
Proposed Revision to Local Development Scheme

To: **Cabinet – 1 May 2014**

Main Portfolio Area: **Community Services**

By: **Madeline Homer, Director of Community Services**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Summary: This report proposes changes to the Local Development Scheme (LDS). These changes relate to the timetable for achieving the milestones for the new Thanet Local Plan. The report recommends that a revised LDS be brought into effect to accommodate these changes.

For Decision

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Government guidance stresses the central importance of the plan-led system in the form of Local Plans, to provide the framework for guiding determination of planning applications in order to manage development effectively.
- 1.2 Government's planning system requires us to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS) setting out our programme for preparing the documents that will make up Local Planning Policy for Thanet. Unless otherwise directed, a local authority is to revise its LDS at such time it considers appropriate.
- 1.3 The Council's current LDS was brought into effect in February 2013. It is considered that revisions are needed to the current LDS in order to update the timescales for the production of Thanet's new Local Plan. This report proposes changes to the current LDS and recommends that a revised LDS be brought into effect.

2.0 Proposed Revision to Local Development Scheme (LDS)

Progress since adoption of LDS 2013

- 2.1 The current LDS sets out the timetable for the production of Thanet's new Local Plan.

The following milestones have been met in relation to the current LDS:

- SA/SEA Scoping – completed Jan to April 2013
- Public Participation (Reg 18) – Issues and Options consultation completed June to August 2013.

- 2.2 Following this consultation, as well as the drafting of the Plan, the required background work has continued in order to reach the next milestone in the LDS. This has included:

- Summary and consideration of responses to Issues and Options consultation
- Analysis and consideration of preferred options
- Liaison with infrastructure providers needed to support the delivery of the Plan
- Transport modelling and assessment of options
- Updating the assessment of housing sites and selection of housing sites

- Updating employment land review and selection of sites
- Discussions with landowners regarding sites
- Liaison with rural parish councils
- Sustainability Appraisal work
- Habitats Regulations Assessment
- Cabinet Advisory Group workshops

2.3 The next milestone set out in the current LDS is a second Regulation 18 Public Consultation, which will be a consultation on the Preferred Option Draft Local Plan. The current LDS expected this to take place during January and February 2014.

2.4 Additional time has been required in order to fully consider and assess the options for potential housing sites needed to accommodate the District's objectively assessed need in line with national policy. Work has been required to assess additional sites for consideration, and test all options sufficiently through the Sustainability Appraisal, and in relation to transport and other infrastructure requirements. For these reasons the Council's Annual Monitoring Report 2013 recognised the need to update the LDS with a revised timetable.

Proposed amendments to milestones in the Current LDS

2.5 The proposed revised Local Development Scheme is provided at Annex 1 to this report. It sets out the following key milestones and timetabling dates for the new Local Plan:

SA/SEA Scoping	Complete
Stage 1 Public Consultation	Complete
Stage 2 Public Consultation Preferred Option Draft Plan	June – August 2014
Publication and Pre-submission consultation	Feb - March 2015
Submission to SoS	May/June 2015
Examination	Dependant upon Planning Inspector Availability

2.6 To enable the next public consultation to commence in June 2014 (subject to Cabinet approval), we are currently finalising the draft Local Plan and selection of sites for allocation as well as preparing the background documents, including justifications for the preferred options and sustainability appraisal environmental report, and preparing documents for consultation.

2.7 Following the Stage 2 consultation, sufficient time is needed to review and summarise the comments received, to consider and make any changes considered necessary to the draft Local Plan and update relevant background documents.

2.8 The proposed amendment to the production timetable for the Local Plan DPD has knock-on effects for milestones proposed for the supplementary planning documents. The LDS has been updated to reflect this, and the proposed revised timetable is best estimate at the current time.

2.9 An additional supplementary planning document has also been added to the Local Development Scheme which will set out the details of a mitigation strategy to deal with the potential increase in disturbance to birds on the nationally and internationally protected coastal sites, as a result of increased recreational pressure from new housing development proposed in the Local Plan.

3.0 Options

3.1 (i) Resolve to bring the revised LDS into effect and that it should come into effect at the date indicated in the recommendation

- or
- (ii) Resolve to bring the revised LDS into effect and that it should come into effect on another date,
- or
- (iii) Resolve that the LDS should be brought into effect subject to amendments to its content.

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial and VAT

- 4.1.1 This report recommends that a Revised Local Development Scheme be brought into effect. The LDS as proposed for revision sets out a revised programme of work, including a timetable for preparing relevant documents and acknowledges the need to gather additional evidence to support those documents. It is envisaged that the programme of work can be absorbed within current budgeting procedures for preparation of the Local Plan and that this report does not give rise to specific additional financial implications.

4.2 Legal

- 4.2.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 states that a local planning authority must prepare and maintain a scheme to be known as their Local Development Scheme. This must specify the relevant Local Development Documents (which are to be Development Plan Documents) their subject matter and area of coverage and their timetable for preparation and revision. While the Council is no longer required to submit the Scheme to the Secretary of State, it must publish up to date information on its progress in preparing DPD's against the LDS.

4.3 Corporate

- 4.3.1 The Local plan will represent the council's overarching plan for shaping future development of the District over the period up to 2031. It contains a vision and sets out the issues and opportunities facing the district and takes account of the plans and resources of a wide range of agencies and organisations who will participate in its delivery. The documents that make up the plans will set out the objectives and polices against which all new development in Thanet will be considered.

4.4 Equity and Equalities

- 4.4.1 The Statement of Community Involvement sets out the way in which all sectors of the community will be given the opportunity to become involved in the planning process.
- 4.4.2 The Preferred Option Draft Local Plan will be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.

5.0 Recommendation(s)

- 5.1 That Cabinet resolves to bring the revised Local Development Scheme into effect on 1 May 2014 (or if necessary as soon as possible thereafter)

6.0 Decision Making Process

- 6.1 This is a key decision as it relates to planning policy for the whole district. The decision is subject to call in.

Contact Officer:	Ashley Hills, Planning Projects Manager
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Annex List

Annex 1	Draft Local Development Scheme
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Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	Sarah Martin, Financial Services Manager
Legal	Steven Boyle, Interim Legal Services Manager
Communications	Hannah Thorpe, PR and Publicity Manager