

10. REVIEW OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (BJT/A.6161)

Purpose of the report

1. To recommend that the Authority approve the revised Local Development Scheme, establishing an updated work programme for producing development plan documents.

2. Recommendations

That:

- 1. Members approve the revised Local Development Scheme and that it shall take immediate effect.**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

3. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 set out regulations for the production of Development Plan Documents. These regulations were amended in 2008 to reflect a new focus on justifying the plan with robust evidence and proving the effectiveness of the plan all through a series of “soundness” tests. More recently in 2012 further amendments reflected the commitments in the Localism Act 2012 relating to the preparation of “Local Plans”, as well as:
 - signaling the abolition of regional plans;
 - paving the way for the National Planning Policy Framework;
 - introducing the Duty to Cooperate in Plan making; and creating a statutory framework for neighbourhood plans.
4. The Housing and Planning Act 2016 strengthens the commitment by Government for all Local Planning Authorities to have a Local Plan in place by 2017. National Planning Practice Guidance goes on to explain that Local Plans should be reviewed every 5 years and that review can be in whole or in part.

National Park Management Plan 2012-17

5. The Authority’s planning policies make a significant contribution to the objectives laid out in the National Park Management Plan and its four headline themes for:
 - A diverse working and cherished landscape;
 - A welcoming and inspiring place;
 - Thriving and vibrant communities; and
 - An enterprising and sustainable economy

Corporate Objectives 2016 – 19

6. A cornerstone for the National Park Authority concerns the delivery of our services. “Delivering our planning and other advisory services in a way that helps communities deepen their understanding and support for the special qualities of the National Park.”
 1. Deliver our services in a customer focused way;
 2. Ensure clear policies are in place through facilitated and effective engagement and communication;
 3. Ensure appropriate regulatory action.

Local Development Plan

7. Following the adoption of the Authority's Core Strategy in October 2011 work has continued to complete both Development Management Policies and detailed supplementary guidance on sustainable buildings and renewable energy, and other technical design matters. Collectively the suite of policies and supplementary guidance will form the Authority's Local Development Plan which will provide a basis for greater clarity and certainty in decision making over the next 10-15 years.
8. The Local Development Scheme explains these relationships and confirms the scope and nature of the current Local Development Plan and any timeframes to bring forward new documents.

Policy Background

9. A key requirement under the Act is that every local planning authority shall prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS) to set out how the authority will work towards the preparation of its Local Development Plan. The LDS is a public statement identifying which new planning policy documents will be produced, in what order, and when, and how they will be reviewed. As such, it is a starting point in helping all stakeholders understand an authority's intended planning policies. The LDS is a rolling 3 year project plan, which effectively forms the authority's planning policy work programme.
10. The current LDS was adopted by the Authority in March 2015. The principle reason to review the LDS at this stage is to provide updates in terms of the:
 - Project timeframe for the Development Management Policies document;
 - Timelines for new areas of work relating to Transport Design, Recreation Hubs and Barn Conversions;
 - Position regarding neighbourhood planning
 - Evidence base; and
 - Duty to Cooperate
11. Minutes from March 2015 (minute ref 79/15) also confirm that delegated authority is granted to the Director of Conservation and Planning in consultation with the Chair of Planning to make minor factual changes to the Local Development Scheme.
12. Regulations require only that local planning authorities resolve that a new or revised Local Development Scheme shall have effect. Following approval by Members the revised LDS would be uploaded to the Authority website and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for information.

Proposals

13. The changes proposed in this revised LDS are:
 - To update the timeline for producing the development management policies;
 - To change the status of emerging policies for recreation hubs from Development Plan Document to Supplementary Planning Document;
 - To update the timeline for the Supplementary Planning Document for the conversion of heritage assets;
 - To include a commitment to producing a new Supplementary Planning Document covering the design of transport infrastructure.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

Financial

14. None

Risk Management

15. Approving an up to date Local Development Scheme assists the Authority in moving through the submission and examination stages of plan making. However the Authority does benefit from an existing set of adopted policies. As such there is no risk of a policy gap. A key test will be to ensure that there remains broad consistency between the Local Development Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

The ability to review the Local Plan for an area in whole or in part confirms that the production of a secondary development plan document as a legitimate means of maintaining an up to date plan, whilst improving the effectiveness of the Core Strategy and achieving greater consistency with national policy. This strategy has also been affirmed by an independent assessment undertaken by the Planning Advisory Service.

Sustainability

16. Having an adopted set of planning policies in place is a great benefit in steering the National Park towards a more sustainable future.

Consultees: Director of Planning

Comments taken into account in this report.

Background papers (not previously published)

17. None

Appendices

1. Revised Local Development Scheme 2016

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

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