

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Head of Service:	Justin Turvey, Interim Head of Place Development
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 – Local Development Scheme (November 2023)

Summary

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a project plan that sets out the timetable to produce new or revised Development Plan Documents which will form the Council's Local Development Plan.

This LDS supersedes the version approved by the Committee on 21 November 2022 and sets out a planning work programme for the Council over a three-year period to 2026. The revised timetable will delay consultation on the Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19) Consultation by approximately eleven months. This is a direct result of the pause on the Local Plan that applied between 22 March and 24 October 2023.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Consider and approve the revised Local Development Scheme (November 2023) at Appendix 1.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 Epsom and Ewell Borough Council is required to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS) in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011)

2 Background

- 2.1 The purpose of the Local Development Scheme is to set the timetable for the preparation and production of the Borough Council's Local Plan.

Licensing and Planning Policy Committee

22 November 2023

- 2.2 Progress against the milestones identified in the LDS is monitored through the Authority Monitoring Report. The Local Plan programme may be reviewed to take account of changes to planning or external circumstances which could have an impact on the timetable.
- 2.3 The last Local Development Scheme was published in November 2022 and since this time, the council consulted on a Draft Local Plan (Regulation 18) between 1 February and 19 March 2023. Following the closure of the consultation on the draft Local Plan, an extraordinary Council meeting was held on the 22 March 2023 where the decision was made to pause the Local Plan and to allow specified tasks to be undertaken a motion to pause work on the Local Plan was carried which limited the work that could be undertaken by officers.
- 2.4 On the 24 October 2023, at an Extraordinary Full Council, the decision was made to un-pause the Local Plan and therefore a new timetable needs to be prepared for the Local Plan.

Local Plan Programme

- 2.5 The updated timetable outlines a project plan for the preparation, production and consultation on the new Plan and associated supporting evidence. The timetable identifies key milestones during document production.
- 2.6 The key milestones for the Local Plan are shown below:

Stage	Date / Status
Draft Local Plan Public Consultation (Regulation 18)	Complete (undertaken February to March 2023)
Proposed Submission Local Plan Public Consultation (Regulation 19)	January / February 2025
Submission to the Secretary of State (Regulation 22)	May 2025
Estimated date of adoption	Spring 2026

Licensing and Planning Policy Committee

22 November 2023

- 2.7 The timetable above is a delay of approximately 11 months compared to the previously approved Local Development Scheme. This is longer than the length of the Local Plan pause (7 months) however this is to enable officers to undertake additional briefing sessions with members concerning Local Plan content and to reflect that due to the pause we missed our initial allocated time slot for Surrey County Council to commence transport modelling work for our Regulation 19 Local Plan.
- 2.8 The timetable has factored in the capacity of external consultants supporting us with the local plan evidence base, contains some contingency and will enable us to fully consider the impacts of future changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (once published).

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 In the absence of an up-to-date Local Plan, this poses a few risk areas. These include the continued absence of a 5-year housing land supply and the additional measures introduced through the Housing Delivery Test.

3.1.2 Having an up-to-date Local Development Scheme is a key measure in mitigating the possible risk of direct government intervention. The government encourages local planning authorities to update their Local Development Schemes as often as necessary.

3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 None arising from this report.

3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 None arising from this report.

3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 The Council's Local Plan timetable continues to be dependent on any future changes to the Planning legislation and National Planning Policy that impact on local authority plan making. Other dependencies include capacity of specialist consultees and timely responses/input from key stakeholders. The timetable from the point of Submitting the Local Plan is out of the Council's control and will be set by PINs.

3.5 Other

Licensing and Planning Policy Committee

22 November 2023

3.5.1 None arising from this report.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are financial implications as a result of the delays to the Local Plan. Local Plan funding has been secured in terms of staffing within the Planning Policy team and funding for specialist external support in the preparation of technical evidence base documents, however there is insufficient funding to reach Examination Stage. Further detail is set out in the Local Plan Budget Report that is to be considered by this committee.
- 4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** Financial implications are set-out in separate agenda item 'Local Plan Budget Report'.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 A Local Development Scheme is required under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).
- 5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** as stated above.

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:**
- 6.2 The new Local Plan will contribute towards delivering the Council's Visions and objectives identified in its Four-Year Plan.
- 6.3 **Service Plans:** The matter is included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 6.4 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** The Local Plan itself has a key role in implementing our Climate Change Action Plan, specifically Objective 4 which requires the development and delivery of a Local Plan and associated policies that contribute positively and demonstrate the Council's commitment to climate change.
- 6.5 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:**
- 6.6 The Local Plan itself has a key role in delivering sustainable development.
- 6.7 There are no Community Safety Implications.
- 6.8 **Partnerships:**
- 6.9 The Council has a duty to cooperate with relevant stakeholders in the preparation of a Development Plan.

Licensing and Planning Policy Committee

22 November 2023

7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

Licensing and Planning Policy Committee Report: Local Plan – Revised Local Development Scheme (21 November 2022):

<https://democracy.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/documents/s25299/Local%20Plan%20-%20Revised%20Local%20Development%20Scheme.pdf>

Other papers: None