

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: Planning Policy & Partnerships Service Manager

REPORT NO: PLA 1051

DATE: 2nd June 2014

TITLE:	Revision to Local Development Scheme	
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	Key Decision	
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Cllr Frances Cartwright Grow the Economy, Economic Development Portfolio Holder	
CONTACT OFFICER:	Karen Sinclair, Planning Policy & Partnerships Service Manager 01476 406080 ext 6438 k.sinclair@southkesteven.gov.uk	
INITIAL IMPACT ANALYSIS:	Carried out and Referred to in paragraph (7) below	Full impact assessment Required:
Equality and Diversity	n/a	n/a
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:	This report is publicly available via the Your Council and Democracy link on the Council's website: www.southkesteven.gov.uk	
BACKGROUND PAPERS	Local Development Scheme 2008 http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=2025&p=0 Local Development Scheme 2010 http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=5339&p=0	

1. RECOMMENDATION

That:

- a) the revised Local Development Scheme at Appendix 1 is approved
- b) the Local Development Scheme as approved at recommendation a) comes into effect on the 11th June 2014

2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 2.1 To seek Cabinet approval for a revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) and to bring it into effect.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 The LDS is a public statement of the local planning authority's programme for the production of documents that will form the Local Plan over a rolling three year period. It is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 that each local authority prepares and maintains a LDS so as to provide a clear timetable for the preparation of planning policy in their area, providing certainty on this to local communities, investors, infrastructure providers and stakeholders.
- 3.2 The current LDS took effect on the 28th January 2008 and included the preparation of three Development Plan Documents (DPDs): the Core Strategy, Site Allocation and Policies DPD (SAP DPD) and Grantham Area Action Plan (GAAP). Although a revised LDS was approved by Cabinet in 2010 this did not come into effect on the direction of the then East Midlands Government Office. The 2010 revision has, however, been used to monitor the progress of the preparation of the DPDs. Progress has been reported on annually through the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) with updates on timetabling provided via the website.
- 3.3 Since the LDS was last revised both the Core Strategy and the SAP DPD have been adopted. Although the GAAP was withdrawn in January 2013, work has continued since then to address the issues identified by the Inspector following examination. The LDS, therefore, needs to be updated to reflect progress on the DPDs and set out a future work programme for the next three years (2014-2017).
- 3.4 With the adoption of the SAP DPD there is an opportunity to look afresh at the programme of documents to be prepared over the next three years. The legislative requirement to prepare compulsory DPDs, namely a Core Strategy and Site Specific Allocations supported by other optional documents, such as Area Action Plans, has now been removed and local authorities are able to be more flexible in the number of DPDs they prepare. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) also makes clear that the Government's preferred approach is for each local planning authority to prepare a single Local Plan for its area.
- 3.5 As a review/updating of the Core Strategy would be needed in the next few years it is considered that it would be prudent to move now towards combining the existing and emerging DPDs into one Plan. The South Kesteven Local Plan will contain strategic policies, land allocations and development management policies and eventually replace the Core Strategy, SAP DPD and any remaining saved policies from the 1995 Local Plan (these now only relate to Grantham). The work that has been undertaken on preparing the GAAP to date will be incorporated into the new South Kesteven Local Plan.
- 3.6 In the absence of an GAAP, the Core Strategy, supported by adopted Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) in respect of specific development sites, continues to provide a robust planning framework against which planning applications in Grantham can be considered and decisions taken. It is also proposed to prepare a Grantham Town Centre SPD over the next year to provide guidance on future development in the town centre.

- 3.7 The revised LDS will include details and a timetable for the preparation of a South Kesteven Local Plan. There is no longer a requirement for a timetable for the preparation of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) or SPDs to be included in the LDS. The SCI, which sets out how the Council will engage with local communities and others on the preparation of planning policy documents and planning applications, is currently being reviewed and will be brought to Cabinet in the next few months for approval prior to public consultation. A timetable for the Grantham Town Centre SPD will be made available on the website. Should further SPDs be planned or existing SPDs reviewed then details of these including a timetable for preparation will also be made available on the website.
- 3.8 The LDS no longer has to be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval but it does have to be made available and published on the website. The LDS, therefore, can be brought into effect by resolution of Cabinet: the effective date for this would be the 11th June 2014, following the end of the call in period.
- 3.9 A copy of the revised LDS is attached as Appendix 1.

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 There is a legal requirement for the authority to prepare and maintain an up to date LDS: it cannot remain unchanged.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There will be resource implications arising from the preparation of the Local Plan including updating some elements of the evidence base, undertaking consultation and engagement throughout the Plan's preparation and the examination process. It is anticipated that there will be savings from moving to a single Local Plan e.g. fewer documents to be subject to examination by an Inspector and the planned and indicative planning policy budgets for the next three years can accommodate the work required to prepare the Local Plan and the stages that will be undertaken over this period.

6. RISK AND MITIGATION

- 6.1 The risks that have been identified are set out in section 3.2 of the LDS.

7. ISSUES ARISING FROM IMPACT ANALYSIS

- 7.1 As a technical document there is no requirement for an impact analysis of the LDS to be undertaken. An impact analysis of the Local Plan will be undertaken as it is prepared.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None arising out of this report.

9. COMMENTS OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

- 9.1 The costs associated with the preparation and delivery of the Local Plan will be met from in-year budgets and will be incorporated into future service budgets as appropriate.

10. COMMENTS OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

- 10.1 In accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), the Council have a statutory duty to prepare planning policy, which has been reinforced through the National Planning Policy Framework and the Localism Act.

- 10.2 In accordance with legislation, an LDS must be prepared and in examining a Local Plan an Inspector will consider whether a plan has been prepared in line with the LDS.

11. APPENDICES:

- 11.1 Appendix 1: Revised LDS