

To: Cabinet
Date: 13 November 2019
Report of: Head of Planning
Title of Report: Oxford Local Plan Local Development Scheme 2019-22

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present the updated programme for the preparation of documents that will form the Council's Local Plan for approval.
Key decision:	Yes
Executive Board Member:	Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Planning and Regulatory Services
Corporate Priority:	A Vibrant and Sustainable Economy; Meeting Housing Needs; Strong and Active Communities; A Clean and Green Oxford.
Policy Framework:	Local Plan
Recommendation: That Cabinet resolves to:	
1. Approve the Oxford Local Development Scheme 2019-22	
Appendices	
Appendix 1	Local Development Scheme 2019-22
Appendix 2	Risk Assessment

Introduction and background

1. The Oxford Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a project plan that sets out timescales for the preparation and revision of documents in Oxford City Council's Local Plan and other planning policy documents. The term Local Plan can be used as the collective name for a number of planning policy documents, including development plan documents and supplementary planning documents. It is also the name for the document that will contain the majority of the Council's statutory planning policies.
2. The LDS provides details on what the Local Plan will contain and the geographical area it will cover. The LDS is an important tool to enable local communities and interested parties to keep track of the Local Plan documents' progress and to

ensure that they are aware of when opportunities for involvement are likely to arise. It is a statutory requirement that all local planning authorities prepare and maintain a LDS.

3. The lifespan of the Council's current LDS is 2018-21. The LDS is intended to be a dynamic document, updated at intervals to reflect the timetable for developing the Local Plan and other significant work programmes. The LDS 2019-22 will come into effect from the date of approval by Cabinet and will supersede the existing LDS 2018-21.

Oxford Local Plan 2036

4. The Council is currently in the process of producing a new Oxford Local Plan 2036, to replace most of the existing documents containing planning policy (other than Area Action Plans). The Oxford Local Plan 2036 will provide a long-term planning framework to deliver managed growth of the city to 2036. The new Local Plan will join up the Council's corporate strategies, seeking to deliver the land use and spatial elements resulting from the Corporate Plan and other corporate strategies. It will also reflect the vision or directional aspirations of the Council's wider partnership bodies including the Oxford Strategic Partnership, the Oxfordshire Growth Board and the Local Enterprise Partnership, in helping to deliver the Council's economic strategy, housing strategy and green space strategy.
5. The LDS 2019-22 amends slightly the programme for production of the Oxford Local Plan 2036. The key amendments are:

Local Plan stage	Formerly programmed for: (LDS 2018-21)	Now programmed for: (LDS 2019-22)
Estimated date of adoption and publication	December 2019	September 2020

Examination Hearings are now taking place in December 2019; therefore the timetable has required amendment to allow time for this to be undertaken and to receive the Inspectors' final report. The Local Plan timetable will still meet the milestones set out in the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth deal.

6. It is expected that the Inspectors will suggest main modifications to the Local Plan, which will be consulted on. This consultation is for the Inspectors' information and is part of the examination process so will not go to Council for approval. Therefore, once the Inspectors have communicated their proposed main modifications these can be subjected to a sustainability appraisal. National guidance states that, "A sustainability appraisal is a systematic process that must be carried out during the preparation of local plans and spatial development strategies. Its role is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will

help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives¹.” National guidance also states that, “If the plan-making body assesses that necessary changes are significant, and were not previously subject to sustainability appraisal, then further sustainability appraisal may be required and the sustainability appraisal report should be updated and amended accordingly².” The proposed main modifications and revised Sustainability Appraisal (if necessary) would be consulted on by the Council, which could be in April/May 2020. However, these timescales are indicative as the Council does not have direct control over the timescales during the examination process.

7. The Inspectors would then consider the responses to the main modifications consultation in drafting their final report. Following receipt of the Inspectors’ report and a fact check the Local Plan will need to be adopted by Council. It is intended that the draft Local Plan will be considered at a Scrutiny Committee meeting and a Cabinet meeting in August and then presented to full Council in September 2020 for adoption.

Oxfordshire Plan 2050

8. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will contain strategic policies for Oxfordshire for the period to 2050. A separate Local Development Scheme for this document will be brought to Cabinet for consideration in due course.

Financial implications

9. The financial implications arising from producing a Local Plan include the costs of a Local Plan Examination (including Counsel’s advice) and independent technical analysis of issues such as transport, environment and sustainability. Revenue to accommodate these anticipated costs was agreed in the 2016/17 budget report approved by Council.

Legal issues

10. The preparation and publication of the Local Development Scheme is a statutory requirement under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).
11. The Council is required to monitor compliance of the timescales for document production and revision set out in the LDS and to make this information publicly available. Compliance with the LDS is monitored and published through the Council’s Annual Monitoring Report.

Level of risk

12. A risk assessment has been undertaken (Appendix 2). All risks have been mitigated to an acceptable level.

Equalities impact

¹ National Planning Practice Guidance - Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 11-001-20190722

² National Planning Practice Guidance - Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 11-023-20140306

13. There are no equalities impacts arising from this report.

Report author	Keerpa Patel
Job title	Senior Planner
Service area or department	Planning Policy
Telephone	01865 335444
e-mail	kpatel@oxford.gov.uk

Background Papers: None