

**Report of:** Planning Services Business Manager

**To:** EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> February 2007

**Item No:**

**Title of Report :** Oxford Local Development Scheme 2007 - 2010

### Summary and Recommendations

**Purpose of report:** To consider the Oxford Local Development Scheme 2007-2010 for submission to the Secretary of State

**Key decision:** No

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor John Goddard

**Scrutiny Responsibility:** Environment

**Ward(s) affected:** All

#### Report Approved by

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor John Goddard

**Legal:** Jeremy Thomas

**Finance:** Emma Burson

**Strategic Director:** Sharon Cosgrove

#### Policy Framework:

#### Recommendation(s):

- The Executive Board are recommended to:
1. approve the Oxford Local Development Scheme 2007 – 2010 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 the South East and the Planning Inspectorate, and to make any necessary editorial corrections.

## **Summary**

1. 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, and when, Oxford City Council will be producing the various documents that will constitute the Local Development Framework (LDF).
2. Executive Board are 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.

## **Vision and strategic aims**

3. 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**

4. 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.
5. 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. The LDS covers a three-year period from 2007 – 2010 and replaces all previous versions. The LDS is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
6. The LDS sets priorities for the production of LDF documents and as such the key issues to be addressed over the next 5, 10 and 15 years have been identified. The identification of these priorities has been a development of the process begun through the production of related documents (for example the Oxford Local Plan 2001-2016, the Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2016 and the emerging South East Plan) and the LDS has drawn upon and developed this work further.
7. The Local Development Framework currently comprises:
  - Oxford Local Plan 2001-2016 (adopted 2005)
  - Statement of Community Involvement (adopted 2006)
  - Supplementary Planning Documents:
    - Affordable Housing (adopted 2006)
    - Natural Resource Impact Analysis (adopted 2006)
  - Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06 (adopted 2006)
8. This LDS sets a programme for the following documents to be produced (or commenced) during the period 2007 – 2010:

- Development Plan Documents:
  - Core Strategy
  - Oxford's West End Area Action Plan
  - Site Allocations
  - Northern Gateway Area Action Plan
- Supplementary Planning Documents:
  - Planning Obligations
  - Parking Standards, Transport Assessments, Travel Plans
  - Balance of Dwellings
  - Telecommunications
  - Flooding
  - Blackbird Leys Neighbourhood Centre
- Annual Monitoring Reports

### **Consultation**

9. 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.
10. Community involvement and consultation will be key features in the production of the LDF. The Statement of Community Involvement sets out the policy for involving communities in policy preparation and revision and in the planning application process.

### **Financial and staffing implications**

11. The production of an LDS and LDF is a key statutory function of the Council. The LDS must be submitted to the Secretary of State via the Government Office for the South East (GOSE) for approval by 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2007.
12. 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.
13. It should be noted that this is a very challenging timetable and that there is a potential risk of these projects slipping. Resources in the Planning Policy team are tight and will be stretched in order to keep to the milestones. It is considered however, that the timetables set in the LDS are achievable although there will be very little spare capacity within the team. The LDS has been drawn up with no reliance on payments from Planning Delivery Grant; should these be forthcoming, they will give us some valuable extra capacity and reduce the risk of slippage.

14. 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.
15. The production of some LDF documents may require the input of outside resources such as that of consultants. An example of this is the Flooding Supplementary Planning Document. Before the production of this document can formally begin, a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will be required for the whole city. Consultants will be commissioned to carry out this work, the findings of which will then inform the SPD.

### **The next stages**

16. Following the approval of the LDS, it will be submitted to the Secretary of State via the Government Office for the South East in time to meet the March deadline for submissions.
17. 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 and drafts have been submitted for comment throughout the preparation of the LDS.
18. 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 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 2007 – 2010**

NOTE: The appendix has been circulated to members of the Executive Board and a copy has been placed in the Members' Room. Additional copies are available upon request from the Committee Secretary (Tel:01865 252219 or email [blammin@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:blammin@oxford.gov.uk))

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**Background papers:** None

