

**Report of: Executive Member for Housing and Development**

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Ward(s)</b>
Executive	16 July 2015	All

<b>Delete as appropriate</b>		Non-exempt
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## **SUBJECT: Local Development Scheme 2015**

### **1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Executive approval for the revised Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS is the work programme which sets out how the Council will prepare and review its Local Plan and other planning guidance. Islington's adopted Local Plan comprises a number of separate Development Plan Documents including the Core Strategy, Development Management Policies, Site Allocations, Finsbury Local Plan and the North London Waste Plan ( currently in preparation). The LDS also sets out which Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) will be prepared and/or reviewed over the next three years.
- 1.2 Local authorities are required by statute to prepare and maintain an up-to-date LDS. The Executive approved the last version of the Local Development Scheme in May 2013.
- 1.3 The LDS requires revision in order to set out the timescale for a limited review of the Core Strategy, and any necessary changes to other parts of the Local Plan. Amending the LDS will also allow the document to reflect the revised timetable for the North London Waste Plan. Further, the revised LDS includes up-to-date timescales for the preparation of new Supplementary Planning Documents, such as Guidance on Basements and Viability and for the review of the existing Urban Design Guide. Finally, this Report lists existing out-of-date planning documents which it is proposed to withdraw and which will no longer be used in the planning process.
- 1.4 Following enactment of the Localism Act 2012, the Council is no longer required to submit the LDS to the Mayor of London and Secretary of State prior to its approval. However, the Mayor and Secretary of State retain the ability to direct changes to the LDS for the purposes of ensuring effective coverage of the authority's area by the development plan documents taken as a whole.

- 1.5 The Local Plan describes how the Council will exercise its statutory plan-making powers. Extensive consultation is carried out on component parts of the Local Plan at key stages in their development. Publication of the LDS supports the Council's fairness priority as it gives residents advance notice of publication of planning documents, thus increasing their ability to participate in consultation.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 To approve and bring into immediate effect the Local Development Scheme 2015 as set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 To agree to cancel the out-of-date planning documents listed in Appendix 2 of this report.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 Local planning authorities are required to prepare an up-to-date work programme called the Local Development Scheme (LDS). Its main purpose is to provide a mechanism for the local community to find out about Local Plan documents and planning guidance that the Council intends to review or produce over the coming three years. The LDS can be reviewed at any time.
- 3.3 Although the Council's Core Strategy was adopted in February 2011, prior to the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework, it is considered up-to-date and the Council has implemented and defended the policies contained in the Core Strategy reasonably successfully. However, the Core Strategy (and the evidence behind it) need to be kept up-to-date. It is therefore intended that the Council will commence work on a partial review of the Core Strategy during 2015 with a view to have a revised strategy adopted by early 2018. The Council adopted the Finsbury Local Plan, Development Management Policies and Site Allocations in June 2013, which contain further detailed policies on how the Core Strategy will be delivered. These three documents may need to be amended to reflect any changes to the Core Strategy.
- 3.4 The revised LDS also includes up-to-date timescales for the preparation of new Supplementary Planning Documents, such as Guidance on Basements, as well as for the review of the existing SPDs such as Urban Design Guide.
- 3.5 Some existing guidance documents are several years old and as a result, are now out-of-date. The out-of-date Supplementary Planning Documents, Supplementary Planning Guidance, planning briefs and other planning guidance which are proposed to be cancelled and no longer be used in the planning process are listed in Appendix 2 of this report.
- 3.6 Following enactment of the Localism Act 2011, the Council is no longer required to submit the LDS to the Mayor of London and Secretary of State prior to its approval. However, the Mayor of London and the Secretary of State retain the right to direct a change to a council's LDS, for the purposes of ensuring effective coverage of the authority's area by the development plan documents (taken as a whole) for that area.

## **4. Implications**

### **4.1 Financial implications:**

The LDS is a three year work programme, which covers the period 2015 to 2018. The work programme set out in the LDS will be funded through the Planning and Development Division revenue budget. Some aspect of the LDS may need to be reprioritised and reprogrammed if the future budget is unable to support the full programme.

### **4.2 Legal Implications:**

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 S15 requires a local planning authority to prepare and maintain a local development scheme. The scheme must specify the local development documents which are to be development plan documents; the subject matter and geographical area to which

each development plan document is to relate, which development plan documents are to be prepared jointly with one or more other local planning authorities and the timetable for the preparation and revision of the development plan documents.

To bring the scheme into effect, the local planning authority must resolve that the scheme is to have effect and in the resolution specify the date from which the scheme is to have effect.

#### 4.3 **Environmental Implications:**

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) itself is simply a work programme for the preparation of future Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents, which will be subject to Sustainability Appraisal /Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) requirements in due course. As such the LDS itself therefore does not have any environmental implications.

4.4 As regards the cancellation of out-of-date planning documents listed in Appendix 2, there are no significant environmental impacts arising from the decision to formally cancel the documents in question. The planning documents listed in Appendix 2 have been either implemented (ie. the development scheme which the planning guidance related to has been built out), are out-of-date and/or have been superseded by new Local Plan policies or supplementary planning documents, whose environmental implications had been assessed during their preparation in line with relevant SA/SEA requirements.

#### 4.5 **Residents Impact Assessment:**

The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The Council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The Council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

4.6 An RIA has not been completed for the LDS as it is a work programme document (i.e. it is not in itself a policy or programme). Each of the Local Plan and supplementary planning documents within the work programme will be subject to an RIA during their production.

4.7 As regards the cancellation of out-of-date planning documents listed in Appendix 2, a Residents Impact Assessment screening of the decision to cancel the documents in question has been undertaken. The RIA screening has found no negative or positive impacts arising from the decision.

## 5. **Conclusion and recommendations**


5.1 The revision of the Local Development Scheme is required in order to set out a timescale for a limited review of Islington's Local Plan, and for the preparation and review of Supplementary Planning Documents. In addition, this report sets out details of supplementary planning documents, planning briefs and other guidance which it is proposed be no longer used in the decision making process. It is recommended that the draft Local Development Scheme 2015 be approved and brought into effect immediately. It is also recommended that existing out-of-date planning documents listed in Appendix 2 be cancelled.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 - Local Development Scheme 2015
- Appendix 2 - Schedule of existing Islington planning documents being cancelled in July 2015

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



3 July 2015

Executive Member for Housing and  
Development

Date

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