

**Report of:** Planning Policy Manager

**To:** Executive Board

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2006

**Item No:**

**Title of Report :** Oxford Local Development Scheme 2006-2009



### Summary and Recommendations



**Purpose of report:** The purpose of this report is for Executive Board to consider Oxford City Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS is a project plan and does not constitute a policy document. It explains how, when, Oxford City Council will be producing the various documents that will constitute the Local Development Framework (LDF).

**Key decision:** No

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Ed Turner



**Scrutiny Responsibility:** Environment

**Ward(s) affected:** All

#### **Report Approved by:**



Portfolio Holder (Councillor Ed Turner)  
Planning Policy Manager (Mark Jaggard)  
Planning Services Business Manager (Michael Crofton-Briggs)  
Strategic Director (Sharon Cosgrove)  
Financial Management (Emma Burson)  
Legal & Democratic Services (Jeremy Thomas)



**Policy Framework:** None



#### **Recommendation(s):**

Executive Board are recommended to:

1. approve the Oxford Local Development Scheme 2006-2009 for submission to the Secretary of State.
2. authorise the Planning Policy Manager to alter the text of the Local Development Scheme before submission to the Secretary of State to the extent felt to be necessary in light of advice from the Government Office for South East and the Planning Inspectorate, and to make any necessary editorial corrections.



## **Introduction**

1. Executive Board is asked to approve the Local Development Scheme for submission to the Secretary of State and to authorise the Planning Policy Manager to make any editorial corrections necessary prior to submission. The approval of the LDS for submission is a function of the Executive Board, not a Council one. However, as the portfolio holder has asked that Council be aware of the contents of the LDS a letter will be sent to all Councillors advising them on the decision of Executive Board, and enclosed a copy of the approved LDS.

## **Vision and strategic aims**

2. The production of the LDS fulfils a statutory requirement and also supports the City Council's vision. The LDS sets out a schedule of documents that together will form the Local Development Framework that will help achieve all the strategic aims in the City Council's vision. The LDS and LDF will also help to deliver the key themes and priorities for the City as set out in the Community Strategy.

## **Background and context**

3. Under the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) will replace the current development plans (including the Oxford Local Plan) and will contain the detailed policies and proposals to guide development in Oxford.
4. The LDS is critical to the successful project management of the LDF, and sets out the work programme and resources required to prepare the policies and proposals.
5. Last year Executive Board and Council approved the first LDS for submission to the Secretary of State, that document covered the period 2005-2008. In order to bring the LDS forward to cover the period 2006 – 2009 and also to address issues arising from the Annual Monitoring Report, the LDS has been reviewed. This process will be carried out annually. The LDS 2006-2009 is attached to this report as Appendix 1.
6. The LDS sets a programme for the following documents to be produced during the period 2006 – 2009:
  - Statement of Community Involvement
  - Development Plan Documents:
    - Core Strategy
    - Oxford's West End Area Action Plan
    - Site Allocations
    - Transport and Accessibility
  - Supplementary Planning Documents:
    - Affordable Housing
    - Planning Obligations
    - Parking Standards, Transport Assessments, Travel Plans
    - Balance of Dwellings
    - Telecommunications

- Annual Monitoring Report.
7. There are a number of proposed amendments made to the programme in the LDS, a full explanation of these can be found in the document itself at section 7; in summary, they are as follows:
- Two additional supplementary planning documents to be produced
    - Balance of Dwellings SPD, and
    - Telecoms SPD
  - A delay of a year to the Transport and Accessibility DPD
  - Adjustments to the intermediate milestones for the production of
    - Core Strategy (preferred options consultation milestone)
    - West End AAP (preferred options consultation milestone)
    - Statement of Community Involvement (adoption milestone)

### **Consultation**

8. The LDS has been discussed with City Council colleagues in other business units and with key stakeholders. This has ensured that there is support for the approach and priorities identified, that the programme fits in with and complements the strategies and timescales of others, and that the issue of resources from sources outside the Planning Business Unit has been resolved. External bodies that have been consulted include the Government Office for the South East, the Planning Inspectorate and other statutory consultation bodies. The only response requesting amendments to the LDS came from Oxfordshire County Council.
9. The County Council seek two amendments to the programming set out in the LDS. One amendment sought is a delay in the submission of the West End AAP by six months in order to undertake further research work. The County Council propose to carry out research that would inform a review of the Oxford Transport Strategy (OTS) in the future. City Council officers consider that this work would be more appropriately fed into the Core Strategy document that covers the whole of the city, rather than into the West End AAP that only covers a part of the City centre. Whilst proposals for the West End must not prejudice future options for the OTS, the West End project will not deliver all the infrastructure required for the wider city. On this basis the officer view is that no changes are required to the AAP timeframe. Although the inter relationship between the two streams of work can be kept under review through out the next 12 months.
10. The other amendment sought by the County Council is for work on the Transport & Accessibility DPD to be brought forward to begin immediately, so that it can provide a policy framework for the proposals in the AAP. This position is in contrast to the view held by City Council officers who consider that it is appropriate to delay the production of this document for the reasons set out in paragraph 7.11 of the LDS. The County Council's reasoning is not thought to be strong enough to justify starting work on the document before the time proposed in the LDS. There is already close collaboration between the two Councils on

these various projects, which can continue effectively notwithstanding slightly different ideas on sequencing.

### **Financial and staffing implications**

11. The production of a Local Development Scheme and Local Development Framework is a key statutory function of the Council. Failure to meet the milestones set out in the LDS would result in the failure to qualify for a significant payment through the Planning Delivery Grant. The key performance indicator will be whether authorities achieve the milestones set out in their Local Development Schemes.
12. The production of documents set out in the LDS will require the current staff resources of the Planning Policy team. There may be need for further input of resources at different stages. The examination periods may require the hiring of a Planning Inspector and Programme Officer. Those costs will depend substantially upon the number of objections received and therefore the requirement for an oral hearing. Related to this, the City Council may require the services of Counsel to represent us at such a hearing, which will itself incur costs.
13. The production of some LDF documents may require the input of outside resources such as that of consultants. An example of this is the West End Area Action Plan. In such cases resources will be made available to enable work to be carried out by consultants on the City Council's behalf.

### **The next stages**

14. Following the approval of the LDS, it will be submitted to the Secretary of State via the Government Office for the South East.
15. The LDS will come into effect four weeks after being submitted unless the Secretary of State intervenes and requests more time or more work to be done. This should not occur however, as City Council officers have been in close contact with the Government Office throughout the preparation of the LDS.
16. When the LDS takes effect copies will be made available for inspection and it will be published on the City Council's website. Work will continue or begin on the documents identified in the LDS in line with the individual timeframes as set out in that document. The LDS will be reviewed and rolled forward on an annual basis.

Appendix 1: Oxford City Council Local Development Scheme 2006 - 2009

**Name and contact details of author:** Mark Jaggard (telephone 252161 - email: [mjaggard@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:mjaggard@oxford.gov.uk))

Background papers: None

