

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 07 June 2021

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

Purpose:

To approve the Local Development Scheme (2021) 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 2037 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 2037 in Autumn/Winter 2022, with the next stage of the process being a consultation on the Revised Publication Plan in early summer 2021. This will be the version which takes into account the outcomes of previous Publication Plan consultation undertaken in 2020 and the Government's announcement in December 2020 on the method of calculating housing need. The Revised Publication Plan 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 (June 2021) as set out in Appendix A to this 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 2037, 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 2037. This will involve some transfers to reserves which will be drawn down in subsequent years.

Appendices:

A: Fareham Borough Local Development Scheme (June 2021)

Background papers:**Reference papers:**

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	07 June 2021
Subject:	Local Development Scheme
Briefing by:	Director of Planning and Regeneration
Portfolio:	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 2037 (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 September 2020, and since that LDS was adopted the Council undertook a consultation on the Publication Local Plan in November-December 2020 in which residents, statutory bodies and interested parties were asked to comment on the tests for soundness which are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), that the plan has been positively prepared, is justified, effective and is consistent with national policy. The Publication Local Plan was prepared in line with the Government's proposed new method for calculating housing need, as consulted upon in August 2020. However, prior to the end of the Local Plan consultation period, the Government confirmed that they were not proceeding with the proposed changes to the calculation of housing need, but were, for the majority of local authorities, reverting to the previously adopted method.
3. The outcome of the Government consultation has meant that further technical work has been required to identify additional housing sites to meet the housing need identified through the existing standard methodology. This will be set out in a Revised Publication Plan version to the 2020 Publication Local Plan. In addition, the responses to the 2020 Regulation 19 consultation have been reviewed, resulting in minor changes to the Publication Plan.

NEED TO UPDATE CURRENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

4. As noted in the current LDS, the Council was aware that there was risk involved in undertaking a Local Plan consultation based on the Government's consultation on the standard methodology, and that until the outcome was known the Council would not be

able to submit the Plan for examination to the Planning Inspectorate (denoted with an asterisk on the proposed timetable in the current LDS that was agreed in September 2020). Following the Government's decision not to go with the proposed standard methodology and confirmation that the existing methodology is to be continued in use, the Council has undertaken further technical work which has therefore impacted the Local Plan timetable.

5. 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 lockdowns and social distancing requirements has had an effect on the preparation of the Local Plan. During the summer of 2020 the Government published guidance and temporary regulations for local authorities relating to undertaking consultations taking social distancing requirements into account and the legal need to have hard copy documents in public buildings that were largely closed during the early stages of the pandemic,. Officers were subsequently able to undertake an effective consultation and make appropriate adjustments to enable effective delivery of the Local Plan to continue. The team trialled a virtual exhibition as a new consultation method, ensuring all interested parties were able to engage during a time of restricted contact. The virtual exhibition received just over 1,300 number of visitors during the six weeks of consultation and the intention is to employ this consultation method again.
6. The revised timetable demonstrates the Council's intention to deliver an up to date Local Plan which is consistent with the 2019 NPPF and which will be submitted for examination in the autumn of 2021. It is considered that this will represent a realistic timetable which, subject to no major changes in Government guidance or requirements, will be achievable.
7. The revised timetable for the Fareham Local Plan 2037 is set out as follows:

Summer 2021	Consultation on Revised Publication Plan
Autumn 2021	Submission of Plan to Secretary of State
Estimated: Winter/Spring 2022	Examination
Estimated: Autumn/Winter 2022	Adoption

8. The new timetable will mean that the anticipated adoption of the Local Plan is now scheduled to take place in late 2022, 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.
9. The Fareham Local Plan 2037 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.

Enquiries:

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