

# Cabinet Report



Report of Head of Planning

Author: Mark Williams

Telephone: 01235 540308

Textphone: 18001 01235 540308

E-mail: mark.williams@southandvale.gov.uk

Wards affected: All

Cabinet member responsible: Michael Murray

Tel: 01367 243360

E-mail: michael.murray@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

To: CABINET

DATE: 7 December 2012

## **PLANNING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

### **Recommendation**

That the Cabinet agree the revised local development scheme (Annex A) and publish it on the council's website to take effect from 19 December 2012.

### **Purpose of the report**

1. To consider the draft revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) and arrangements for finalising the LDS for publication, including adjustments if required to the timetable for the Local Plan 2029 Part 1.

### **Corporate Objectives**

2. The Vale Local Plan 2029, in particular 'Part 1: Strategic sites and policies' (formerly the Core Strategy) will guide investment and development decisions across the Vale for a fifteen year period. Through the process of producing the document and in its implementation it will be a major contributor to achieving the following strategic objectives of the council
  - (a) a strong economy
  - (b) positive and constructive work with community groups

(c) housing for people who need it, and

(d) communities involved in decisions about development affecting their local area.

## **Background**

3. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a procedural document. Its main purposes are to set out how the council is going to plan for development in its area. It also provides information to help ensure that local communities, businesses, developers, service and infrastructure providers and other interested organisations know when they will be able to participate<sup>1</sup>.
4. For the council, the LDS is the basis for project and budget management. It sets out a high-level work programme that provides information about the preparation of the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2029 within the four year horizon of 2012-2016. It briefly outlines the content and coverage of the development plan documents (DPD) that will be produced to make up the local plan for the district, in what order they will be produced and when.
5. Legislation and regulations<sup>2</sup> require that:
  - local planning authorities produce and publish a LDS, and formally resolve that the LDS is to take effect, specifying its commencement date. The latter is a new requirement in Section 111 of the Localism Act and requires a cabinet decision
  - the local plan is prepared in accordance with the published LDS. This is one of the procedural matters an inspector considers when a local plan or development plan document (DPD) is examined
  - local plan preparation progress against the LDS timetable is monitored and published in annual Monitoring Reports and the LDS is kept up-to-date, and
  - if the LDS is updated, changes from the previous version are specified.

## **Vale context**

6. The last Vale of White Horse LDS was withdrawn from the council website in 2010. This was done because work on the then emerging core strategy was paused. This pause was itself a response to anticipated changes to the planning system, following the change in Government at the national level.

---

<sup>1</sup> Public consultations will continue to be advertised and stakeholders notified when important documents are published for public consultation, in accordance with our published Statement of Community Involvement.

<sup>2</sup> Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended by section 180 of the Planning Act 2008 and section 111 (7) of the Localism Act, plus the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004. Requirements for the content and production of LDS have been significantly simplified since the last version was published.

7. Following local elections in May 2011, the new council commissioned a review of the emerging core strategy. This culminated in a cabinet decision in March 2012 to progress the core strategy with a fresh approach. Also in March 2012, the National Planning Policy Framework and accompanying regulations<sup>3</sup> were published, clarifying how plan-making should progress. The LDS needs to be re-issued to reflect these changing requirements and circumstances, in particular to update the production timetable for what is now called the Local Plan Part 1 (formerly, the core strategy).
8. The council is committed to bringing the Local Plan to adoption as soon as practicably possible. More efficient methods of delivering the project are being considered. This will not be done at the expense of giving local communities the opportunity to engage in and influence the process. Where the programme can be shortened then it may be necessary to report back with a further revision to the LDS. For now, it is important that the council publish the current LDS to ensure all interested parties can understand our intentions.

### **The Vale of White Horse local development scheme 2012-2016**

9. The LDS formally comprises the production timetable for the local plan, comprising two development plan documents that will replace the Vale Local Plan 2011. These are:
  - the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2029 Part 1: Strategic sites and policies (replacing the former Core Strategy), and
  - the Local Plan 2029 Part 2: Detailed policies and local sites (replacing the former Managing Development DPD).
10. For ease of public reference, the LDS briefly sets out the scope of and timetables for supplementary planning documents, and other planning instruments such as local development orders and current plans for the community infrastructure levy charging schedule. In addition, the LDS notes any areas that have made the commitment to prepare a neighbourhood plan, because once formally adopted these will become part of the Development Plan for the Vale. The documents included are
  - a supplementary planning document for Oxford Brookes Harcourt Hill Campus
  - a Local Development Order for Milton Park
  - neighbourhood development plans for Faringdon and Drayton.
11. The proposed LDS is attached as Annex A. Pages 6-8 set out the production timetables, duplicated below, and describe briefly what the Local Plan Parts 1 and 2 will cover. The timetable for the Local Plan 2029 Part 2 will depend on progress with the Local Plan Part 1, and the extent to which local planning

---

<sup>3</sup> Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations, 6 April 2012

matters may instead be covered by neighbourhood development plans or local development orders. This will be monitored and the LDS updated as necessary.

### Production timetables for development plan documents

	2012												2013												2014											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Local Plan 2029 Part 1: Strategic policies and sites (DPD)</b>																																				
<b>Local Plan 2029 Part 2: Detailed policies and local sites (DPD)</b>																																				

#### KEY

Preparation including sustainability appraisal and public consultation		Public consultation	<b>P</b>
Regulation 19 formal pre-submission public consultation (DPD only)		Consideration by cabinet or council	<b>C</b>
Submission to the Secretary of State	<b>S</b>	Examination sessions	<b>E</b>
Examination period		Inspector's report	<b>R</b>
Adoption and publication	<b>A</b>		

### Production timetables for supporting documents

<i>To be prepared in parallel with the Local Plan Part 1</i>	2012												2013												2014											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Infrastructure Delivery Plan</b>																																				
<b>Oxford Brookes Harcourt Hill Campus SPD</b>																																				
<b>Milton Park Local Development Order</b>																																				
<b>Annual Monitoring Reports including Five Year Housing Land Supply Statements and LDS review</b>																																				

12. The introductory section of the LDS includes a diagram and explanatory text on the different types of planning document to be prepared, and how they relate to or form part of both the local plan and the statutory Development Plan.

13. Other planning policy documents under consideration may be added to the LDS in due course. They include

- Neighbourhood development plans for Wantage town possibly with Grove parish, and for Shrivenham potentially with Watchfield, Longcot and Ashbury parishes
- A Local Development Order for Harwell Oxford Campus

- An Area Action Plan for Didcot, if it were to include parts of Harwell Parish. If so it would be a joint DPD with South Oxfordshire District Council. This would require consideration about how the DPD would be adopted by each council, as well as the joint production arrangements. However, Vale-based planning matters can be addressed by the emerging local plan, and it is not certain at this stage that a joint DPD is necessary.

## **Options**

14. Production of a LDS is a statutory requirement and therefore there are no reasonable alternative options.

## **Financial Implications**

15. None.

## **Legal Implications**

16. Not to add to those already raised above.

## **Risks**

17. The principal risk would be in not publishing a LDS or hereafter in failing to keep it up to date as we progress the local plan to submission and examination.

## **Other implications**

18. None

## **Conclusion**

19. We need to publish an up-to-date LDS to meet statutory requirements and to publicise our updated production timetable for the replacement local plan.

## **Background Papers**

20. None