

CABINET

Wednesday, 12 September 2018

LOCAL PLAN - LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LDS) (REP1917)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. A Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a public statement of the Local Planning Authority's three-year programme to prepare the various Development Plan Documents that comprise the Local Plan for the District. This LDS (Appendix A) merely updates and rolls forward the timetable in the 2016 version to March 2019; the anticipated adoption date for the new emerging Waveney Local Plan. This LDS will replace the 2016 version.
2. The LDS must include the Local Plan documents that are to be prepared by the Council, their subject matter and geographic coverage and the timetable for their preparation. Compliance with the LDS is a legal test for any Local Plan document submitted for Examination. As the emerging Waveney Local Plan was submitted to the Government for Examination in June this year, it is important to ensure this document is up to date.
3. Members are being asked to adopt the LDS and bring it into effect on 28th September 2018.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
Wards Affected:	All Wards in the District
Cabinet Member:	Councillor David Ritchie Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management
Supporting Officer:	Desi Reed Planning Policy and Delivery Manager Telephone Number: 01502 523055 Email address: desi.reed@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 All local planning authorities are required to produce a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS sets down a public timetable for the completion of Local Plan documents that the District Council intends to prepare.
- 1.2 A key reason for updating the document now is to confirm the timetable, subject matter and geographic area for the emerging Local Plan which is currently being examined by an independent Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. The LDS attached as Appendix A to this report is the sixth to be produced by this Council since they were originally introduced under the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended). Usually the LDS would cover a three year forward looking programme of work but because it is anticipated that the emerging Local Plan will be adopted in March 2019 and a new LDS will need to be prepared, in due course, to address plan making across the new East Suffolk geographic area, this LDS merely updates and rolls forward the timetable to March 2019. The 2016 LDS will be superseded.
- 1.3 A LDS must specify:
- The local development documents which are to be development plan documents (DPD's)
 - The subject matter and geographical area to which each DPD relates; (together these documents should provide full district coverage)
 - Which DPD if any, are to be prepared jointly with one or more other local authorities;
 - Any matter or area in respect to which the authority has agreed (or proposes to agree) to the constitution of a joint committee (with other local planning authorities);
 - and the timetable for the preparation and revision of the DPD's.
- 1.4 Regulations require that the Council specify a date that the LDS will come into effect. It is proposed that the effective date for the new LDS is 28 September 2018.

2 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME DOCUMENT

- 2.1 The LDS sets down the current position with respect to the Development Plan for the District, including those Local Plan documents (formerly Local Development Framework) prepared by the District Council. These include:
- Core Strategy (Adopted 2009);
 - Site Allocations Document (Adopted 2011);
 - Development Management Policies (Adopted 2011); and
 - Lowestoft Lake Lothing and Outer Harbour Area Action Plan (Adopted 2012).
- In addition, a number of supporting Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) have also been prepared to assist in the implementation of the adopted Local Plan policies. These include, Affordable Housing (May 2012), Broadway Farm, Halesworth Development Brief (April 2012), Development and Coastal Change (Sept. 2013), Built Heritage and Design (April 2012), Open Space (April 2012), Renewable Energy and Sustainable Construction (Sept. 2013), Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood and Kirkley Waterfront Development Brief (May 2013) and the

Western End of Lake Lothing Concept Statement (March 2016). In addition, a Green Infrastructure Strategy was adopted in July 2015 and a Cycle Strategy in July 2016.

- 2.2 Section 3 of the LDS reconfirms the need for the review, the nature of the review, the plan period and the geographic area it covers. The new emerging Local Plan will be one document and will supersede all the above Development Plan Documents on adoption. The Supplementary Planning Documents will be updated and replaced as and when appropriate.
- 2.3 In brief, the Government require Local Plans to be kept up to date and reviewed on a 5 yearly basis. There were a number of legislative and policy changes that necessitated the review, such as the Localism Act 2011, which introduced Neighbourhood Planning and paved the way for the revocation of Regional Spatial Strategies and their replacement with a 'duty to co-operate' on strategic planning matters. The Government also introduced the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in 2012 and the associated web based Planning Practice Guidance in 2014. The Local Plan review has responded to these changes.
- 2.4 The current adopted Local Plan documents plan to 2021 and 2025 for housing. The new emerging Local Plan looks to 2036. The NPPF requires Local Plans to meet objectively assessed needs with respect to housing and economic development. With respect to housing, Local Plans should identify sufficient land to meet needs for a 10 year period and where possible 15 years.
- 2.5 The abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies means that District Councils now have responsibility for strategic planning. Through this new 'duty to co-operate' Councils are now legally tested at the examination stage on their collaboration with neighbouring local authorities and other organisations and bodies in considering, addressing and delivering on those issues of significance and in particular those that cut across more than one local authority area. Evidence prepared to date, relating to housing and employment needs, indicates that Waveney is relatively self contained in terms of its housing market area and functional economic area. On this basis the emerging Waveney Local Plan focuses on the District, excluding the Broads Authority area, which has its own plan making responsibilities. Nevertheless, collaboration and joint working has continued to take place with adjacent Councils.
- 2.6 The proposed timetable in the 2016 LDS for the review of the Local Plan was as follows:

Issues and Options consultation – April/May 2016
Preferred Options consultation - May/June 2017
Publication for representations - Oct/Nov 2017
Submission for Examination - Dec 2017
Examination hearing - Feb/March 2018
Inspector's Report – April 2018
Adoption May 2018

- 2.8 Progress on the new emerging Local Plan has been overseen by the Council's Local Plan Working Group, with the Final Draft Plan being approved by Full Council on 21 March 2018, to receive formal representations and subsequent submission for Examination. The actual timescales achieved to date and anticipated future dates to adoption are as follows:

Issues and Options consultation – April/June 2016
Preferred Options consultation (First Draft Plan) – July/Sept 2017

Publication for representations (Final Draft Plan) – March/May 2018
Submission for Examination - June 2018
Examination hearing – Oct/Nov 2018
Inspector’s Report – now anticipated Jan/Feb 2019
Adoption – now anticipated March 2019

- 2.9 Generally, excellent progress has been made in keeping to the timetable. The main slippage, of 5 months, has been between the First and Final Draft Local Plan stages and this has been due to the number and complexity of representations received and the amount of work required to ensure a robust and sound Final Draft Local Plan. Ultimately, submission for Examination on 22 June 2018 was behind schedule by 6 months. Now the Local Plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State the timetable is in the hands of the Planning Inspector. Malcolm Rivett BA (Hons) MSc MRTPI is the Planning Inspector appointed to examine the Waveney Local Plan.
- 2.10 The Examination commenced on submission of the Local Plan and the public hearings will be held in October through to early November, over a total of approximately 11/12 days, starting on Tuesday 9 October. It is anticipated that the Inspector’s Report will be received Jan/Feb 2019 and assuming the Inspector finds the Local Plan sound, the Local Plan will be reported to Full Council in March 2019 for adoption.
- 2.11 The LDS has been updated to reflect the above timetable.

3 HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN?

- 3.1 Having an up to date Local Plan for the District is fundamental to the delivery of the vision and significantly improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area.
- 3.2 Enabling -The strategic policies in the Local Plan will provide the framework for enabling parish and town councils and neighbourhood forums to develop their own Neighbourhood Plans. Continuous engagement through the Local Plan making process with parish and town councils and the local community enables their aspirations to be reflected in District Council strategy and policy making.
- 3.3 Economic Growth - The Local Plan also allocates land and identifies the infrastructure required to deliver economic and housing growth.
- 3.4 Financial Self Sufficiency - Income to the Council will be generated through new development and inward investment, via the community infrastructure levy, new homes bonus and business rate retention.
- 3.5 The Local Plan will be significant in delivering most of the ‘Critical Success Factors’ and particularly those relating to planning, housing, leisure, economic development and tourism, community health, green environment and communities.
- 3.6 Many of the planned actions for East Suffolk and specifically Waveney will form a part of the Local Plan and give them statutory weight in decision making and when bidding for funding.

4 FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The LDS itself has no financial implications.
- 4.2 The LDS can only be an indication of the work programme over the period to March 2019. The biggest risk to meeting the timescales relates to loss of staff resource. A consistent

level of resource needs to be maintained to ensure that the work programme can be fulfilled in support of the Examination and next steps as well as continuing to support Neighbourhood Plan groups and the other demands on the Service.

5 OTHER KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 This report has been prepared having undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment, a Sustainability Impact Assessment and Partnership Impact Assessment. No issues have been raised in these assessments.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Not required for a Local Development Scheme.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 None. Not to provide an up-to-date LDS runs the risk of the Local Plan not being found sound in relation to legal requirements.

8 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 Not to provide an up-to-date LDS runs the risk of the Local Plan not being found sound in relation to legal requirements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Local Development Scheme be adopted as the Council's official work programme for the progression of its Local Plan to March 2019.
2. That the effective date for the Local Development Scheme to come into effect be 28th September 2018.

APPENDICES

Appendix A	2018 Local Development Scheme
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Date	Type	Available
March 2016	Local Development Scheme	www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk