

Report of: Executive Member for Housing and Development

Executive	Date: 21 April 2016		Ward(s): All
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SUBJECT: Local Development Scheme 2016

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 July 2015.
- 1.3 The LDS requires revision in order to set out the timescale for the 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. Furthermore, the revised LDS includes up-to-date timescales for the preparation of new or revision of existing Supplementary Planning Documents, such as Islington's Urban Design Guide.
- 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 LDS 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 2016 as set out in Appendix 1.

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 (NPPF) in 2012, it is still considered up-to-date and the Council has implemented and defended the policies contained in the Core Strategy largely successfully. 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, and these have been fully tested against the NPPF. However, the Local Plan and the evidence behind it need to be kept up-to-date.
- 3.4 In addition, the planning system is currently undergoing significant reforms. These are being introduced via the Housing and Planning Bill 2016 and the associated regulations which are yet to be published, as well as through changes proposed to the National Planning Policy Framework which were consulted on between December 2015 and February 2016.
- 3.5 In light of the above, the Council intends to review the Core Strategy as well as parts of the other three elements of the existing Local Plan listed above. It is likely that the Core Strategy and the Development Management Policies will be merged into a single Plan, whilst the Finsbury Local Plan and the Site Allocations are likely to remain as stand-alone documents. During 2015 the Council focused on evidence gathering, which will be continuing throughout 2016 and into 2017. The Council will also commence the formal process of reviewing the Local Plan during 2016 with a view to have a revised Plan adopted by end of 2018/early 2019.
- 3.6 The revised LDS also includes up-to-date timescales for the preparation of new Supplementary Planning Documents, as well as for the review of the existing SPDs such as the Islington Urban Design Guide.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications:

The LDS is a three year work programme, which covers the period 2016 to 2018/19. 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.

4.5 **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.

5. **Conclusion and recommendations**

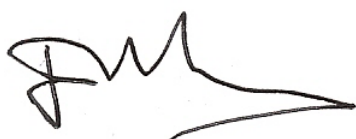
5.1 The revision of the Local Development Scheme is required in order to set out an updated timescale for the review of Islington's Local Plan, and for the preparation and review of Supplementary Planning Documents. It is recommended that the draft Local Development Scheme 2016 be approved and brought into effect immediately.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Local Development Scheme 2016

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



6 April 2016

Executive Member for Housing and
Development

Date

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