soundness at examination. Without it, the LPR will fail. For this reason, there are no realistic alternatives.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 The local plan review itself is subject to public engagement or consultation at several points in the process. The LDS programme indicates when these have already occurred or are expected to take place. There is no requirement for the LDS itself to be subject to consultation.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	This Local Plan supports the priority of the Council to build the right homes in the right places and supporting quality jobs for all.
Financial, Resource and Property	The costs for the production of the Local Plan can be met from existing budgets
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	A Local Development Scheme is required under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and a Council minute confirming its adoption will be needed.
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	The Local Plan will be supported by its own Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment at each key stage in decision making.
Health and Wellbeing	None identified at this stage
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	None identified at this stage
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage, although the Local Plan Review itself will be subject to equality impact assessments at key stages as advised by the policy team.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

- 7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:
- Appendix I: Swale Borough Local Development Scheme July 2022

8 Background Papers

None