

# Local Plan Working Group



Forest Heath  
District Council

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Revised Local Development Scheme Programme Chart - January 2015</b>	
<b>Report No:</b>	<b>LOP/FH/15/002</b>	
<b>Decisions plan reference:</b>	N/A	
<b>Report to and dates:</b>	<b>Local Plan Working Group</b>	<b>28 January 2015</b>
	<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>17 February 2015</b>
<b>Portfolio holder:</b>	Rona Burt Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Transport <b>Tel:</b> 01638 712309 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:rona.burt@forest-heath.gov.uk">rona.burt@forest-heath.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Lead officer:</b>	Marie Smith Strategic Planning Manager Tel: 01638 719260 Email: <a href="mailto:marie.smith@westsuffolk.gov.uk">marie.smith@westsuffolk.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>A Joint LDS was agreed by Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council Cabinets in July 2013. The Local Plans Working Group then agreed for publication an update to the Local Development Scheme programme chart in May 2014.</p> <p>Following the Cabinet decision (9 December 2014) to</p>	

	<p>prepare the Core Strategy Single Issue Review and Site Specific Allocations Local Plans in tandem, a further update the Local Plan timetable is now required and it is also necessary to roll forward the programme to 2017.</p> <p>Working Paper 1 forms the updated LDS programme chart 2015 – 2017.</p>
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<p><b>It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that the Local Plan Working Group:</b></p> <p><b>(1) resolves to agree and publish the updated West Suffolk Local Development Scheme programme chart (Working Paper 1).</b></p>
<p><b>Key Decision:</b></p> <p><i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that <b>do not</b> apply.)</i></p>	<p><i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i></p> <p>Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><i>The key decision made as a result of this report will be published within <b>48 hours</b> and cannot be actioned until <b>seven working days</b> have elapsed. This item is included on the Decisions Plan.</i></p>	
<b>Consultation:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None associated with this report.</li> </ul>
<b>Alternative option(s):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are two options open to the Council for progressing the Core Strategy Single Issue Review and Site Specific Allocation Local Plans. Following Cabinet (9 December 2014), Members resolved to prepare the Local Plans in tandem therefore the Local Development Scheme has been revised and updated accordingly.</li> </ul>
<p>Are there any <b>financial</b> implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Are there any <b>staffing</b> implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Are there any <b>ICT</b> implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Are there any <b>legal and/or policy</b> implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i></p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<p>Are there any <b>equality</b> implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

<b>Risk/opportunity assessment:</b>		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.	
<b>Risk area</b>	<b>Inherent level of risk (before controls)</b>	<b>Controls</b>	<b>Residual risk (after controls)</b>
Significant public opposition	High	Local Plan documents have the potential to be highly contentious. Whilst every effort will be made to build cross-community consensus, there is a high risk of significant public opposition.	Medium
Loss of Staff	Medium	The structure and staffing levels within the Place Shaping Team will be constantly monitored and reviewed to ensure that the appropriate level of skills and resources are maintained.	Low
Financial shortfall	Medium	In the short/medium term, the Council has allocated funds through its Financial Services Planning process to allow for the preparation of the Local Plan. In the longer term, should costs increase, a review of the financial allocation will be required.	Low
Changing Political Priorities	Medium	Proposals are discussed with Members of all parties via a variety of means, the Local Plans Working Group, Sustainable Development Working Party Committee etc). This helps build consensus and reduce the likelihood	Low

		of wholesale change of direction from local politicians.	
Legal Challenge	High	As a measure of last resort anyone may issue a legal challenge within six week of adoption of the Local Plan. Officers will continue to seek to ensure that local plan documents are prepared within the legal framework in order to reduce the risk of successful legal challenge.	Medium
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>		All Wards are affected.	
<b>Background papers:</b> <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		West Suffolk Local Development Scheme 2013 – 2015 <a href="http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/Planning_Policies/upload/LocalDevelopmentSchemeJointJun2013.pdf">http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/Planning_Policies/upload/LocalDevelopmentSchemeJointJun2013.pdf</a>	
<b>Documents attached:</b>		<i>Working Paper 1: West Suffolk Local Development Scheme Programme Chart Update 2015 – 2017</i>	

## **1. Key issues and reasons for recommendation(s)**

### **1.1 Background**

- 1.1.1 Previously, a joint Local Development Scheme was prepared and agreed by Members in Forest Heath and by Members in St Edmundsbury in June 2013. An update to the Local Development Scheme Appendix A programme chart was subsequently agreed by Members in May 2013.
- 1.1.2 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.
- 1.1.3 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 and the subsequent May 2014 programme chart update.