

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL – 24 MAY 2016

REPORT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LDS) MAY 2016

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- This report presents an updated version of the Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS): the schedule and work programme that sets out the timeline for preparation of the District Plan. It replaces Version 5 of the LDS (December 2013).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL: That Council, via the Executive, be advised that:

(A)	the Local Development Scheme (LDS) May 2016, attached at Essential Reference Paper 'B', be agreed to take effect from May 2016.
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1.0 Background

1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) requires Councils to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS).

1.2 Local development schemes set out when an authority expects to reach key milestones in the plan-making process. They include information on the preparation of any Local Development Documents (LDD's) that a local planning authority is preparing. LDD's include Development Plan Documents (DPD's), Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) and the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

1.3 At present the Council is proposing a single DPD, namely the East Herts District Plan. The Council does have a suite of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) which it will be

reviewing, as appropriate, in due course. The Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was adopted in March 2013.

1.4 The Government has made it clear that local planning authorities must produce a local plan by early 2017. If a local plan is not produced the Government has indicated that it will intervene in the plan-making process and arrange for the plan to be written in consultation with local residents. Having an up to date LDS is therefore fundamental to demonstrating the Council's commitment to getting its District Plan in place as soon as possible. It is also important that members of the public and other interested parties know the Council's timetable for producing the District Plan and how and when they can get involved.

1.5 Version 5 of the LDS was presented to Members at the District Planning Executive Panel on 3 December 2013, and was subsequently adopted at Full Council on 29 January 2014. This report presents the latest version of the LDS and reflects the most up-to-date timeline for the remaining stages of District Plan preparation.

2.0 Report

2.1 A copy of the LDS is contained in **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**. As Members will be aware, the Council has already undertaken the following stages in the plan-making process:

- Awareness Raising
- Issues and Options Consultation (September-November 2010)
- Preferred Options Consultation (February-April 2014)

2.2 The timeline for the remaining stages of District Plan preparation is set below, against the regulatory milestones contained within the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012. An explanation of the regulatory stages is contained in Appendix A of the LDS.

Stage	Regulation	Timeline
Preparation	-	On-going to September 2016
Publication	19	October 2016
Submission	22	March 2017
Examination Hearing Start	24	June 2017

Receipt of Inspectors Report	25	October 2017
Adoption	26	December 2017

2.3 After the Plan is submitted the timeline will be dependent upon the Planning Inspectorate having the resources to examine the Plan in a timely manner. There is therefore scope for the final half of the timeline (i.e. Examination onwards) to be delayed, given the number of plans that are expected to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by March 2017.

2.4 The LDS also sets out an assessment of any potential risks to the timeline. This is set out in a Risk Assessment (Section 4 of the LDS) and includes measures to mitigate these risks as well as an assessment of their potential impact.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

None

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