

Forest Heath District Council

(This report is not a key decision. This report has been subject to appropriate notice of publication under the Council's Access to Information Rules)

Report of the Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Transport

**LOCAL PLAN
WORKING GROUP**

8 MAY 2014

LOP14/019

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME – PROGRAMME UPDATE 2014 - 2016

1. Summary and reasons for recommendation(s)

- 1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), as amended by the Localism Act (2011) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (Regulations) (2012) places a requirement on Local Planning Authorities to produce and keep up to date a Local Development Scheme.
- 1.2 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) explains how and when the Council will prepare, consult, adopt and review its Local Development Plan Documents which will together comprise of the Local Plan for Forest Heath District Council and/or St Edmundsbury Borough Council.
- 1.3 A joint LDS was agreed by Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council Cabinets in July 2012.
- 1.4 A revision to the Local Plan timetable is now required to update progress on the Forest Heath District and the St Edmundsbury Borough Local Development Plan documents currently in preparation and to roll forward the programme to 2016. Working Paper 1 forms the updated LDS programme 2014 – 2016.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 The Working Group recommends that the updated West Suffolk Local Development Scheme programme chart be published (as set out in Working Paper 1).**

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3. Strategic priorities

- 3.1 The preparation of an up to date Local Development Scheme and development plan in more general terms relates to all three Strategic Priorities.

4. Key issues

- 4.1 Previously, a joint Local Development Scheme was prepared and agreed by Members in Forest Heath on 4 July 2013 and by Members in St Edmundsbury in June 2014.
- 4.2 The Local Development Scheme uses a project management approach to prepare the various parts of the Council(s) Local Plan(s). The programme is measured by 'milestones' which highlights the need to revise the published timetable.
- 4.3 The programme for the preparation of the Local Development Plans documents requires updating; all of the Local Development Plan documents identified in the Local Development Scheme 2013 – 2015 require a revised timetable and Working Paper 1 is the revised programme chart including milestones to replace the West Suffolk Local Development Scheme (June 2013) Appendix A programme chart.

5. Other options considered

- 5.1 None. The amendments to the programme of the Local Plans preparation and adoption are necessary to ensure an up to date and accurate timetable is available.

6. Community impact

- 6.1 A revised and published accurate and up to date Local Development Scheme can be accessed by all.

7. Consultation *(what consultation has been undertaken, and what were the outcomes?)*

- 7.1 None associated with this report.

8. Financial and resource implications *(including asset management implications)*

- 8.1 The Local Development Scheme identifies a timetable for the preparation, consultation and adoption of Local Development Plan Documents which can be delivered within current budgets and reflects current availability of staff resources within the Shared Service.

9. Risk/opportunity assessment *(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)*

- 9.1 The Local Development Scheme (June 2013) chapter 8 includes a risk assessment that could affect the Councils ability to deliver the Local Plan(s) in accordance with the programme. Actions to manage the risks have also been identified. Failure to produce an up to date Local Plan programme may result in an unsound development Local Plan or a legal challenge.

10. Legal and policy implications

- 10.1 There is a requirement for Local Planning Authorities to produce a LDS under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended by the Localism Act 2011 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

11. Ward(s) affected

- 11.1 All Wards in Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury.

12. Background papers

- 12.1 None.

13. Documents attached

- 13.1 Working Paper 1 – Updated Appendix A West Suffolk Local Development Scheme Programme Chart – May 2014.