

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: New Communities Portfolio Holder 2 March 2010
AUTHOR/S: Executive Director (Operational Services) / Corporate Manager
(Planning and Sustainable Communities)

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to agree the Local Development Scheme, which will set out the timetable for plan preparation for the 3 year period April 2010 – March 2013

Background

2. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires all local planning authorities to maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS), which sets out its timetable for preparing Development Plan Documents (DPDs) over the forthcoming 3-year period. The Local Development Scheme must be submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State each year.

Considerations

3. This year's scheme will cover the completion of the Gypsy & Travellers DPD. A review of the Core Strategy is also necessary to enable the Council to demonstrate a 15-year supply of deliverable housing land and to provide a strategy more tailored to the period of recovery from the recent recession. The adopted Core Strategy currently provides for 6 years to the March 2016 albeit that a number of adopted plans do include provision beyond 2016 and was prepared in different economic circumstance than will be confronting South Cambridgeshire for the foreseeable future. The Development Control Policies DPD will also be reviewed to make any necessary changes that flow from the review of the Core Strategy and will be re-named the Development Management DPD.
4. The Local Development Scheme is an important tool for programme managing the preparation of Development Plan Documents and enables the public to know when and how they will be consulted in plan preparation. It is also used for service planning and budget setting (see service plan and budget items on this agenda).
5. Delivery of the Development Plan Documents against the timetable in the Local Development Scheme has been one of the factors upon which Council's have been judged for the award of Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG). In the last 2 years, the Council has secured £1.4m of HPDG for its plan-making achievements.
6. The Local Development Scheme includes for completeness the Supplementary Planning Documents and the Statement of Community Involvement which will be prepared as well as the Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents that have already been adopted and therefore comprise the Local Development Framework.

Options

7. The 2004 Act requires that the Local Development Scheme is reviewed annually and submitted to the Secretary of State.

Implications

8. Financial	The Local Development Scheme provides the basis for the Planning Policy Service Plan for the period 2010-2013 and for budget estimate for those 3 years.
Legal	None
Staffing	See Service Plan
Risk Management	See Service Plan
Equal Opportunities	Each plan will be assessed during the course of preparation to ensure that no group will be disadvantaged by their policies and proposals

Consultations

- 9 Service departments have been consulted on the need for the DPDs and SPDs which are proposed to be prepared over the coming 3 years.

Effect on Strategic Aims

10	<p>Commitment to being a listening council, providing first class services accessible to all.</p> <p>The publication of the Local Development Scheme will enable the public and other stakeholders to know when they can become involved in plan-making. Plan-making includes a number of stages at which views and comments will be sought and considered by the Council.</p> <p>Commitment to ensuring that South Cambridgeshire continues to be a safe and healthy place for all.</p> <p>The review of the Core Strategy and the Development Management DPDs and the preparation of the SPDs listed in the Local Development Scheme will help the Council to protect and enhance the physical and social environment of the District. The preparation of the Health Impact Assessments SPD in particular will provide a basis for developers to ensure that their proposals will not have an adverse impact on the health of existing and future residents and provide the opportunity for them to demonstrate how their proposals could provide healthier living environments.</p> <p>Commitment to making South Cambridgeshire a place in which residents can feel proud to live.</p> <p>The review of the Core Strategy and the Development Management DPDs and the preparation of the SPDs listed in the Local Development Scheme will help the Council to protect and enhance the physical and social environment of the District. The completion of the Gypsy & Travellers DPD will ensure that the accommodation needs of the largest historically disadvantaged group of South Cambridgeshire residents are met to the same extent as the settled community.</p> <p>Commitment to assisting provision for local jobs for all.</p> <p>The review of the Core Strategy and the Development Management DPDs will provide an opportunity to ensure that the Council's employment policies and proposals best meet the overall needs and aspirations of business and people living and working in South Cambridgeshire.</p>
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Commitment to providing a voice for rural life.

The preparation of the planning policies and proposals in the DPDs and SPDs which will be prepared over the coming 3 years will provide an opportunity to consider the views of all residents and businesses in South Cambridgeshire and to ensure that high levels of job growth and new housing which are forecast to be created will be accommodated in sustainable locations which will bring benefits to the wider community whilst at the same time ensuring that the rural way of life of much of the remainder of South Cambridgeshire can continue to evolve and improve.

Recommendations

11. It is recommended that the New Communities Portfolio Holder agrees the Local Development Scheme attached at Appendix 1.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

None

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