

**To: City Executive Board**

**Date: 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

**Item No:**

**Report of: Head of City Development**

**Title of Report: AMENDMENTS TO OXFORD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT  
SCHEME 2011-14**

### **Summary and Recommendations**

**Purpose of Report:** To approve some small amendments to the Local Development Scheme (the three-year programme for the preparation of the City Council's Local Development Framework)

**Key decision?** No

**Executive lead member:** Councillor Colin Cook

**Policy Framework:** The preparation of a Local Development Scheme is a statutory requirement. The programme of planning policy documents set out in this Local Development Scheme will help to deliver many of the objectives of Oxford City Council's Corporate Plan, the Regeneration Framework, and the Oxford Sustainable Community Strategy.

**Recommendation(s):** The City Executive Board is asked to:

1. Approve the amendments to the Oxford Local Development Scheme 2011-14 for submission to the Secretary of State;
2. Agree that the Local Development Scheme 2011-14 (as amended) will take effect four weeks after submission unless the Secretary of State intervenes and requests more time or more work to be done; and
3. Authorise the Head of City Development to make any necessary editorial corrections to the document prior to submission to the Secretary of State.

### **Introduction**

1. The purpose of this report is for City Executive Board to consider proposed amendments to 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, the City Council will be producing the various documents that make up the Local Development Framework.

2. City Executive Board is asked to approve the LDS as amended for submission to the Secretary of State and to authorise the Head of City Development to make any editorial corrections necessary prior to submission.
3. 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.

### **Background and context**

4. The LDS is a project plan for preparing planning documents and provides the starting point for the local community to find out what the City Council's current planning policies are for the area. It includes 'milestones' to inform the public and stakeholders about opportunities to get involved with the plan making process and to let them know the likely dates for involvement.
5. The current LDS was approved by City Executive Board in September 2011. It sets out a programme for the following documents to be produced (or commenced) during the period 2011-14:
  - Barton Area Action Plan DPD
  - Sites and Housing DPD
  - Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule
  - Northern Gateway Area Action Plan DPD
  - Development Management DPD
  - Section 106 and Affordable Housing SPD
  - Low Carbon (including Natural Resource Impact Analysis) SPD

### **Proposed amendments to the LDS**

6. Since the LDS was approved it has become necessary to make some changes in the timetables proposed for the Barton Area Action Plan, the Sites and Housing DPD, the Northern Gateway Area Action Plan, the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule and the S106 and Affordable Housing SPD.
7. Work has been progressing well on the Barton AAP and the Sites and Housing DPD and both will be submitted for examination shortly. The proposed amendments allow for a slight change to the submission of the Barton AAP of a month, and a delay of two months to the submission of the Sites and Housing DPD. This would enable all the preparations for submission to be completed thoroughly and would also align with the procedures of the Planning Inspectorate where two documents are examined in close succession. These changes would not affect subsequent project milestones.
8. Work on the Northern Gateway AAP has been delayed as the necessary external funding for the AAP has not yet been received and as such work cannot be commenced. It is not clear at this point when work may be able to be commenced on this project so the proposed amendment is for delay of

six months until July 2012. This commencement date will be revised if the funding becomes available before July 2012.

9. Work on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule is progressing. It is proposed that an amendment to the timetable will allow the opportunity to gather further economic viability evidence to inform the document.
10. Work on the S106 and Affordable Housing SPD is dependent on the outcome of the Sites and Housing DPD and must tie in with work on CIL therefore it is proposed to amend the SPD timetable to correspond to these projects.
11. It is therefore proposed that the timetables are amended as follows:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Proposed amendment</b>
Barton AAP	Submission in April 2012 (was March 2012)
Sites & Housing DPD	Submission in May 2012 (was March 2012)
Northern Gateway AAP	Commencement in July 2012 (was January 2012) – all subsequent milestones also amended
CIL Charging Schedule	Publish draft in September 2012 (was July 2012)
	Submission in November 2012 (was September 2012)
S106 & Affordable Housing SPD	Commencement in October 2012 (was April 2012) – all subsequent milestones also amended

12. These amendments require the following changes to the LDS:
  - Text change to paragraph 2.12 – “Work on this AAP is programmed to commence in ~~July-January~~ 2012.”
  - Updates to Appendix 1: Schedule of all documents in the LDF
  - Updates to Appendix 2: Profiles for the preparation of each Local Development Document
  - Updates to Appendix 5: Gantt chart of the LDS work schedule
13. City Executive Board is asked to approve the amended LDS for submission to the Secretary of State and to authorise the Head of City Development to make any editorial corrections necessary prior to submission.

**Level of risk**

14. A full risk assessment was undertaken as part of the LDS and is included at Section 3 of the LDS itself. The proposed amendments themselves do not add anything to the level of risk already assessed.

**Climate change/environmental impact**

15. This report has no direct climate change or environmental impacts since it merely sets out amendments to a work programme.

### **Equalities impact**

16. This report has no direct equalities impacts since it merely sets out amendments to a work programme.

### **Financial and staffing implications**

17. The amendments proposed in this report do not have any financial or staffing implications. The implications of the LDS as a whole were considered in the September CEB report.

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**List of background papers:** None

**Version number:** 1