

Report to the Cabinet

Report reference: C-007-2013/14

Date of meeting: 22 July 2013



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Portfolio: Planning

Subject: Adoption of Local Development Scheme

Responsible Officer: John Preston (01992 564111).

Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470).

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

(1) That, as attached, the revised Local Development Scheme be adopted and published on the Council's website.

Executive Summary:

A local authority must prepare and maintain a scheme to be known as their Local Development Scheme (LDS), which sets out the proposed programme for the preparation of a single document – the Epping Forest Local Plan - to provide a framework for the future development of the District, including strategic vision and policies for the period up to 2031, site allocations and development management policies. The proposed new scheme would supersede the earlier local development scheme, agreed in June 2012, with the preparation of the single District-wide local plan scheduled for submission to the Secretary of State for examination in October 2015.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

This report seeks to adopt a revised local development scheme for publication on the website setting out the timetable for the production of the Epping Forest Local Plan with a proposed submission date for examination of October 2015. This is a statutory requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act as amended by the Localism Act 2011.

Other Options for Action:

There is a requirement under the Localism Act 2011 to prepare and maintain a local development scheme setting out the proposed development plan documents to be prepared by the authority with a timetable and for this to be made publicly available. A plan will not be legally compliant if it is not prepared in accordance with the local development scheme.

Report:

1. The Localism Act 2011 amended the provisions set out in the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 but s111 maintains the requirement that a local authority must prepare and maintain a scheme to be known as their local development scheme and that should specify the local development documents which are to be development plan documents, the subject matter and geographical area for each development plan document, and the timetable for them. Essentially the Local Development Scheme lists and programmes the

documents that will be produced by a Local Authority. Although there is no longer a requirement for this to be submitted to the Secretary of State new provisions in the Act state that the local planning authority must make the following available to the public:

- (a) the up to date text of the scheme;
- (b) a copy of any amendments made to the scheme; and
- (c) up-to-date information showing the state of the authority's compliance with the timetable set out in the scheme.

2. The last local development scheme was formerly adopted by the Council in June 2012. This set out the proposed programme for the preparation of a single document – the Epping Forest Local Plan to provide a framework for the future development of the district and include strategic vision and policies for the period up to 2031, site allocations and development management policies. There is no longer a requirement for the local development scheme to list any proposed supplementary planning documents or the statement of community involvement.

3. Since the publication of the local development scheme in June 2012 the Council consulted on the issues and options 'community choices' consultation between July and October 2012. Further consultation on the draft plan is scheduled to take place from May 2014. It is proposed that the appended scheme is agreed and would supersede the earlier local development scheme with the preparation of the single district wide local plan scheduled for submission to the Secretary of State for examination in October 2015.

Resource Implications:

From existing resources – see separate report on the budget for the Local Plan.

Legal and Governance Implications:

As set out in detail in this report.

Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:

None.

Consultation Undertaken:

None.

Background Papers:

- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended by the Localism Act 2011.
- Report to the Cabinet C/114/2004/05.
- Report to the Cabinet on 11 June 2012.

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management

If we do not publish the LDS then we will not be keeping people informed of the Local Plan timetable.

Equality and Diversity

Did the initial assessment of the proposals contained in this report for relevance to the Council's general equality duties, reveal any potentially adverse equality implications? No

Where equality implications were identified through the initial assessment process, has a formal Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? No

What equality implications were identified through the Equality Impact Assessment process?
N/A.

How have the equality implications identified through the Equality Impact Assessment been addressed in this report in order to avoid discrimination against any particular group?
N/A.