

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

28th June 2022

Councillor Rebecca Breese

Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Built Environment and Rural Affairs

Report Title	Updated West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme
Report Author	Paul Everard Planning Policy & Heritage Manager paul.everard@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

West S151	Martin Henry Executive Director, Finance	Email approval obtained 19th May 2022
Director	Stuart Timmiss Executive Director: Place, Economy & Environment	Email approval obtained 30th May 2022
Legal	Theresa Boyd Solicitor	Email approval obtained 27th May 2022
Communications	Becky Hutson	Email approval obtained 18th May 2022

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Updated West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To seek approval for an updated Local Development Scheme which sets out a timetable for local plan preparation.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Local Planning Authorities are required to produce, and keep up to date, a Local Development Scheme (LDS) which sets out and timetables the local plans they will prepare to plan for development in their area.
- 2.2 Members may recall that the West Northamptonshire LDS was adopted in September 2021. Following the recent Spatial Options consultation in the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan (WNSP) and the hearing sessions that took place as part of the examination in public of the Northampton Local Plan Part 2 (NLPP2), it is now necessary to amend the timetables for both documents and this needs to be reflected in the LDS.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- a) Approves the updated West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme (Appendix A) which is to be brought into effect upon the expiry of the call-in period for Planning Policy Committee decisions.
 - b) Delegates to the Assistant Director: Growth, Climate and Regeneration, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Built Environment and Rural Affairs, authority to make minor editorial and presentational changes to the Local Development Scheme in its final published form.

4. Reason for Recommendations (NOTE: this section is mandatory and must be completed)

- 4.1 It is a statutory requirement for the Council to produce an LDS setting out the Local Plans which, when prepared, will comprise part of the development plan for the area. The LDS must be made available to the public and kept up to date. For West Northamptonshire, a new LDS is needed to set out revised timetables for the next stages in the preparation of the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan and final stages in the preparation of the Northampton Local Plan Part 2.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 The Local Development Scheme needs to be updated for two main reasons. Firstly, to reflect the current timetable for the WNSP, which has had to be changed because the consultation on Spatial Options was extended and there was a larger than expected number of consultation responses and additional baseline evidence has had to be commissioned. Secondly, the stages necessary to progress the NLPP2 to adoption cannot now be completed to the timetable set out in the current LDS. The Council is required to specify the date that the LDS will be brought into effect. It is suggested that this should be upon the expiry of the call-in period for Planning Policy Committee decisions.

- 5.2 The updated LDS attached at Appendix A sets out the anticipated timetable for the preparation of the WNSP and the examination and adoption stages of the NLPP2. The LDS envisages that the WNSP will be submitted for examination in December 2023 with adoption in March 2025. On the assumption that consultation on the Proposed Modifications to the NLPP2 starts on 7th July 2022 and the Planning Inspectors are able to give us their feedback on the responses to the consultation on Main Modifications by 7th October, it is anticipated that adoption of the NLPP2 will take place in December 2022.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 The updated LDS presented at Appendix A sets out a reasonable timetable for the preparation of the WNSP and the completion of the remaining stages of the NLPP2 based on the resources currently available. It is a statutory requirement for the Council to publish an LDS and ensure that it is up to date. As such, failing to approve an LDS is not an option.
- 6.2 The Committee could consider options for preparing the WNSP more quickly, but this would necessitate additional resources and may also run the risk that the plan would not be thoroughly prepared and could be found unsound at examination.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1 The costs of producing the updated LDS can all be met from existing resources.

7.2 Legal

- 7.2.1 Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act sets out the statutory requirement for local planning authorities to publish a Local Development Scheme and ensure that it is kept up to date.

7.3 Risk

- 7.3.1 Failure to maintain an up-to-date LDS could result in the WNSP and the NLPP2 failing legal tests. It would also be criticised by the Inspectors examining the NLPP2 who have indicated that the LDS should be updated.

7.4 Consultation

- 7.4.1 There is no requirement for formal consultation on the LDS.

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

- 7.5.1 Not applicable.

7.6 Climate Impact

7.6.1 The approval of the LDS does not have any direct implications for climate change. However, both the WNSP and the NLPP2 include policies to address climate change that will contribute to the Council's ambitions in this respect.

7.7 Community Impact

7.7.1 The LDS provides information to the community on the timetable for the preparation of Local Plans and opportunities to be involved.

7.8 Communications

7.8.1 See paragraph 7.4.1 above.

8. Background Papers

None