

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DECISION

meeting date: THURSDAY, 15 APRIL 2021
title: LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME UPDATE
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
principal author: COLIN HIRST HEAD OF REGENERATION AND HOUSING

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Members of the updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) which sets out the anticipated timeframe for the Local Plan review.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – The Local Development Scheme is fundamental to the delivery of planning policy, primarily via the Local Plan and will help in protecting and enhancing environmental quality. Planning policies will help deliver the Council's ambitions relating to the supply of affordable homes in the area, and economic growth.
- Corporate Priorities - The LDS will provide a management tool for resource planning and will aid performance and consistency. The scheme will help deliver community involvement. As the management tool for planning policy preparation, it provides a basis by which to identify how, in particular, issues relating to the objectives of a sustainable economy, thriving market towns and housing will be addressed through the Local Plan.
- Other Considerations – The Council has a duty to prepare and keep up to date a Local Development Scheme and spatial policy through the Development Plan for the Borough.

2 BACKGROUND

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LDS)

2.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a statutory document that the Council has to have in place. It is a public statement of the programme that the Council intend to take forward to deliver the Local Plan for the area. A copy of the proposed LDS is attached at Appendix 1.

2.2 The Core Strategy was formally adopted in December 2014 and the Housing and Economic Development- Development Plan Document (HED DPD) was adopted in October 2019.

2.3 Whilst the (HED DPD) is only 18 months from adoption, any plans that have reached their 5year anniversary need to be reviewed. In the case of the Core Strategy the 5-year anniversary was reached in December 2019 and consequently the council undertook a review of the strategy concluding that several policy areas did need to be updated. This was considered by members at the meeting of this committee held on the 28 November 2019, Min 443 Refers. It was resolved to produce a new local plan for the area that

would consolidate an updated Development Plan Strategy with the Housing and Economic DPD documents. The previous LDS, published in November 2019, can be viewed at the following link:

https://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/11305/local_development_scheme_2019.pdf

3 LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

- 3.1 Following the completion of the Local Plan review, work commenced on the production of the necessary evidence base documents to support the new Local Plan, however work was stalled due to the ongoing pandemic and the publication at the end of summer 2020 of the governments White Paper on the plan making system. The programme is almost 12 months behind schedule. The established Development Plan Working Group (DPWG) has met to discuss issues arising and the approach to be taken to progress the review of the Local Plan.
- 3.2 The Council has had support from PAS (the Planning Advisory Service) who have assigned consultants to provide support on the process going forward as part of the Government's Gateway scheme which is aimed at helping authorities meet the Governments requirement that local planning authorities have an adopted and up to date plan in place by the end of 2023. The advice from PAS is to move the process on and where possible consolidate stages to maximise efficiency. All the statutory stages will need to be followed which are reflected in the revised timetable, however the intention is to run elements of work in parallel to enable early testing of elements of the plan at key stages to allow the preferred plan to be formulated.
- 3.3 To ensure that the Local Plan remains on track, it is important to move forward with the process as soon as possible. There are still uncertainties around the impacts of the pandemic particularly in relation to areas such as economic evidence however this will need to be kept under review as the process progresses with any implications taken account of at later stages. The important issue now is to move the process on.
- 3.4 The timetable proposed to produce the Local Plan is set out in the LDS at appendix 1 of this report.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:
 - Resources – There is a significant cost implication involved in the production of the Local Plan and members have previously agreed a budget for the work over the plan programme, minute 482 refers. Staffing continues to be a resource concern as the recently agreed secondment of a member of the Development Management Team to support the local plan programme will not now be taking place as planned. Members will note that significant elements of the evidence base will be delivered through consultancy however the programme also anticipated some key evidence to be delivered by in house resources, this will need to be reviewed and any budget implications brought back to members for further consideration.
 - Technical, Environmental and Legal – The Local Development Scheme is a statutory requirement of the Development Plan process. Up to date, timely and relevant

planning policies are important in maintaining and improving the environment of the borough.

- Political – There are no direct political implications, however, the LDS does establish a programme of priority for policy work.
- Reputation – The Council's decision on how to proceed could affect its reputation for example if the LDS is not kept up to date, the Council will not meet the requirements of legislation.
- Equality & Diversity – The local plan process includes measures to protect equality and diversity considerations.

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Authorise the Director of Economic Development and Planning to publish the Local Development Scheme and progress work on the Local Plan update in consultation with the Development Plan Working Group.

COLIN HIRST
HEAD OF REGENERATION AND HOUSING

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DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Ribble Valley Borough Council Local Development Scheme – October 2019.
2. Committee Reports – published on the council's web pages.

For further information please ask for Colin Hirst, extension 4503.