

Cabinet

8 September 2020

Revision to Local Development Scheme

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr D Walsh, Planning

Local Councillor(s): All wards

Executive Director: John Sellgren, Executive Director of Place

Report Author: Hilary Jordan
Title: Service Manager for Spatial Planning
Tel: 01305 252303
Email: hilary.jordan@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Recommendation: That the revised Local Development Scheme, attached as Appendix to this report, be agreed for publication.

Reason for Recommendation: To ensure that the council has an up to date Local Development Scheme published online, so that the local community, developers and stakeholders are aware of the programme for local plan preparation.

1. Executive Summary

The Local Development Scheme is the published programme for the preparation of local plans. All local planning authorities need to maintain an up to date local development scheme so that those who are interested in or affected by future local plans know when they are due to be prepared and when they will have opportunities for involvement.

Dorset Council adopted its first Local Development Scheme in June 2019 and a number of updates need to be made. The Waste Plan and Minerals Sites Plan have both been adopted. As covered in a separate report to the same Cabinet meeting, the review of the Minerals Strategy suggests that a full replacement

document does not need to be prepared at this stage, contrary to what was set out in the 2019 Local Development Scheme.

The Dorset Council Local Plan programme remains on track for submission in March 2022 and adoption in April 2023, but the initial consultation will be delayed by a small amount of time in order to allow for the completion of some of the necessary evidence base, work on which has been delayed by the coronavirus pandemic.

These amendments, together with updates to the information on neighbourhood plans and supplementary planning documents, have been made to the attached revised Local Development Scheme.

Members will be aware that the Government has recently published a consultation paper outlining radical changes to the national planning system. This will affect the preparation of the Dorset Council Local Plan significantly, and if the proposals are brought in, the work programme will need to be revised once more.

2. Financial Implications

There is funding in reserves to cover the costs of preparing the plans outlined in the revised Local Development Scheme, and this funding will be kept under review to ensure that the most efficient use is made of it.

3. Climate implications

Local plans have a role in minimising and mitigating against climate change, in particular through influencing the location of development so that it minimises the need to travel, but also through other means such as setting out the council's policies for renewable energy development and for development at risk of flooding and coastal change. There are no direct implications of the Local Development Scheme, which is the programme for local plan preparation, other than the fact that the speed of plan preparation will influence how quickly new policies will take effect.

4. Other Implications

Local plans have key implications for sustainability as they set out a framework for sustainable development across the plan area. They also influence and can help to deliver the aims of other services and council priorities, for example by allocating land for new facilities, enabling affordable housing provision, and encouraging healthy living environments that are accessible by walking or cycling. There are no direct implications of the Local Development Scheme other

than the fact that the speed of plan preparation will influence how quickly new policies will take effect.

5. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Medium

Residual Risk: Medium

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

There are no equalities impacts arising from this report or the local development scheme. Equalities impact assessments will be undertaken on the local plans during their preparation.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Revised Local Development Scheme (September 2020)

8. Background Papers

The Local Development Scheme for Dorset, June 2019

9. Revision to Local Development Scheme

9.1 Dorset Council's first Local Development Scheme was adopted by Cabinet in June 2019. It included the programme to adoption of five development plan documents: the Purbeck Local Plan; the Dorset Council Local Plan; the Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste Plan; the Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Minerals Sites Plan; and a revised Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Minerals Strategy to replace the 2014 Minerals Strategy. It also included details of adopted and emerging neighbourhood plans and priorities for the preparation of supplementary planning documents.

9.2 Since the adoption of that Local Development Scheme several parts of its contents need to be updated. The main changes are in relation to the minerals and waste plans. The Waste Plan and Minerals Sites Plan are now both adopted and so the programmes for their completion no longer need to be included. As covered within a separate report to this Cabinet, it is no longer recommended that a replacement Minerals Strategy be prepared at this stage, as the review of the policies of the existing Strategy

- suggests that these continue to be fit for purpose. It is not currently proposed that the Local Development Scheme includes a programme for this work, but the situation will be kept under review and it will be programmed in future versions of the Local Development Scheme.
- 9.3 The examination of the Purbeck Local Plan has taken considerably longer than anticipated. The plan was submitted for examination in January 2019 and examination hearings took place in summer and autumn 2019. Consultation on the main modifications is now likely to take place from August through to October 2020, and it is likely that adoption will be in early 2021.
- 9.4 The Dorset Council Local Plan is still on track for submission in March 2022 and adoption in April 2023. The options consultation was originally due to take place from September or October 2020, but this revised Local Development Scheme proposes that this consultation starts in November 2020, and is for a longer period in order to allow for the fact that this would include the Christmas break. This change will allow additional time for the completion of key areas of evidence work that have been delayed by the inability to undertake site visits during the coronavirus lockdown – in particular the green belt assessment which is being undertaken jointly with BCP Council to inform both local plans. This is not a significant delay and is not expected to affect the overall programme, though it should be borne in mind that further coronavirus lockdowns could affect the programme through the restrictions to both site visits and consultation.
- 9.5 Programmes for the preparation of supplementary planning documents do not need to be included in a Local Development Scheme, but the 2019 LDS does identify three priorities for supplementary planning documents, all of which relate to mitigating the impacts of development on protected nature conservation sites. One of these, the revised Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework SPD, has now been completed and this is reflected in the revised document.
- 9.6 Finally, the section on neighbourhood plans has been updated to reflect the additional neighbourhood plans that have been made since the publication of the 2019 Local Development Scheme.

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.