

**CABINET
15 SEPTEMBER 2020**

**BOROUGH OF DARLINGTON LOCAL PLAN 2016 – 2036
UPDATED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2020 – 2023**

**Responsible Cabinet Member –
Councillor Alan Marshall, Economy Portfolio**

**Responsible Director – Ian Williams
Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Members' approval for the revised timetable for producing the new Local Plan, which requires the revision of the Local Development Scheme, previously approved by Cabinet and Council.

Summary

2. An up-to-date Local Plan is essential to meet the development needs of the Borough and to enable the Council to shape and maintain control of development.
3. The Local Plan is a framework for growth and aims to ensure that Darlington becomes an even more sustainable location in which people increasingly choose to live, work and visit. Not only does it help to deliver the economic strategy, it also makes provision for new housing to meet local needs supporting the needs of our current and future workforce, and other new developments with the provision of key new infrastructure.
4. The success of the Borough is predicated on growth and underpins the future vibrancy of our town centre and our local communities. The Local Plan sets out how Darlington will grow, adapt and change and importantly how this will be achieved and managed. It provides the Council with the required spatial guidance and direction to contribute to and enable the structured development of the Borough – in support of both the Council's drive for a growing economy, building stronger communities and creating opportunities for all.
5. The new Local Plan will cover the period 2016 to 2036. Members approved changes to the plan in February this year and representations are currently being sought on the Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19). Accompanying that report was a Local Development Scheme setting out the programme for the Local Plan preparation. Since approval the Coronavirus Pandemic has caused some delay to this anticipated timetable so we are therefore coming back to Members to seek approval for an updated version with the ambition of submitting the plan for inspection by December 2020/January 2021 (with adoption likely by

August/September 2021).

6. Owing to Coronavirus lockdown restrictions affecting our ability to engage fully with the public, the Regulation 19 representation stage was delayed by 4 months. Subsequent target dates have also been adjusted by the same amount to factor this in.

Recommendations

7. It is recommended that Cabinet agree that the attached 'Local Development Scheme (2020-2023) August 2020 Update' is approved to take immediate effect.

Reasons

8. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:-
 - (a) Local Planning Authorities must prepare a Local Plan that sets out the local planning policies for their local planning authority area. Government guidance requires that Local Plans must be positively prepared, justified, effective and be consistent with national policy, in accordance with Section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
 - (b) The Council is required to have an up to date Local Development Scheme (Planning & Compulsory Act 2004, as amended by Section 111, Localism Act 2011).

Ian Williams
Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Background Papers

- (i) National Planning Policy Framework, CLG February 2019
- (ii) Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
- (iii) Town and Country Planning Act (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
- (iv) Localism Act 2011

David Hand : Extension 6294

S17 Crime and Disorder	The Local Plan has a role in reducing crime through the promotion of good design and location of development.
Health and Wellbeing	A key objective of Local Plan policies will be to improve people's health and wellbeing by protecting and improving the economic, social and environmental conditions in the Borough.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	A Sustainability Appraisal has been carried out on the strategic issues and options. Achieving sustainable development will be a fundamental objective of the Local Plan.
Diversity	An Equalities Impact Assessment will be part of the local plan preparation process.
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	The Local Plan will be prepared using existing budgets and will ultimately form part of the Council's Planning Policy Framework.

Key Decision	Yes
Urgent Decision	No
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The Local Plan will represent the spatial implications of the overarching aims of One Darlington: Perfectly Placed.
Efficiency	The consultation stage of the Local Plan represents the most efficient way to produce the Local Plan having regard to the legislative and engagement requirements.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

9. The Local Development Scheme (LDS), attached at APPENDIX 1, is a statutory requirement. It sets out the planning policy documents that the Council will prepare over the next three years, when the key stages of preparation will be, the scope of each document, the resources available for, and risks to, their preparation. It will replace the existing LDS 2020 to 2023 which was approved by Cabinet and Council in February 2020 prior to delays caused by Coronavirus restrictions.
10. The focus over the next 1-2 years will be on producing the Local Plan itself and carrying it through Examination to Adoption. Work is also planned to revise the current Planning Obligations and Design Supplementary Planning Documents. It is also hoped that with the co-operation of other Tees Valley Authorities work will begin on a joint Tees Valley Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document.
11. Following the adoption of the Local Plan the policies and proposals will need to be monitored to assess their effectiveness and an Implementation Plan produced to ensure delivery of the Plan.
12. This report proposes that the LDS should take effect the day after the next meeting of Full Council.
13. **Figure 1.1** overleaf shows the development stages and various evidence bases which have informed the Plan to date and the future process reflected in the updated Local Development Scheme.

Legal Implications

14. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Figure 1.1: Stages of Preparation of the Local Plan

