

# **Cabinet**

## **27 July 2021**

### **Local Development Scheme Update**

#### **For Decision**

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr D Walsh, Planning

**Executive Director:** J Sellgren, Executive Director of Place

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**Report Status:** Public

#### **Recommendation:**

That Cabinet acknowledge the revised timetable for the production of the Dorset Council Local Plan within the Local Development Scheme and resolve that it will come into effect as of the date of this committee.

#### **Reason for Recommendation:**

To enable the publication of the updated Local Development Scheme to outline the revised timetable for the production of the Dorset Council Local Plan as required by section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

#### **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The Council is required to publish and update as necessary a Local Development Scheme (LDS) which sets out the timetable for the production of various development plan documents. This includes the timetable for the production of the Dorset Council Local Plan and the Minerals and Waste Plans along with those Neighbourhood Plans that are likely to be produced.
- 1.2 The reason for this update is to amend the currently published LDS to reflect the revised timetable for producing the Dorset Council Local Plan

along with other minor updates to other sections of the LDS. The revisions also detail the recently made neighbourhood plans and those currently in production.

## **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1 None – this is an amendment to the timetable for the production of the Dorset Council Local Plan. The Local plan is being produced from existing budgets.

## **3. Well-being and Health Implications**

- 3.1 None – this is an amendment to the timetable for the production of the Dorset Council Local Plan.

## **4. Climate implications**

- 4.1 None – this is an amendment to the timetable for the production of the Dorset Council Local Plan.

## **5. Other Implications**

- 5.1 None – this is an amendment to the timetable for the production of the Dorset Council Local Plan.

## **6. Risk Assessment**

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

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

## **7. Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been prepared for the Dorset Council Local Plan. As this revised LDS amends the timetable for the production of the Local Plan, along with other updates, it is not considered to have an impact on any groups protected under the Equalities Act.

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/your-council/equality-and-diversity/equality-impact-assessments/place/dorset-council-local-plan-draft-options-eqia/dorset-council-local-plan-draft-options-eqia.aspx>

## **8. Appendices**

Appendix A: Dorset Council Local Development Scheme June 2021

## 9. Background Papers

Published Local Development Scheme:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-local-plan/evidence/dorset-council-lds-september-2020.pdf>

## 10. Background

- 10.1 Cabinet agreed in June 2019 to start work on producing a single Dorset Council Local Plan to replace all of the current adopted Local Plans. At this meeting, the council's first Local Development Scheme was agreed, with a subsequent revision agreed in September 2020.
- 10.2 Having an up to date local plan is critical as it enables the council to strategically plan for the future development needs of the area whilst protecting its environmental assets. It also gives local people, developers and landowners certainty about what development will take place in their area.
- 10.3 By maintaining an up to date LDS, it is clear to local people, developers and landowners when the key stages of the local plan process will take place and when they have an opportunity to be involved in its production.
- 10.4 The reasons for the delay in the timetable for the production of the local plan is in part due to the number of responses received in the recent consultation. Additionally, there have been difficulties with working through Covid-19 pandemic and this has had a knock-on effect on evidence gathering both by officers and consultants.
- 10.5 It is considered that the proposed timeframe is aspirational but realistic and builds in time for further evidence gathering and discussions with councillors on the proposals. It also allows time to revise the content of the draft plan that was subject to consultation earlier this year.
- 10.6 There are however some risks to this timetable which are out of the control of Dorset Council. These include the proposed planning reforms, the outcome of the continuing Duty to Cooperate discussions with neighbouring local planning authorities around unmet housing need from their areas and the difficulties in producing the plan whilst Covid-19 restrictions are in place.

- 10.7 Since the last update to the LDS, a number of Neighbourhood Plans have been successful at referendum and have now been made part of the development plan for their area. The list of made neighbourhood plans has been updated along with the lists of those plans currently in production.
- 10.8 The revised LDS sets out the council's anticipated timetable for producing the local plan but this will need to be kept under review. The changes made to the published version of the LDS are shown within the revised LDS within Appendix B as tracked changes. Within the document in Appendix B changes are shown as ~~strikethrough~~ for text proposed for deletion or **bold and underlined** for text proposed for insertion.

**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.