

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

meeting date: THURSDAY, 12 MAY 2022
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 24 months from adoption, any plans that have reached their 5-year 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 April 2021, can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/downloads/file/1797/local-development-scheme-2021>

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 To ensure that the Local Plan Update remains on track, it is important to move forward with the process as soon as possible. The Local Plan Working Group has maintained involvement in the process and recently reviewed matters relating to updating the LDS and progressing the Regulation 18 Stage of the plan making process.
- 3.3 There are still uncertainties around the impacts of the pandemic particularly in relation to areas such as economic evidence and housing markets however this will need to be kept under review as the process moves forward and any implications taken account of at later stages. Although there are indications that a standalone planning bill as intended in the previous White Paper is unlikely to go ahead, amendments are anticipated by way of the governments Levelling Up agenda which may impact upon progress.
- 3.4 At this stage the target is still to see an updated and adopted plan in place by the end of 2023. The LDS has been updated to reflect the current timetable, which remains challenging but key issue now is to seek to move forward if the target is to be attained. The regulation 18 stage as set out in the programme is an important formative stage of stakeholder engagement. It is important in identifying key issues and potentially additional work areas required in response the time frame of which or its extent are not entirely within the control of the authority as will need to be able to respond to any key matters raised. The LDS will need to be kept under review going forward and may subsequently be revised further in the light of the forthcoming consultation stage.
- 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. The resource required to publish the LDS are contained within existing revenue budgets. Staffing continues to be a resource concern however members will be kept informed as part of the monitoring process.

- 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 keep this committee informed of progress.



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BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Ribble Valley Borough Council Local Development Scheme –April 2021.
2. Committee Reports – published on the council’s web pages.

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