

Community Wealth Building  
Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD

Report of: Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance

Meeting of: Executive

Date: 23.03.2023

Ward(s): All

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## Subject: Local Development Scheme 2023

### 1. Synopsis

- 1.1. The Local Development Scheme (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 recently adopted North London Waste Plan. The Local Plan is supported by various Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which provide additional guidance on Local Plan policies.
- 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 September 2021.
- 1.3. The LDS requires revision in order to set out the timescale for the final stages of the review and the adoption of the Local Plan. Further, the revised LDS includes timescales for the preparation of new or revision of existing Supplementary Planning Documents.
- 1.4. 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 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 undertaken on component parts of the Local Plan at key stages in their development. Publication of the LDS gives residents and interested parties advance notice of publication of planning documents, thus increasing their ability to participate in consultation.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1. To approve and bring into immediate effect the Local Development Scheme 2023, as set out in Appendix 1. In terms of the Local Plan itself, we are targeting Summer 2023 for adoption of the Plan.

## 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 and interested parties 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.
- 3.2. A review of the Local Plan is currently progressing with the draft Local Plan at Examination. The previous version of the LDS set out anticipated timescales for the adoption of the plan, however these timescales are no longer up to date due to delays to the Local Plan examination process as a result of the need to undertake further work to try and identify Gypsy and Traveller sites and an extended consultation period on Main Modifications. This must also summarise any alternative options considered, if any. It is anticipated that the Planning Inspectors will issue their binding report in the Spring of 2023 and, if the plan is found sound, the can be formally adopted by the council in the Summer of 2023.
- 3.3. The revised LDS also includes up-to-date timescales for the preparation of new Supplementary Planning Documents.
- 3.4. The updated LDS at Appendix 1 focuses solely on statutory documents (i.e. those that are specifically governed by legislation) and does not include any non-statutory documents.

## 4. Implications

### 4.1. Financial Implications

- 4.1.1. The LDS is a work programme. The work programme set out in the LDS will be funded through the Planning and Development budget. Some aspects 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**

4.2.1. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 S15 requires a local planning authority to prepare and maintain an LDS. 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.

4.2.2. 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 and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030**

4.3.1. The 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 does not have any environmental implications.

#### **4.4. Equalities Impact Assessment**

4.4.1. 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.

4.4.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required in relation to this report, because for the LDS as it is a work programme document (i.e. it is not in itself a policy or programme). All documents to be prepared which are identified within the work programme will be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment screening/Equalities Impact Assessment as appropriate during their production.

## 5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

- 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. It is recommended that the draft Local Development Scheme 2023 be approved and brought into effect at the Executive meeting on 23 March 2023.

### Appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Local Development Scheme 2023

### Final report clearance:

Authorised by: Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance

Date: 8 March 2023

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