



Planning Policy Committee - 22 November 2010

Local Development Scheme Update

Summary

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (Section 15) requires the Council to prepare and maintain an up to date Local Development Scheme (LDS). A draft LDS timetable for the preparation of the Four Towns Plan site allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) was approved by the Planning Policy Committee on 11 February 2010. However, subsequently, the Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM), have advised that further revisions are necessary in order to conform to current Planning Inspectorate (PINS) guidance. Accordingly, a further draft revision to the Council's LDS has been prepared.

Attachment(s)

Annex 1 - Draft Local Development Scheme timetable/ timeline updated in accordance with GOEM/ PINS advice

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Under Section 15 of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, the "local planning authority must prepare and maintain a scheme to be known as their local development scheme". This requires the Council to prepare and approve revisions to the Local Development Scheme (LDS), which will then be submitted to the Secretary of State via the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (JPU) on behalf of the four constituent local planning authorities including East Northamptonshire Council.
- 1.2 An update to the North Northamptonshire LDS (including East Northamptonshire Council) was approved by the Secretary of State on 30 September 2009, though the ENC element of the LDS portfolio remained in draft form. Accordingly, the Secretary of State requested further information regarding East Northamptonshire's part of the joint (North Northamptonshire) LDS.

2.0 Current progress with the Local Development Scheme

- 2.1 A draft revision to the LDS timetable for the Four Towns Plan site allocations DPD was approved by the Planning Policy Committee on 11 February 2010. This was sent to the Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM) on 9 March 2010, for feedback and comment.
- 2.2 In response, GOEM recently advised that the submitted LDS timetable for the production of the Plan, which proposed a total of a year and a half from submission to adoption, was too long and these milestones did not accord with current Planning Inspectorate (PINS) advice. Specifically PINS now advise that:
 - The Pre-Hearing Meeting should take place 8 weeks after the submission date;
 - 14 weeks is the expected period between submission and the start of the hearing sessions;
 - The length of time from the start of the hearing to receipt of the fact check Inspector's Report should be 12 weeks to complete the cycle i.e. submission to issue of fact check report a total of 26 weeks (6 months); and
 - Finally, a period of no longer than three months is expected between the receipt of the final report and the adoption of the DPD.

3.0 Four Towns Plan – Progress to date

3.1 On 29 October 2009 the Planning Policy Committee resolved to produce a Four Towns Plan DPD for the south of the District. Since then, the Raunds Area and Three Towns Working Parties, together with officers, have been working towards updating the evidence base, with the aim of rapidly progressing the Plan towards submission during 2011. A number of projects have been emerging over the past 12 months:

- Sustainability Appraisal – Initial “scoping” work is expected to take place alongside the statutory Regulation 25 consultation
- Appropriate Assessment/ Habitat Regulations Assessment – Project brief drafted; it is hoped to appoint consultants during early 2011
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) – Appointment of consultants in November, with publication of final SFRA report by April 2011
- Infrastructure planning – Report presented to Policy and Resources Committee on 8 November
- Housing site assessments – Update to Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) currently underway (coordinated by North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit), together with significant progress with detailed site assessment work; anticipated completion by late 2010
- Affordable housing viability assessment – AECOM carried out initial survey work during summer 2010; publication of final Four Towns area viability assessment expected imminently
- Settlement boundaries – Option paper drafted; anticipated to be presented to Working Parties during late 2010
- Open Space Strategy – Survey work currently and draft Strategy document nearing completion, anticipated by late 2010
- Town centre definition – Town centre boundaries and primary shopping areas methodology paper previously presented to Raunds Area and Three Towns Working Party on 23 February and 2 March 2010 respectively; survey work anticipated to take place during 2011

3.2 The Joint Planning Unit is coordinating a range of evidence gathering/ survey projects, e.g. retail study, strategic sports facilities, Cultural Investment Plan, market towns futures, Water Cycle Strategy etc. It is also likely that further work is needed for the Four Towns Plan, e.g. employment land site selection, local landscape assessment. As far as possible, it is anticipated that such work will be carried out “in-house”, but the need for further work by consultants cannot be ruled out.

3.3 The likely timetable for the Four Towns Plan (see below) is anticipated to correspond closely with the CSS Review, which will take this forward to 2031 and is anticipated to be adopted in autumn 2012. Accordingly, the Four Towns Plan DPD will need to cover the period 2011-31.

4.0 Revised draft LDS timetable for the Four Towns Plan

4.1 Based upon the GOEM/ PINS advice, a draft revision to the LDS timetable has been prepared. This sets out the following key milestones:

- March – April 2011 – “Scoping” of DPD (Regulation 25 Consultation); i.e. views sought as to what the Four Towns Plan should contain
- October – November 2011 – Consultation on Four Towns “Options” document
- May – June 2012 – Pre-Submission Consultation
- September 2012 – Submission to Secretary of State
- November 2012 – Pre-Hearing Meeting
- January – February 2013 – Examination Hearings
- July 2013 – Adoption

4.2 Note: this revised timetable reduces the time period between submission and adoption

to 10 months.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 Members of the Planning Policy Committee are asked to agree:

- (1) Revisions to the LDS timetable for the preparation of the Four Towns Plan (November 2010 – July 2013), as set out in paragraph 3.1 (above) and Annex 1.
- (2) When Working Parties wish to consider emerging evidence base projects for the Four Towns Plan.
- (3) That the Council approves submission of the revised LDS timetable to the Secretary of State, seeking agreement to the bringing of this timetable into effect.

Implications:	
Corporate Outcomes or Other Policy/Priority/Strategy	
Good Quality of Life	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Reputation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Good Value for Money	<input type="checkbox"/> High Quality Service Delivery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective Partnership Working	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong Community Leadership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledge of our Customers and Communities <input type="checkbox"/>
Employees and Members with the Right Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	
Decision(s) would be outside the budget or policy framework and require full Council approval <input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial	There are no financial implications at this stage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	There will be financial implications – see paragraph <input type="checkbox"/>
	There is provision within existing budget <input type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure at a later date <input type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may have potential for income generation <input type="checkbox"/>
Risk Management	An assessment has been carried out and there are no material risks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Material risks exist and these are recorded at Risk Register Reference - inherent risk score - <input type="checkbox"/> residual risk score - <input type="checkbox"/>
Staff	There are no additional staffing implications <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Additional staff will be required – see paragraph <input type="checkbox"/>
Equalities and Human Rights	There will be no impact on equality (race, age, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation) or human rights implications <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	There will be an impact on equality (see categories above) or human rights implications – see paragraph <input type="checkbox"/>
Legal	Power: Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004; Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008
	Other considerations: North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy (adopted June 2008)
Background Papers:	
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Date: 15 October 2010	
CFO	MO
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