

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE CABINET MEETING OF 4th JULY 2022

PUBLIC REPORT: Y /-N

EXEMPT REPORT: Y/N

Report Title	Revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) for the New Local Plan
KEY DECISION	N
Report Author	Tess Nelson, Strategic and Local Planning Manager
Purpose of Report	To seek approval of the Cabinet for revisions to the Local Development Scheme (LDS) for the new Local Plan
Reason for Decision	To ensure the LDS remains up to date and to enable the Cabinet to consider the timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan.
Portfolio (holder)	Cllr Bateman – Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure
Corporate Priorities	<p>The LDS will support delivery of the Local Plan which will deliver against all four priorities in Corporate Plan 2022-2031:-</p> <p>Place and Community: Leading across the local community to create a sense of pride and belonging. CO1, CO2, CO3, CO5</p> <p>Healthy Lives: Promoting health and wellbeing, encouraging healthy life choices. CO6, CO7, CO8</p> <p>Environment and sustainability: Creating a sustainable environment to protect future generations. CO11, CO12, CO14, CO16</p> <p>Economy: Supporting businesses and residents to deliver a prosperous local economy. CO17, CO18, CO23</p>
Financial Implications	None directly. The LDS is an integral part of Local Plan preparation for which there is now a specific budget.
Risk Management Implications	<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>Non-compliance with the regulatory framework for Local</p>

	Plans.
Environmental Implications	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 the scale and distribution of development and associated supporting infrastructure will be assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan.
Legal Implications	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.
Equality Implications	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.
Data Protection Implications	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, the Data Protection Act 2018.
Consultation	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.
Options	<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>
Background Papers	<p>Previous reports:</p> <p>1) Review of the adopted Harborough Local Plan: Cabinet 5th July 2021</p> <p>2) Local Development Scheme for the new Local Plan: Cabinet: 6th September 2021:</p> <p>both reports are available here:</p> <p>Meetings and Events (harborough.gov.uk)</p>

	<p>Current LDS (for adopted Local Plan) www.harborough.gov.uk/local-development-scheme</p> <p>Council Constitution Part 4 (4): Executive Panel Procedure Rules</p>
Recommendations	<p>That Cabinet resolve to:</p> <p>(1) Approve the revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) for the next Local Plan, set out at Appendix A;</p> <p>(2) Publish the revised Local Development Scheme on the Council’s website;</p> <p>(3) Keep the revised Local Development Scheme under review and receive further reports if the LDS requires updating and/or review.</p>

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 A new LDS was approved by Cabinet in September 2021, replacing the December 2017 version which set out the timetable for the adopted Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 (adopted in April 2019).
- 1.4 The Council is required to keep under review the key milestones in the timetable within the LDS; some changes in context, especially at sub-regional and national level, may be driven by circumstances beyond the authority’s control.
- 1.5 A key challenge is to keep Local Plan production to a 30-month timeframe, i.e., from Regulation 18 through to the Submission of the Draft Local Plan for Examination. Policy IMR1 in the adopted Local Plan amplifies the local circumstances requiring a Local Plan Review, either in part or in full.

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 then underwent an internal officer review. This review demonstrated that the Local Plan remains up to date and continues to deliver sustainable development across the district.
- 2.2 Members will recall that the internal officer review identified that a significant increase in Leicester's housing need, combined with the requirement to meet resultant unmet need within Leicester and Leicestershire through the Duty to Co-operate. As a result, there has been significant inter-authority collaboration on strategic cross boundary matters, leading to the issue of joint evidence, (the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (HENA), the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and a draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG)) on 13th May 2022.
- 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 revised LDS can be found at **Appendix A**. This sets out the current intended timetable for the preparation of the next Local Plan. This reflects the amended timetable to conclude the preparation of the HENA, SoCG and related strategic evidence, which form important inputs to the Local Plan.

3. Factors affecting the new revised 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 and legislation, are not. During the Second Reading of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB), the Secretary of State, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) indicated that a new version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) would be issued following a period of consultation later in the year; date to be confirmed. Therefore, it is important to recognise that the LDS will continue to 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, the Local Plan Advisory Panel will be briefed on the LURB as it proceeds

through Parliament. Members will also be advised as to the implications of changes to the NPPF.

- 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.