



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY, PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE**

**to
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
29 JANUARY 2020**

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2020-2022

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement for an update to the Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS) attached as **APPENDIX 1**. The new LDS will replace the document approved by the Council on 28 March 2019 (Minute No.1989 refers). The LDS will take into account the timetable for the progression of supplementary planning documents and other planning policy documents required to help deliver the LDP until 2022.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the content of the Local Development Scheme be approved;

To the Council:

- (ii) That the Local Development Scheme (**APPENDIX 1**) be approved as the project plan for key planning policy documents until 2022.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

3.1 Local Development Scheme

- 3.1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires every planning authority to prepare and maintain a LDS. The LDS sets out the programme for the preparation of Local Development Documents (LDDs), including Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), as well as development briefs, evidence base documents and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- 3.1.2 Effectively, it is a project plan setting out the timetable for work to be undertaken until January 2022. It identifies which documents will be produced, in what order and when, as well as the likely contents, resources needed for their preparation and the likely risks associated with preparing them. The scheme includes milestones to inform the community and stakeholders when consultation and other stages of plan preparation will take place. It will also serve as a project management tool for budgeting and resource planning for the Council.

3.1.3 The LDS is being updated to provide for the preparation of the Bradwell B Development Plan Document. The opportunity has also been taken to update the LDS to take into account the work undertaken over the past year and to update the timetables for individual projects.

3.2 **Why is a LDS necessary?**

3.2.1 Without an up-to-date LDS, the Council will not be meeting its statutory requirements. It may also mean that the Council's ability to deliver the LDP, secure quality, sustainable development in the District and co-ordinate development and infrastructure may be difficult to achieve. It may also put at risk the Council's ability to defend planning decisions at appeals.

3.2.2 The LDS not being in place also deprives the local community and other stakeholders of the necessary information about the documents that the Council will be preparing, when they are to be prepared and when consultations on such documents will take place.

4. **CONCLUSION**

4.1 Preparing and putting in place the LDS is a statutory requirement relating to the preparation of Local Development Documents which the Council must comply with. Ensuring the LDS is kept up-to-date will ensure that the community and other stakeholders are kept informed about the documents that the Council intends to prepare and when.

4.2 Approving the LDS will provide the Council with a programme for the preparation of planning policy documents and it will form the basis for resource planning and Committee agenda planning.

4.3 Having a suite of up-to-date and sound planning documents in place will provide the Council with the means to defend against inappropriate development and secure the best appropriate development to the highest standards

5. **IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES**

5.1 Publishing an up-to-date Local Development Scheme supports the Corporate Plan and the Place, Community and Prosperity Strategic Themes, in particular:

- Best value procurement and project management ensured;
- An open and transparent organisation;
- Outcome led engagement and smart partnering;
- Preparation for the next LDP period;
- Partnership working to protect our countryside and coastline;
- Effective engagement to support strong and resilient communities;
- Rural business and diversification supported;

- Efficient and effective engagement with businesses.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – The Local Development Scheme provides customers with a project plan for the preparation of planning policy documents.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – Planning policy documents, at District and local area level, have the potential to identify and address local equalities issues and must be prepared taking into account relevant equalities legislation. They should also be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – The LDS sets out the risks for the preparation of planning policy documents. This includes an assessment of impact and contingencies that are in place or can be put in place to minimise the risk. The risk of not having an LDS is that the Council cannot properly plan its resources for the delivery of robust planning policy and guidance.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – The LDS provides a resource plan for the delivery of planning policy documents. It will inform the Council's financial strategy and annual budget setting. By reviewing the LDS on a regular basis, the Council can foresee any changes in expenditure and its impact on the Council's overall financial position.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** –The LDS enables resources to be better managed and focussed on key areas and corporate priorities.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – It is important that the Council adopts its Local Development Scheme to add greater certainty to planning decisions and to enable neighbourhood plans to be prepared positively and with local community involvement.
- (vii) **Impact on Strengthening Communities** - The Local Development Scheme provides communities with a project plan for the preparation of planning policy documents.

Background Papers:

National Planning Policy Framework 2019, available at: www.gov.uk

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