

Environment and Sustainability Committee



30 June 2021

Title	Update to Local Development Scheme
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report Author	Ann Biggs, Strategic Planning Manager
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Exempt	No
Exemption Reason	N/A
Corporate Priority	Housing Economic Development Clean and Safe Environment
Recommendations	Committee is asked to: Agree the publication of the updated Local Development Scheme
Reason for Recommendation	The timetable for preparing the new Local Plan has been updated to reflect current progress and anticipated timescales for the remainder of its preparation through to adoption. Committee approval is needed prior to publication of the timetable within the Local Development Scheme.

1. Key issues

- 1.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the timetable for producing a new Local Plan, including the production of new or revised documents it will contain. It is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) that the LDS is prepared and maintained.
- 1.2 The current LDS was published in March 2020 and a further update is needed to reflect delays in the timetable arising from officers redeployed to help on welfare calls during the first lockdown, new or updated national policy and

guidance and the change in Administration last year and the consequent setting up of new task groups with different membership.

- 1.3 Progress is being made at a greater pace now on the new Local Plan and the Staines Development Framework (SDF). The setting up of newly constituted task groups under the committee system appears elsewhere on the agenda and this has been factored into the updated timetable within the LDS at Appendix A. The timescales proposed represent an achievable pace, although later stages post-submission are largely outside the control of officers and down to the Planning Inspectorate in terms of time needed for Examination and the inspector's report. The key milestones are:

- Draft SDF consultation – November/December 2021
- Draft Local Plan consultation (Regulation 19) – February/March 2022
- Submission of both to Secretary of State – May 2022
- Examination of Local Plan – October 2022 [Please note that the SDF does not need to be formally examined as it is a Supplementary Planning Document but is intrinsically linked to the Local Plan]
- Inspector's report issued – February 2023
- Adoption of Local Plan and SDF by the Council – July 2023

2. Options analysis and proposal

- 2.1 The LDS is a regulatory requirement so it must be maintained and it is not an option to decline to update it. The timescales have been carefully considered by officers to ensure they can be met, based on the work needed to reach the relevant stages so there is little scope to adjust without reasoned evidence for doing so.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1 There are no direct implications arising from the update to the LDS itself.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1 No further considerations.

5. Equality and Diversity

- 5.1 None identified.

6. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications

6.1 None identified.

7. Timetable for implementation

7.1 The draft agreed by the Local Plan Task Group had already been published pending formal agreement by this committee. This is because the Strategic Planning team receives a significant number of enquiries about Local Plan progress and when the LDS will be updated. If approved, the LDS will be published as the final version.

Background papers: There are none

Appendices:

Appendix A: Local Development Scheme update – May 2021