

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to the Executive for Decision

### 07 September 2020

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Planning and Development
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Local Development Scheme</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Planning and Regeneration Providing Housing Choices Protect and Enhance the Environment Strong, Safe, Inclusive and Healthy Communities
<b>Corporate Priorities:</b>	Maintain and Extend Prosperity Leisure Opportunities for Health and Fun Dynamic, Prudent and Progressive Council

**Purpose:**

To approve the Local Development Scheme (2020) for adoption.

**Executive summary:**

Local Planning Authorities are required by legislation to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The purpose of the Fareham Borough LDS is to set out the timetable for producing the Fareham Borough Local Plan Review and the Authority Monitoring Reports (AMR).

An up-to-date LDS ensures that the community and other interested parties are aware of the programme for preparing the Fareham Local Plan 2036 and importantly when there will be opportunities to respond to consultations on it.

The timetable set out in the LDS aims for the adoption of the Fareham Local Plan 2036 in Autumn/Winter 2021, with the next stage of the process being a consultation on the publication version of the local plan in Autumn 2020. This will be the version which takes into account the outcomes of previous consultations undertaken in 2017, 2019 and 2020 and is the version we propose to submit to the Secretary of State.

**Recommendation/Recommended Option:**

It is recommended that the Executive agrees:

- (a) to adopt the Fareham Borough Local Development Scheme (August 2020) as set out in Appendix A to the report; and

(b) that the Director of Planning and Regeneration is authorised to make any necessary minor changes to the Local Development Scheme, providing that these do not change the overall direction, shape or emphasis of the document, prior to the document being published on the Council's website.

**Reason:**

To meet the Council's statutory responsibility for setting out an up-to-date timetable for the production of the Fareham Local Plan 2036, so that local communities and interested parties can keep track of progress.

**Cost of proposals:**

The nature of the work involved in the Local Plan Review creates peaks and troughs of expenditure. A cyclical budget has therefore been prepared to forward fund the work needed to meet the timetable for the Fareham Local Plan 2036. This will involve some draw down from reserves which will be repaid in subsequent years.

**Appendices:** **Appendix A:** Fareham Borough Local Development Scheme (August 2020)

**Background papers:** None

**Reference papers:** None

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Executive Briefing Paper

<b>Date:</b>	07 September 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Local Development Scheme
<b>Briefing by:</b>	Director of Planning and Regeneration
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Planning and Development

#### INTRODUCTION

1. Local planning authorities are required by legislation to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS provides the timetable for the preparation of the Fareham Local Plan 2036 (the new Local Plan), as well as the Authority Monitoring Reports. The purpose of producing an LDS is to ensure that local communities and interested parties are kept up to date with the programme for preparing the Local Plan and importantly when there will be opportunities to respond to consultations on it.
2. The existing LDS was adopted in March 2019, following changes to national policy and guidance, which included a new methodology for the calculation of housing need. Since this LDS was adopted the Council undertook an Issues and Options Consultation in Summer 2019 in which residents and interested parties were asked to comment on a number of topics including how the Borough could best meet the need for additional housing and which natural landscapes should be protected from development. In addition, work began on re-assessing all previously known sites which have not advanced through the planning system and identifying additional sites to meet the new level of need.
3. The outcomes of the Issues and Options consultation and further technical work informed a new Supplement to the 2017 Draft Local Plan. The supplement contained a revised Development Strategy, proposals for additional housing sites and new policies on development and the natural environment. The Consultation on the supplement took place from January to the end of February 2020. The results of the consultation, together with the responses from the consultation on the draft local plan in 2017 informing the next stage of local plan preparation.

#### NEED TO UPDATE CURRENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

4. In addition to the changes to national planning policy and guidance impacting on the preparation of the local plan, the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the subsequent national lockdown and social distancing requirements has affected the preparation of the Local Plan. Government guidance recognised that 'the current public health guidelines have had a profound impact on how local planning departments can

'operate' and whilst Fareham's planning officers have been able to work remotely, it is inevitable that there has been an impact on the speed of delivery. In addition, it is recognised that the Council's ability to undertake effective consultation, ensuring all interested parties are able to engage during a time of restricted contact has been significantly affected. Therefore, as it is important that any consultations take place at a point in time when either restrictions are lifted, or alternative measures can be put in place, the Council has found it necessary to revise the timetable of the Local Plan.

5. In July 2020, with the lessening of restrictions, the Government published new guidance for local authorities relating to the undertaking of consultations to take into account social distancing requirements, providing clarity on how the council could proceed with the next stage of consultation on the Local Plan.
6. The revised timetable demonstrates the Council's intention to deliver an up to date Local Plan which is consistent with the 2019 National Planning Policy Framework and which will be submitted for examination in the spring/summer 2021. It is considered that this will represent a realistic timetable which, subject to no major changes in Government guidance or requirements and the Council's ability to undertake thorough consultations, will be achievable.
7. The Council is aware of two current Government consultations; one on a White Paper entitled 'Planning for the Future' suggesting amendments to planning and development processes, and the other on a technical consultation entitled 'Changes to the Current Planning System' which includes a revised standard methodology for calculating housing need. The new methodology could change Fareham's housing need as well as the need figures for neighbouring authorities, which may have consequences for the level of unmet need in the sub-region. Depending upon when the changes are introduced from this technical consultation, there may be implications for the submission of the plan, and subsequent stages.
8. The revised timetable for the Fareham Local Plan 2036 is set out as follows:

Autumn 2020	Consultation on Publication Local Plan
Winter 2020/2021*	Submission of Plan to Secretary of State
Estimated: Spring/Summer 2021	Examination
Estimated: Autumn/Winter 2021	Adoption

\*subject to the outcome of the technical consultation on 'Changes to the current planning system' and proposed changes to the standard methodology.

9. The new timetable will mean that the anticipated adoption of the Local Plan is now scheduled to take place in late 2021, however, the Council has little control over the length of the examination phase which is managed by the Planning Inspectorate from submission of the Plan to the Secretary of State. Should this phase be concluded sooner than is estimated in the timetable, then adoption of the Plan could accordingly be undertaken sooner.
10. The Fareham Local Plan 2036 will enable the Council to plan for up-to-date housing, employment and other needs, as well as taking account of the changes to the NPPF and other new planning guidance and legislation. The Local Plan Review will also enable the Council to simplify the current Local Plan by preparing a new Local Plan that is clearer, more concise and more engaging for local communities.

**Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Gayle Wootton, Head of Planning Strategy and Economic Development. (Ext. 4328)