

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE CABINET MEETING OF 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

PUBLIC REPORT: Y /-N

EXEMPT REPORT: Y/N

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Local Development Scheme (LDS) for the New Local Plan</b>
<b>KEY DECISION</b>	N
<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Tess Nelson, Strategic and Local Planning Manager</b>
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To seek approval of the Cabinet for the Local Development Schemes (LDS) for the new Local Plan
<b>Reason for Decision</b>	To ensure the LDS remains up to date and to enable the Cabinet to consider the timetable for the preparation of the next Local Plan.
<b>Portfolio (holder)</b>	Cllr Bateman – Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure
<b>Corporate Priorities</b>	<p>The LDS will support delivery of the Local Plan which will deliver against all three priorities in Corporate Plan 2019-2021:-</p> <p><b><i>The place:</i></b> An enterprising and vibrant place. CO1, CO3, CO4</p> <p><b><i>The people:</i></b> A healthy, inclusive and vibrant community. CO5, CO6, CO7,</p> <p><b><i>The council:</i></b> Innovative, proactive and efficient. CO8</p>
<b>Financial Implications</b>	None directly. The LDS is an integral part of Local Plan preparation for which there is now a specific budget.
<b>Risk Management Implications</b>	<p>The risks associated with not having an up to date Local Development Scheme are:-</p> <p>Lack of clarity around the timetable for Local Plan preparation and the risks around the timetable</p> <p>Not complying with Local Plan preparation regulations.</p>
<b>Environmental Implications</b>	The LDS will support delivery of the Local Plan. The new Local Plan will have implications in relation to the spatial planning of the District. The wider environmental

	implications of development and associated infrastructure will be assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan.
<b>Legal Implications</b>	The LDS is an essential part of complying with Local Plan regulations set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and associated regulations (Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
<b>Equality Implications</b>	The LDS will support delivery of the Local Plan. An Equalities Impact Assessment for the Local Plan will be prepared and regularly reviewed as part of the Local Plan making process.
<b>Data Protection Implications</b>	The LDS will support delivery of the Local Plan. Any consultation on the Local Plan will be carried out in compliance with the provisions of the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.
<b>Consultation</b>	Public consultation is an integral part of the Local Plan making process, but there is no requirement for public consultation on the LDS itself. The LDS will be published on the Council's website.
<b>Options</b>	<p>Option 1: Cabinet agree the LDS. This is the recommended option.</p> <p>Option 2: Cabinet does not agree the LDS. This is not the recommended option because taking this option would lead to a lack of clarity around the timetable for Local Plan preparation and associated the risks around the timetable</p> <p>.</p>
<b>Background Papers</b>	<p>Previous report(s):</p> <p>Local Plan Review, Cabinet July 2021 available <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Scrutiny Panel, 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021</p> <p>Current LDS (for adopted Local Plan)  <a href="http://www.harborough.gov.uk/local-development-scheme">www.harborough.gov.uk/local-development-scheme</a></p> <p>Council Constitution Part 4 (4): Executive Panel Procedure Rules</p>
<b>Recommendation</b>	<p><b>That Cabinet resolve to:</b></p> <p><b>(1) Approve the Local Development Scheme (LDS) for the next Local Plan, set out at Appendix A;</b></p> <p><b>(2) Publish the Local Development Scheme on the Council's website;</b></p>

	<p><b>(3) Keep the Local Development Scheme under review and receive further reports if the LDS requires updating and/or review; and</b></p> <p><b>(4) Establish a Local Plan Advisory Panel to operate under the Terms of Reference set out at Appendix B.</b></p>
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## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Council has a duty to prepare, publish and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS) for the District.
- 1.2 In July 2021, the Council’s Cabinet took the decision to begin the preparation of a new Local Plan. The Local Development Scheme sets out the timetable for the preparation of the new Local Plan, giving key production and public consultation stages as well as outlining the subject matter and geographical extent. It also enables the local community to find out about planning policies for their area by setting out the documents which currently form the development plan for Harborough District. The LDS is also an opportunity to provide information on any Supplementary Planning Documents to be prepared.
- 1.3 This new LDS (see Appendix A) will replace the December 2017 version which set out the timetable for the adopted Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 (adopted in April 2019).

## **2. Key Facts**

- 2.1 The Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 is a fundamental part of the ‘plan-led’ system. It was adopted in April 2019 and recently underwent an internal officer review. This review demonstrates that the Local Plan remains up to date and continues to deliver sustainable development across the District. However, the review identified that a recent significant increase in Leicester’s housing need, combined with the requirement to meet resultant unmet need within Leicester and Leicestershire through the Duty to Cooperate, is likely to result in the need to update the Harborough Local Plan.
- 2.2 In recognition of the time needed to prepare a local plan, on 5th July 2021, Cabinet took the decision to begin preparation of a new Local Plan as a full update to the adopted Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 (the Cabinet report is available [here](#)).
- 2.3 In order to keep local communities and other stakeholders informed of local planning activity, the Council is required to prepare a Local Development Scheme (LDS) under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). In relation to the new Local Plan, the LDS must specify:
- the subject matter of the document to be prepared and the geographical extent to which it relates;

- whether the document will be prepared jointly with one or more other local authority;
- and the timetable for the preparation of document.

2.4 The new LDS can be found at **Appendix A**. This sets out the current intended timetable for the preparation of the next Local Plan.

### **3.0 Factors affecting the new Local Development Scheme**

3.1 Within the new LDS is an identification of some key risks which may impact on the preparation of the next Local Plan, and how these risks will be mitigated. Although some of the risks are within our control, some, for example changes to government policy, are not. Therefore, it is important to recognise that the LDS will be kept under review, in accordance with the Government's Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) and any factors necessitating its review will be brought back to Cabinet along with a revised LDS that has been updated accordingly.

3.2 To ensure efficient and effective governance of the plan preparation process, it is recommended that Cabinet establish a Local Plan Advisory Panel to provide Member advice and oversight into the process of preparing the new Local Plan. The suggested Terms of Reference for the group are set out in **Appendix B**. The efficient and effective functioning of the Advisory Panel will be a key component in ensuring that the production of the new Local Plan is possible against the challenging timetable of 30 months from informal Regulation 18 stage through to the Submission of the draft Local Plan for Examination, as required by Policy IMR1 in the adopted Local Plan. The panel is intended to function in an informal way. Members will receive an agenda for each meeting and receive presentations from officers and verbal updates on the progress of the new Local Plan, and any pertinent issues. It is intended that the Local Plan Advisory Panel provides a forum for debate and discussion.

3.3 The recent review of the current adopted Local Plan concluded that the plan remains up to date and continues to deliver sustainable development for Harborough District. The review also confirmed that Local Plan policies continue to broadly reflect the requirements of the latest NPPF, and that the policies continue to support sustainable development across the District. Updating the LDS provides further evidence that we have, and intend to continue, to have an up-to-date Local Plan managing development across the District in a sustainable manner moving forward. The LDS demonstrates we continue to make active progress on plan-making which is a key Government requirement.