

# Birmingham City Council

## Report to Cabinet

14<sup>th</sup> November 2023



**Subject:** Local Development Scheme 2023-2026

**Report of:** Paul Kitson – Strategic Director Place, Prosperity and Sustainability

**Relevant Cabinet Member:** Cllr John Cotton, Leader of the Council

**Relevant O &S Chair(s):** Councillor Shabrana Hussain, Neighbourhoods

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Are specific wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Is this a key decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference: 011475/2023		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:		

### 1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks approval of the Revised Local Development Scheme 2023-2026 so that the timetable for the preparation of planning policy documents is agreed. It is a legal requirement for Local Planning Authorities to have an up-to-date Local Development Scheme, setting out the work they intend to undertake on plan-making over a three-year time frame. It is considered best practice to update the Local Development Scheme annually. The last Local Development Scheme was approved by Cabinet in October 2022. The proposed 2023-2026 Local Development Scheme sets out a revised timetable for the Local Plan, delaying the

Preferred Options consultation and the subsequent Publication period but still scheduling the Submission stage for June 2025.

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Approve the Local Development Scheme 2023-2026, as set out at Appendix 1 to this report to come into effect on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023.
- 2.2 Delegate authority to the Director of Planning, Transport and Sustainability in consultation with the Leader of the Council to make any minor typographical/graphical amendments to the Local Development Scheme prior to its publication.

## **3 Background**

- 3.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) places a statutory duty on the Council to maintain an up-to-date Local Development Scheme (LDS).
- 3.2 The revised LDS attached to this report (Appendix 1) would fulfil this requirement as it sets out the timetable for the production of the Council's Local Plan. Owing to the fact that it is a legal requirement, it is important that the LDS is kept up-to-date to reflect the Council's progress and keep residents and key stakeholders informed.
- 3.3 The LDS must specify (among other matters) the documents that, when prepared, will comprise the Local Plan for the area. It must be made publicly available on the Council's website and be kept up-to-date to enable local communities and interested parties to keep track of progress. The LDS is reviewed annually through the Council's Authority Monitoring Report.
- 3.4 The LDS will supersede the previous LDS which was published in October 2022. It has been updated to take account of changes in the timetable for the preparation of the Birmingham Local Plan, and to update on Neighbourhood Planning activity across the city.
- 3.5 It is important that work progresses on the Local Plan because there is a statutory requirement for authorities to have an up-to-date Local Plan, and Government are clear that Local Authorities should not delay plan-making. An up-to-date Local Plan provides clarity and will guide investment into the City. The Birmingham Local Plan will deliver in the region of 71,000 new homes and 300 hectares of employment land; this growth will generate CIL receipts and investment in infrastructure through S106 agreements and will increase income from Council Tax and business rates. It will help to secure local employment opportunities for citizens. The Birmingham Local Plan will be the main delivery mechanism for the Our Future City Central Area Framework, translating the vision and opportunities identified into statutory planning policy.
- 3.6 The proposed timetable for the Birmingham Local Plan has been altered to delay the Preferred Options consultation. This is because additional time is needed to

prepare the evidence base, undertake viability testing and undertake Sustainability Appraisal. The Publication Stage has also been slightly delayed; however, the timetable still sees the Plan being submitted in June 2025.

- 3.7 Government is currently taking forward a programme of planning reform which will significantly change the plan-making system. Under the transitional arrangements currently set out, Local Plans prepared under the current system must be submitted to The Planning Inspectorate for Examination in Public by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and an Inspector's Report must be received by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026. The timetable set out within the revised Local Development Scheme is in accordance with these transitional measures.

#### **4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal**

- 4.1 It is a legal requirement that local planning authorities prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS) to update residents and key stakeholders of their progress in producing development plan documents and to inform them of when they will be consulted as part of the Plan making process.
- 4.2 The LDS October 2023 (Appendix 1) has been prepared to meet the Council's obligation to maintain its LDS. It is considered necessary to update the LDS now due to a delay being required to the Preferred Options consultation. It is essential that local communities should be able to keep track of this progress. The preferred option is for Cabinet to approve the revised LDS, in doing so this ensures that the LDS is up to date and accurately reflects the work priorities of the Council and is in accordance with the legal requirements.
- 4.3 The alternative approach would be to cease work on the current plan and await the new relevant primary and secondary legislation and guidance to commence work on a new style Local Plan. However, this approach would result in a significant delay to getting a Local Plan adopted. Given that the current Local Plan is out-of-date, this is not considered to be a reasonable course of action.

#### **5 Consultation**

- 5.1 Public consultation is not required to amend the Local Development Scheme.

#### **6 Risk Management**

- 6.1 There is a risk that the Local Plan timetable could slip further due to delays in preparing the evidence base. There is a risk that planning reform could result in changes to the legal framework that we have to respond to. There is also uncertainty in relation to plan-making in the current system resulting from the Government undertaking a consultation on short term changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the consultation commenced in December 2022 and the Government have not yet published the outcome or the amended NPPF. The changes could have an impact on the Local Plan timetable.

- 6.2 These risks are being managed through successfully recruiting to two vacant posts within the team, prioritising the Local Plan over other planning policy work, and keeping up-to-date with the planning reform announcements.

## **7 Compliance Issues:**

- 7.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?

7.1.1 The new Local Plan will update planning policies to be consistent with significant priorities including the City Council's net zero carbon commitment, the Birmingham Transport Plan and the emerging Central Area Framework.

### **7.2 Legal Implications**

7.2.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) places a statutory duty on the Council to maintain an up-to-date Local Development Scheme (LDS). The revised Local Development Scheme fulfils that requirement.

### **7.3 Financial Implications**

7.3.1 The total cost of preparing the Birmingham Local Plan is estimated to be in the region of £1 million. Approximately £665K of this cost has already been spent or committed. The remaining cost will be spread across the 2023/2024, 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 financial years. Most of the expenditure is associated with procuring external consultants to prepare specialist evidence base documents to support the preparation of the Local Plan. Other costs include KC advice, consultation costs and the appointment of a Planning Inspector and programme officer for the examination stage of the plan. The financial benefits are set out at paragraph 3.5 of this report.

7.3.2 Spend control approval was received from the S151 Spend Control Board on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 for £300K to support the preparation of the Local Plan, with £150K of this expenditure expected to fall into the 2023/2024 financial year.

### **7.4 Procurement Implications (if required)**

7.4.1 None

### **7.5 Human Resources Implications (if required)**

7.5.1 None

### **7.6 Public Sector Equality Duty**

7.6.1 An EQIA has been undertaken and is attached at Appendix 2 to this report.

## **8 Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Local Development Scheme 2023-2026
- Appendix 2 – EQIA

## **9 Background Documents**

9.1 None



# **Birmingham Local Development Scheme**

**2023 – 2026**

**November 2023**

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## **1. What is a Local Development Scheme?**

- 1.1 Local planning authorities are required through the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) to prepare, maintain and publish a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS is a three-year project plan setting out the Development Plan Documents (DPDs)<sup>1</sup> that will be produced and, once adopted, form part of the development plan for Birmingham. The LDS details the main stages in the preparation of DPDs to inform members of the public, stakeholders and organisations about the timetable for their preparation.
- 1.2 This LDS covers the period November 2023-November 2026 and supersedes the Council's previous LDS which covered the period June 2022 – June 2025.
- 1.3 The LDS provides an updated schedule of DPDs and Neighbourhood Plans that make up the development plan for Birmingham. Details of newly proposed documents and those that have been adopted since the previous LDS was published are also included.
- 1.4 The LDS does not include a timetable for the preparation of individual Neighbourhood Plans as the timing and delivery of these are the responsibility of the 'qualifying bodies.' However, the LDS does provide a summary of those plans that have been made (adopted) and identifies those that have progressed to at least submission stage at the time writing. Upon being adopted, a Neighbourhood Plan will become a statutory plan and form part of the development plan.<sup>2</sup>
- 1.5 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are not part of the Development Plan as they supplement adopted policy. It is no longer a requirement to detail SPDs and their timetables for preparation within the LDS. Instead, information on their production can be found on the Council's website.
- 1.6 Other documents that are not part of the development plan, but support it, include the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Chapter 6 provides the context to their relationship with the Development Plan.

## **2. The plan-making framework**

- 2.1 The development plan is at the heart of the planning system with a requirement set in law that planning decisions must be taken in line with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

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<sup>1</sup> Development Plan Documents (DPDs) are statutory planning policy documents. They are also referred to as Local Plans.

<sup>2</sup> Adopted Neighbourhood Plans have statutory weight and are considered as part of the development plan but are not classed as a Development Plan Documents (DPDs).



- 2.2 Plans set out a vision and a framework for the future development of the area, addressing needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure – as well as a basis for conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment, mitigating and adapting to climate change, and achieving well designed places.
- 2.3 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 sets out that each local planning authority must identify their strategic priorities and have policies to address these in their development plan documents (taken as a whole).
- 2.4 The Act also sets out specific matters to which the local planning authority must have regard when preparing a local plan. Regulations 8 and 9 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 prescribe the general form and content of local plans and adopted policies maps, while regulation 10 states what additional matters local planning authorities must have regard to when drafting their local plans.
- 2.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the associated National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) sets the national context for planning policy and must be taken into account in preparing plans. The NPPF confirms that the planning system continues to be ‘plan-led’ which means that planning applications have to be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The NPPF also confirms that the policies in emerging plans will gather more weight as they progress towards adoption.
- 2.6 Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. They should be based on a proportionate evidence base which includes adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence about the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the area.
- 2.7 Legislation clarifies that the term local plan applies only to DPDs. A local plan can consist of either strategic or non-strategic policies, or a combination of the two.
- 2.8 Paragraph 33 of the NPPF states that policies in local plans and spatial development strategies should be revised to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years and should then be updated as necessary.<sup>3</sup> Reviews should be completed no later than five years from the adoption date of a plan and should take into account changing circumstances affecting the area and any relevant changes in national policy.

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<sup>3</sup> Review at least every five years is a legal requirement for all local plans (Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012).

### 3. The current development plan

3.1 The current development plan for Birmingham comprises a number of adopted DPDs prepared by Birmingham City Council as the local planning authority and made (adopted) Neighbourhood Plans prepared by parish/ town councils or established Neighbourhood Planning Forums. The documents listed below currently form the development plan for Birmingham:

- The [Birmingham Development Plan](#) (BDP) adopted in January 2017 sets out the vision, spatial strategy and strategic policies for the development of Birmingham. The BDP contains strategic policies and site allocations which are used to shape development and determine planning applications. This is the lead local plan for Birmingham.
- The [Development Management in Birmingham Development Plan Document](#) (DMB) adopted in December 2021 provides detailed development management policies supporting the BDP. The DMB document has been adopted since the publication of the previous LDS.
- The [Bordesley Park Area Action Plan](#) adopted in January 2020 provides policies for the transformation and growth of parts of Washwood Heath, Bordesley Green, Bordesley Village and Small Heath to 2031.
- The [Longbridge Area Action Plan](#) adopted in April 2009 provides specific detailed policies for the regeneration and redevelopment of the Longbridge area.
- The [Aston, Newtown and Lozells Area Action Plan](#) adopted in July 2012 provides detailed specific policies for the Aston, Newtown and Lozells areas of the City. Policy ED1 was replaced by the adoption of the BDP in January 2017.
- The [Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Development Plan](#) adopted by the Council in November 2015 following a majority yes vote (89%) at a referendum. The plan was prepared by Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Planning Forum.
- [The Beeches, Booths and Barr \(3Bs\) Neighbourhood Development Plan](#) adopted by the Council in October 2021 following a majority yes vote at a referendum. The plan was prepared by the 3Bs Neighbourhood Forum.
- [The Jewellery Quarter Neighbourhood Development Plan](#) adopted by the Council in July 2023. The plan was prepared by the Jewellery Quarter Neighbourhood Forum

## 4. Development Plan Documents

- 4.1 The section outlines the DPDs that the Council intends to produce or is in the process of producing.

### **The Birmingham Plan (BDP update)**

- 4.2 The Birmingham Development Plan (BDP), adopted on 10 January 2017, sets out the spatial vision and development strategy for the sustainable growth of the city for the period 2011-2031. The Plan contains strategic policies and site allocations, organised by growth areas and a suite of thematic policies to establish Birmingham as an enterprising, innovative and green City.
- 4.3 In line with legislative requirements, a review of the BDP was undertaken to assess if an update of the plan was required. The review indicated that the BDP requires updating due to a number of significant changes to national planning policy, guidance and legislation, as well as changes in local circumstances and priorities. The results of the review were report to Cabinet on 23 June 2020 at which the recommendation to undertake a full update of the plan was accepted.
- 4.4 The intention of this LDS update is to set out a revised timetable for the update of the BDP. This is shown in the table below overleaf. The timetable reflects the aim to submit the plan under the current planning system.
- 4.5 However, it should be noted that the Government intend to introduce future changes to the planning system, which could affect the preparation and timetable of the plan. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill introduces significant changes to the plan making system. It is anticipated that this will be enacted in Autumn 2023 and that changes will be implemented through secondary legislation. The Government have set out a transitional timetable which requires plans prepared under the current system to be submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and to have completed their Examination in Public by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026. Therefore, the new Local Plan will need to be submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The preparation of the new/ updated plan will need to be flexible to respond to any potential future changes to the planning system including impact on the LDS timetable. The timetable will therefore be kept under close review and updated when necessary.

Table 1: The Birmingham Local Plan (BDP Update) Timetable

Document Title	<b>The Birmingham Local Plan (BDP update)</b>		
Coverage	City wide	Status	DPD
Role and content	The plan will update the existing BDP, reviewing the development requirements, policies and site allocations and extending the plan period to 2042.		

Chain of Conformity	National Planning Policy Framework and Guidance, Planning Policy for Travellers Sites, case law and planning legislation. Influenced local strategies and priorities.	
<b>Key Milestones</b>		<b>Timescales</b>
Evidence gathering / Sustainability Appraisal scoping		June 2021
Issues and Options consultation (Regulation 18)		October / November 2022
Preferred Options consultation (Regulation 18)		June-July 2024
Publication/ Pre-submission consultation (Regulation 19)		February 2025
Submission (Regulation 22)		June 2025
Examination (Regulation 24)		Autumn 2025
Receipt of Inspector's Report (Regulation 25)		Autumn 2026
Adoption (Regulation 26)		Autumn/Winter 2026

## 5. Neighbourhood Plans

- 5.1 The Localism Act 2011 enables local communities to produce a neighbourhood plan to support the development of their area. Neighbourhood plans are led and prepared by the community, not the Council, although the Council has a statutory role to provide advice and support to those producing a plan and at prescribed stages in the plan making process.
- 5.2 When a neighbourhood plan is passed by an independent examiner and agreed at a local referendum, the Council must adopt the plan as part of its development plan. This means that the neighbourhood plan must be taken into consideration when decisions on planning applications are made, alongside other development plan documents and material considerations.
- 5.3 As neighbourhood plans are not prepared by the Council and their timetables are dependent on the progress made by the community, timetables for their production are not included in the LDS. Section 3 set out those Neighbourhood Plans which have been adopted by the City Council. There are currently no further Neighbourhood Plans being prepared across the City. Further details can be found on the Council's website, where any neighbourhood planning activity is publicised.

## **6. Other supporting documents**

6.1 While not forming part of the development, the Council have produced other supporting document to aid in the preparation and implementation of the development plan policies:

- A detailed evidence base
- Statement of Community Involvement
- Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environment Assessment
- Policies Map
- Authority Monitoring Report
- Supplementary Planning Documents and Guidance
- Community Infrastructure Levy

### **Evidence base**

6.2 In preparing documents included in the LDS, the Council will develop and maintain a sound evidence base. Necessary research and studies will be conducted, particularly in relation to the new local plan (BDP update). Providing a sound and comprehensive evidence is fundamental to developing sound planning documents. The key evidence base documents will be made available to be view when completed.

6.3 A range of studies which form the evidence base for the adopted BDP can be found on the City Council's website at: [Evidence base | New Local Plan for Birmingham | Birmingham City Council](#)

### **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)**

6.4 The SCI details how the Council will encourage local communities to participate in the planning system. The Council's current SCI was adopted in January 2020.

6.5 The SCI is not a DPD and is not subject to public examination. However, to ensure the SCI remains relevant and has regard to new methods of engagement, the SCI will continue to be subject to review and updating as necessary.  
[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20054/planning\\_strategies\\_and\\_policies/69/local\\_development\\_framework/4](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20054/planning_strategies_and_policies/69/local_development_framework/4)

### **Sustainability appraisal**

6.6 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is required for all DPDs and is an integral to the plan-making process. The purpose of the SA is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. The SA embraces economic, environmental and social objectives, including equalities and health impacts and therefore has a wider scope than Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which is a requirement of an EU directive and is primarily concerned with environmental impacts.

- 6.7 Work on producing a DPD cannot proceed without corresponding work on the SA. Therefore, each DPD will be accompanied by a supporting SA. Both the DPD and the SA will be made available for consultation at the same time and comments invited. The findings of the SA will inform the DPD and will be a material consideration in determining the soundness of the DPD at examination.

### **Policies map**

- 6.8 The policies map illustrates the sites allocations and policies and other local and national land use designations on an Ordnance Survey base map. This is in accordance with Regulation 9 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended. The policies map is updated as new DPDs are prepared or revised so as to illustrate the application of policies across the area. A link to the interactive policies map is available at:  
<http://www.planvu.co.uk/bcc/index.php>

### **Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)**

- 6.9 The AMR monitors the progress of local plans and assesses the effectiveness of adopted local plan policies. The AMR sets out the list of documents that are included in the LDS, their timetable for preparation, the stage they are currently at, and if they are behind schedule the reasons for this. AMRs are also useful in identifying whether policies are meeting their stated objectives, identifying development trends, patterns of land use and reporting on the implementation of policies. The latest version on the AMR can be found on the Council's website:  
[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20054/planning\\_strategies\\_and\\_policies/69/local\\_development\\_framework/3](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20054/planning_strategies_and_policies/69/local_development_framework/3)

### **Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)**

- 6.10 SPDs add detail and guidance to policies contained within DPDs, which they must be consistent with. The production of SPDs follow a statutory process and are subject to public consultation, however there is no public examination and there is no requirement to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal. They do not form part of the statutory development plan; however, they are a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.
- 6.11 The Council also produce a range of other non-statutory documents such as frameworks and masterplans to promote development opportunities. They do not form part of the statutory development plan; however, the public are consulted on them and they are evidence based so can be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.
- 6.12 It is no longer a requirement to detail SPDs and their timetables for preparation within the LDS. A full list of adopted SPDs and other non-statutory documents can be found on the Council's website, as well as those that the Council intends to review or prepare.

- 6.13 The SPDs and non-statutory frameworks adopted by the City Council can be accessed here: [Planning guidance and strategies | Birmingham City Council](#).

## 7. Monitoring and review

- 7.1 The Council will monitor progress of the work set out in the LDS and will publish the results in the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) which is produced on an annual basis. The Council will closely monitor the progress of the preparation of the local plan. If issues are identified or unexpected events or changes occur, the LDS will be updated to reflect these changes in circumstances. A new or updated LDS must be approved by the Council's Executive.

## 8. Resources

- 8.1 The staff resources for delivering the proposed programme of plan preparation are primarily located within the Planning and Development department of the Council's Place, Prosperity and Sustainability Directorate. Officers from across the Directorate and other parts of the Council also contribute to the process of plan preparation. External technical expertise may be utilised when necessary subject to appropriate funding being identified. The Council also works closely with a range of external partners and stakeholders in developing the local plan.

## 9. Risk Assessment

- 9.1 The Council has carried out a risk assessment of the projects contained in this document as set out below. These risks will be kept under review to ensure that they are addressed quickly if they arise.

Table 2: Risk Assessment of the Projects in the Local Development Scheme

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Changes to national planning policies	Additional work to comply with new requirements  Abortive work undertaken	Respond to changes as quickly as possible  Ensure work undertaken can be easily adapted to new requirements, where possible
Greater level of public engagement than anticipated	Increased time required to analyse comments. Possible programme slippage	Build in flexibility in programme  Monitor progress

		Draw in additional resources
Staff turnover and difficulties in recruitment	Reduced capacity will cause programme to slip	<p>Fill vacancies promptly</p> <p>Consider re-deployment to meet key targets</p> <p>Consider recruitment incentives</p> <p>Consider using consultants where specific expertise is required</p>
Pressures on staff time for other work	Staff diverted to other work will cause slippage of programme	<p>Local Plan to be a strategic priority</p> <p>Ringfence policy team to plan production</p> <p>Manage staff tasks and consider re-deployment</p>
Insufficient financial resources	May result in poor quality evidence base and key milestones not being met	<p>Ensure adequate budget and contingency</p> <p>Closely monitor costs and manage contracts</p>
Governance process	Delay to decisions being made on the plan	Establish a cross party Local Plan Working Group to ensure early understanding, buy-in and transparency
Evidence not prepared on time	Key milestones will not be met	Closely monitor preparation of evidence studies
IT system issues e.g. consultation platform, land monitoring database, GIS	Delays to consultation	<p>Ensure liaison with IT and GIS Team</p> <p>Procure consultation platform early on and test</p>
LDS programme too ambitious	Key milestones may not be met	Monitor progress of the LDS through AMR and adjust where necessary



Planning Inspectorate not able to meet post submission timetable	Delay to examination and receipt of inspector's report	Liaison with PINs to identify and resolve issues
Local Plan is found unsound	<p>Additional work is required to rectify issues</p> <p>Consultation on modifications may be required</p> <p>Delay to the adoption of the plan</p>	<p>As far as possible, ensure evidence base is robust and up to date on submission</p> <p>Engage with the community and stakeholders to resolve objections</p> <p>Critical friend analysis</p>
Legal challenge	Possible quashing of plan or requirement to re-do work	<p>Ensure compliance with the regulations</p> <p>Carefully consider Inspector's recommendations</p>
Unforeseen circumstances (e.g. global pandemic)	<p>Potential impact on evidence base development</p> <p>Unable to attend face to face meetings or consultation</p>	<p>Ensure staff coverage and consultant team contingencies are in place</p> <p>Utilise online consultation methods and video conferencing for meetings</p>

Title of proposed EIA	Local Development Scheme
Reference No	EQUA1140
EA is in support of	Amended Policy
Review Frequency	Annually
Date of first review	30/06/2024
Directorate	Inclusive Growth
Division	Development Policy
Service Area	Planning Policy
Responsible Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Maria Dunn
Quality Control Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sarah Scannell
Accountable Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ian MacLeod
Purpose of proposal	To update the Local Development Scheme
Data sources	relevant reports/strategies
Please include any other sources of data	
ASSESS THE IMPACT AGAINST THE PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS	
Protected characteristic: Age	Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community
Age details:	<p>There is the potential for impacts on protected characteristics from the individual local development documents proposed for production in the LDS. However, as each of these individual documents are progressed they will be assessed for the potential of any adverse impact and assessed appropriately. At this point in time the new documents proposed in the LDS are at too early a stage of their development to be assessed. Documents already in the process of production will be assessed individually as they are prepared. It is not considered that there is a risk of cumulative adverse impact occurring as each proposed document is prepared in the context of existing documents and any potential for cumulative impacts will be considered as part of the preparation of each document.</p>

Protected characteristic: Disability

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Disability details:

There is the potential for impacts on protected characteristics from the individual local development documents proposed for production in the LDS. However, as each of these individual documents are progressed they will be assessed for the potential of any adverse impact and assessed appropriately. It is not considered that there is a risk of cumulative adverse impact occurring as each proposed document is prepared in the context of existing documents and any potential for cumulative impacts will be considered as part of the preparation of each document.

Protected characteristic: Sex

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Gender details:

There is the potential for impacts on protected characteristics from the individual local development documents proposed for production in the LDS. However, as each of these individual documents are progressed they will be assessed for the potential of any adverse impact and assessed appropriately. It is not considered that there is a risk of cumulative adverse impact occurring as each proposed document is prepared in the context of existing documents and any potential for cumulative impacts will be considered as part of the preparation of each document.

Protected characteristics: Gender Reassignment

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Gender reassignment details:

There is the potential for impacts on protected characteristics from the individual local development documents proposed for production in the LDS. However, as each of these individual documents are progressed they will be assessed for the potential of any adverse impact and assessed appropriately. It is not considered that

there is a risk of cumulative adverse impact occurring as each proposed document is prepared in the context of existing documents and any potential for cumulative impacts will be considered as part of the preparation of each document.

Protected characteristics: Marriage and Civil Partnership

Service Users/ Stakeholders; Wider Community

Marriage and civil partnership details:

There is the potential for impacts on protected characteristics from the individual local development documents proposed for production in the LDS. However, as each of these individual documents are progressed they will be assessed for the potential of any adverse impact and assessed appropriately. It is not considered that there is a risk of cumulative adverse impact occurring as each proposed document is prepared in the context of existing documents and any potential for cumulative impacts will be considered as part of the preparation of each document.

Protected characteristics: Pregnancy and Maternity

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Pregnancy and maternity details:

There is the potential for impacts on protected characteristics from the individual local development documents proposed for production in the LDS. However, as each of these individual documents are progressed they will be assessed for the potential of any adverse impact and assessed appropriately. It is not considered that there is a risk of cumulative adverse impact occurring as each proposed document is prepared in the context of existing documents and any potential for cumulative impacts will be considered as part of the preparation of each document.

Protected characteristics: Race

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community



Race details:

There is the potential for impacts on protected characteristics from the individual local development documents proposed for production in the LDS. However, as each of these individual documents are progressed they will be assessed for the potential of any adverse impact and assessed appropriately. It is not considered that there is a risk of cumulative adverse impact occurring as each proposed document is prepared in the context of existing documents and any potential for cumulative impacts will be considered as part of the preparation of each document.

Protected characteristics: Religion or Beliefs

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Religion or beliefs details:

There is the potential for impacts on protected characteristics from the individual local development documents proposed for production in the LDS. However, as each of these individual documents are progressed they will be assessed for the potential of any adverse impact and assessed appropriately. It is not considered that there is a risk of cumulative adverse impact occurring as each proposed document is prepared in the context of existing documents and any potential for cumulative impacts will be considered as part of the preparation of each document.

Protected characteristics: Sexual Orientation

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Sexual orientation details:

There is the potential for impacts on protected characteristics from the individual local development documents proposed for production in the LDS. However, as each of these individual documents are progressed they will be assessed for the potential of any adverse impact and assessed appropriately. It is not considered that there is a risk of cumulative adverse impact occurring as each proposed

	document is prepared in the context of existing documents and any potential for cumulative impacts will be considered as part of the preparation of each document.
Socio-economic impacts	There is the potential for impacts on protected characteristics from the individual local development documents proposed for production in the LDS. However, as each of these individual documents are progressed they will be assessed for the potential of any adverse impact and assessed appropriately. It is not considered that there is a risk of cumulative adverse impact occurring as each proposed document is prepared in the context of existing documents and any potential for cumulative impacts will be considered as part of the preparation of each document.
Please indicate any actions arising from completing this screening exercise.	None
Please indicate whether a full impact assessment is recommended	NO
What data has been collected to facilitate the assessment of this policy/proposal?	None
Consultation analysis	None
Adverse impact on any people with protected characteristics.	None
Could the policy/proposal be modified to reduce or eliminate any adverse impact?	No
How will the effect(s) of this policy/proposal on equality be monitored?	Annual updates
What data is required in the future?	None
Are there any adverse impacts on any particular group(s)	No
If yes, please explain your reasons for going ahead.	
Initial equality impact assessment of your proposal	As identified in the analysis of the initial assessment the LDS itself will not have an adverse affect on any of the protected characteristics, albeit there is potential for the individual documents proposed to be produced by the LDS to have an impact on protected characteristics. As such each of these individual documents will be subject to

equalities assessment as appropriate during their production. These documents will also each be subject to public consultation in line with the Council's adopted statement of community involvement. As noted elsewhere in this assessment and in the LDS itself each of the documents proposed will be prepared with due regard to existing policies and strategies, both in terms of land use planning and in terms of other policy areas (for example Transport, Public Health, Ecology etc.). As such while there is the potential for cumulative impacts these will be mitigated by the process of document development having due regard to the impacts of existing policies and strategies. The LDS is updated annually and monitored through the Council's Authorities Monitoring Report which is produced on an annual basis. If issues are identified through this process then an early review of the LDS will be triggered. The LDS will be adopted subject to approval by Cabinet and will be taken through the Council's standard approval process for Cabinet level decisions. This includes appropriate consultation and briefings with the relevant Cabinet members and senior officers prior to Cabinet meeting to determine whether or not to approve adoption of the LDS.

Consulted People or Groups

Informed People or Groups

Summary and evidence of findings from your EIA

As identified in the analysis of the initial assessment the LDS itself will not have an adverse affect on any of the protected characteristics, albeit there is potential for the individual documents proposed to be produced by the LDS to have an impact on protected characteristics. As such each of these individual documents will be subject to equalities assessment as appropriate during their production. These

documents will also each be subject to public consultation in line with the Council's adopted statement of community involvement.

QUALITY CONTORL SECTION

Submit to the Quality Control Officer for reviewing? Yes

Quality Control Officer comments

Decision by Quality Control Officer

Submit draft to Accountable Officer? Yes

Decision by Accountable Officer

Date approved / rejected by the Accountable Officer

Reasons for approval or rejection

Please print and save a PDF copy for your records Yes

Content Type: Item

Version: 20.0

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