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Cabinet

13<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities – Councillor D Welsh

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services

**Ward(s) affected:**

All Wards

**Title:**

**Local Development Scheme (LDS) Update**

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**Is this a key decision?**

Yes – the Local Development Scheme significantly affects residents or businesses in more than 2 wards of the city

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**Executive Summary:**

Further to Cabinet and Councils decision to progress with a full review of the Coventry Local Plan in November and December respectively, the Local Development Scheme has been updated to indicate the timescales and the ongoing process of the review. The Local Authorities Local Development Scheme should be kept up to date and made publicly available in order enable the local community and interested parties to be informed of progress.

Further to the initial stage of public consultation held between 18<sup>th</sup> July and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023, the timescales have been reviewed and an updated LDS produced at Appendix 1 to the report.

**Recommendation:**

Cabinet is requested to:

- 1) Adopt the draft Local Development Scheme 2023-2025 appended at Appendix 1 to the report.

**List of Appendices included:**

Appendix 1: Draft Local Development Scheme 2023-2025

**Background papers:**

None

**Other useful documents**

2017 Local Plan

Cabinet, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022 - Local Plan Review Report

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No – However, the Local Plan Review is informed by Local Plan Cabinet Advisory Panel

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

## **Report title: Local Development Scheme Update**

### **1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1. Local Plans must be considered for review at least once every five years, as laid out in Paragraph 33 of the National Planning Policy Framework:

“Policies in local plans and spatial development strategies should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years, and should then be updated as necessary”.

- 1.2 At the meeting of Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022 (minute 52/22 refers) and the meeting of Council on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 (their minute 84/22 refers) authority was given to progress with a full review of the Local Plan, seeking to assess if the existing suite of policies had proven effective in decision making, and if these policies aligned with the wider corporate objectives of the Local Authority.
- 1.3 Cabinet authority was then sought at the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 (minute 12/23 refers) in order to undertake the initial stage of public consultation upon the Local Plan Review. Following this, a Regulation 18 ‘issues and options’ public consultation was undertaken between 18<sup>th</sup> July and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023.
- 1.4 Further to analysis of the representations received from public consultation, which informs the necessary evidence base to progress to further stages of the plan review, the Local Development Scheme has been reviewed to ensure that the timescales presented provide an accurate forecast of the forthcoming stages.
- 1.5 There are a number of variables that may lead to that timeline being extended including the unavailability of Inspectors to convene the Examination in Public or a longer time needed to assess and integrate complex representations to the consultations. Any significant delays will be reported to Cabinet in future reports.
- 1.6 An indicative timeline of the plan review is shown below and is included in a refreshed Local Development Scheme at Appendix 1 to the report.

	2023						2024						2025																
	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
Reg 18 consultation (Issues & Options)	■	■	■								■										■								
Representation analyses / update and commission evidence base				■	■	■																							
Update Local Development Scheme (LDS)							■	■																					
Local Plan Advisory Panel Engagement								■	■	■																			
Policy & Plan preparation											■	■	■	■															
Reg 19 (Publication) Plan to Cabinet																													
Reg 19 consultation																													
Representation analysis / prep for submission																													
Council authority to submit plan																													
Submit for examination																													
Examination in public																													
Inspectors report / prep report to Council																													
Adoption																													

## 2. Options considered and recommended proposal.

### 2.1 Do Nothing (Not Recommended)

Cabinet could choose not to adopt the draft 2023-2025 Local Development Scheme at this stage, however publication of the timelines aids local communities and interested parties to monitor the progress of the Local Plan Review and is informed by public consultation to date.

### 2.2 Adopt the draft Local Development Scheme 2023-2025

Cabinet could choose to adopt the draft Local Development Scheme 2023-2025 to update local communities and interested parties of the progress of the local plan review.

## 3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1. Whilst no direct consultation has taken place on the LDS, the timelines of the Local Plan Review are informed by regulation 18 consultation which was held between 18<sup>th</sup> July and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

3.2. No formal consultation has taken place yet. Public involvement is a key element of the Plan Review and will be undertaken as set out in the Local Development Scheme.

## 4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1. The decision will be implemented as soon as practicable.

## **5. Comments from the Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) and the Chief Legal Officer**

### **5.1. Financial implications**

There are no direct financial implications of publication of the updated Local Development scheme, however costs are associated to the ongoing Local Plan Review. An estimation of associated costs was provided within the November 2022 Cabinet Report, whilst the cost of the Examination will be estimated in a future report closer to the time, which will allow for a more accurate estimation of both time and location costs.

### **5.2. Legal implications**

In accordance with section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, every local planning authority must prepare planning policy documents and maintain the Local Development Scheme, specifying the documents that will be local development documents; their subject matter and area; and the timetable for their preparation and revision.

## **6. Other implications**

### **6.1. How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan? (<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/one-coventry-plan>)**

Through progressing the timelines within the LDS, the Local Plan will continue to contribute to aims of the One Coventry Plan such as improving the lives of current and future residents, ensuring the delivery of affordable homes, employment opportunities and accessible open space.

### **6.2. How is risk being managed?**

An internal risk log has been developed and will be updated as progress is made or changes occur and will be reviewed at the monthly Plan Review meeting held between officers and the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing.

### **6.3. What is the impact on the organisation?**

There will be a staffing and resource impact from these proposals in order to deliver upon the stated timelines, however these are anticipated to be absorbed within current staffing provision.

### **6.4. Equality/ EIA**

A full Equality and Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken as part of developing the Local Plan. As part of that analysis, the Council had due regard to its public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act (2010). A refreshed EIA will be produced as part of the Plan Review.

**6.5. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment**

The continued development of a reviewed Plan as outlined in the LDS will allow the Council to consider additional policies related to climate change and the environment.

**6.6. Implications for partner organisations?**

None

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