

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Head of Service:	Victoria Potts, 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

Summary

The Local Development Scheme 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, which supersedes all previous versions, sets out a planning work programme for the Council over a three-year period to 2025.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) **consider and approve the revised Local Development Scheme (April 2022) 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.
- 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. Revisions have previously been triggered by changes in national planning policies and consequential changes to the approach to plan-making.

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- 2.3 The last Local Development Scheme was published in March 2021.
- 2.4 However, due to the continued challenges created by the Coronavirus Pandemic and the uncertainty around changes to the Planning System, limited progress was made.
- 2.5 Although there is still uncertainty around changes to the Planning System, the Council must now progress a new Local Plan, and this LDS is supported by detailed project management documentation to ensure that the timeline is realistic but ambitious.
- 2.6 Local Plan Programme
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 The key milestones over the next twelve months are:
- October/November 2022 – Draft Local Plan (Regulation 18)
 - October/November 2023 – Submission Public Consultation (Regulation 19)
 - December 2023 – Submission to the Secretary of State
 - Winter 2024 – Estimated date of Adoption
- 2.9 Member engagement will form a key part of the process mapped out by the key milestones identified above. The draft Local Plan (Regulation 18) will be the subject of a report coming before the Licensing & Planning Policy Committee and the proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19) will be the subject of reports coming before the Licensing & Planning Policy Committee and then on to full Council.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 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.

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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 will want to see progression against their target date of all local planning authorities having an up-to-date Local Plan by the end of 2023. The government encourages local planning authorities to update their Local Development Schemes as often as necessary.

3.1.3 As part of the detailed project management documentation there is a detailed risk register that is monitored and maintained which highlights those risks to achieving the timescales set out in the LDS.

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

3.5.1 None arising from this report.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. Local Plan funding has already 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.

4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this 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: none arising from the contents of this report.

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6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:
- 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:**
- 6.5 The Local Plan itself has a key role in implementing a few key objectives that are set out in our Climate Change Action Plan.
- 6.6 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:**
- 6.7 The Local Plan itself has a key role in delivering sustainable development.
- 6.8 There are no Community Safety Implications.
- 6.9 **Partnerships:**
- 6.10 The Council has a duty to cooperate with relevant stakeholders in the preparation of a Development Plan.

7 Background papers

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

Previous reports:

- Revised Local Plan Programme (March 2021)

Other papers:

- None