

REPORT TO: Planning Policy and Localism Portfolio Holder
LEAD OFFICER: Director of Planning and New Communities

11 February 2014

Update of Local Development Scheme (LDS)

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Local Development Scheme for South Cambridgeshire which sets out the timetable for plan-making within the district. It includes the timetable for the completion of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and work on new Area Action Plans for major areas of change proposed in the Local Plan. The updated Local Development Scheme is attached as Appendix A.
2. This is not a key decision because a 'live' timetable for the preparation of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan is available on the South Cambridgeshire website.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the Planning Policy and Localism Portfolio Holder approve the updated Local Development Scheme (attached as Appendix A) which includes the revised timetable for the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and the preparation of three Area Action Plans. One is to be prepared jointly with Cambridge City Council for the Northern Fringe East area with one for a new town at Waterbeach and another for a new village at Bourn Airfield.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. The Council is required to prepare and keep updated a Local Development Scheme for the district. The publishing of a list of plan documents that the Council intends to prepare and a timetable for this work allows stakeholders and the local community to be aware of the stages in production of these plans and ensures that those with an interest in plans for the District can find information about how and when they can get involved.

Background

5. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires all local planning authorities to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS has to specify the documents that will be Development Plan Documents (DPDs), their subject matter and area and the timetable for their preparation and revision. The Localism Act 2011 has removed the requirement for a LDS to be sent to Central Government and introduced the need for a local planning authority to state when a revised LDS is to come into effect.
6. The LDS for South Cambridgeshire was last formally reviewed by the Northstowe and New Communities Portfolio Holder at a meeting on 25 January 2012 when it was agreed to prepare a single South Cambridgeshire Local Plan incorporating a review of the Core Strategy DPD, Site Specific Policies DPD, and the Development Control

Polices DPD. It was also agreed to no longer prepare separately a Gypsies and Traveller DPD which is now included in the single Local Plan.

Considerations

7. The Government has indicated that there is flexibility to decide how best to present the information about the LDS to the public. South Cambs has maintained a 'live' timetable on its website to keep those interested in the plan aware of any revisions to the timetable of plan.
8. In preparing the Local Plan over the last two years the timetable as agreed in January 2012 has had to be amended because –
 - A second Issues and Options stage in January/February 2013 was included which was partly carried out jointly with Cambridge City Council
 - A need to align the timetables of the plans for South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City Councils particularly for the submission stage in recognition of the close relationship / inter-relationship between the two areas and the need for the plans to reflect this.
9. The timetable for the completion of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan is set out in Appendix 1 but can be summarised as follows.

Date	Stage
March 2014	Finalised version of local plan to be submitted to the Secretary of State
June / July 2014	Examination to include joint sessions with Cambridge City
July / August 2014	Examination on South Cambridgeshire matters
Spring 2015	Major Modifications consultation
Summer 2015	Inspector's report
Winter 2015	Adoption

10. It is the intension of South Cambridgeshire to prepare three Area Action Plan (AAPs) in the district. Details of these plans must be included in the LDS:
 - a) Cambridge Northern Fringe AAP - prepared jointly with Cambridge City Council
 - b) Bourn Airfield new village AAP
 - c) Waterbeach new town AAP

Options

11. To not update the LDS would lead to uncertainty as to the timetabling of planning documents within the district and as the council is required to keep an updated LDS would be contrary to legal requirements. Inclusion of plans in the LDS is also one of the legal checks that it can be adopted as a statutory plan.

Implications

12. There are no significant implications

Consultation responses (including from the Youth Council)

13. The Council's Executive Management Team LDS has been consulted on the need to prepare the three Area Action Plans.

Effect on Strategic Aims

14. **Aim 1 - We will listen to and engage with residents, parishes and businesses to ensure we deliver first class services and value for money**
By having an agreed up-to-date LDS those who live, work and study within the district will be aware of the opportunities within the local plan preparation process when the council will be consulting them for their views.
15. **Aim 2 - We will work with partners to create opportunities for employment, enterprise, education and world-leading innovation**
The LDS includes a timetable for the preparation of planning documents within the district which include policies that will assist in creating opportunities for business within the district.
16. **Aim 3 - We will make sure that South Cambridgeshire continues to offer an outstanding quality of life for our residents**
The local plan for the district includes a range of policies that will ensure that future planning for development within South Cambridgeshire will be of the highest quality to continue to maintain the good life for our residents.

Background Papers

Where [the Local Authorities \(Executive Arrangements\) \(Meetings and Access to Information\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) require documents to be open to inspection by members of the public, they must be available for inspection: -

- (a) at all reasonable hours at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council;
- (b) on the Council's website; and
- (c) in the case of documents to be available for inspection pursuant to regulation 15, on payment of a reasonable fee required by the Council by the person seeking to inspect the documents at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Local Development Scheme 2012
Cambridge City Council LDS 2013

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