

Item No. N/a	Classification: Open	Date: 21 September 2020	Decision Taker: Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Planning & Transport
Report title:		Local Development Scheme January 2020 – June 2023	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Chief Executive	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Local Development Scheme (“LDS”) appended to this report as Appendix 1 and 2 is brought into effect in September 2020.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Local planning authorities are required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to maintain their local plans and are recommended to publish a timetable for the production of future planning documents which become part of the Local Plan. This is currently the Core Strategy, saved policies from the Southwark Plan and adopted Area Action Plans. These documents set out the strategy for development and detailed policies for making decisions on planning applications.
3. The document setting out the timetable is known as the LDS. This LDS will replace the December 2019 LDS. The next step is for the LDS to be formally brought into effect and published on the council’s website. This requires a formal decision by the Executive Member.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. National planning policy places Local Plans at the heart of the planning system so it is essential that they are in place and up to date. Local Plans set out a vision and a framework for the future development of the area, addressing future needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure as well as a basis for safeguarding the environment, adapting to climate change and securing good design.
5. The New Southwark Plan will set out the strategy for development for Southwark with policies, masterplans, maps and evidence. These will be used to determine the type of development that can take place so that developments enhance our diverse areas. This will replace the Saved Southwark Plan 2010, Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and the Core Strategy. These Plans should deal with land-use and development whilst also reflecting other strategies of the council and of other agencies. They should also focus on implementation and set out delivery mechanisms as drivers for change.
6. The Old Kent Road has been designated as an Opportunity Area in the London Plan. The development will be a significant regeneration opportunity with 20,000

new homes, new offices, town centres and supporting infrastructure including the Bakerloo line planned. An Area Action Plan/Opportunity Area Framework is planned to set the policy framework for development.

7. The LDS sets out the timetable for preparing the Local Plan. The proposed timetable will contribute to ensuring that Southwark has an effective strategy to adopt up to date documents that provide an effective set of policies for decision making on planning applications. It will also ensure that we have adopted strategies for regeneration within Southwark and for protecting and improving our varied areas.
8. The New Southwark Plan will go through another round of consultation between 28 August – 26 October 2020, this is in response to the Inspector's letter (EIP) requesting further supporting information/evidence to the Plan and the Covid-19 crisis making the initial timetable for an Examination in Public (EIP) no longer feasible. The NPPF update sets out that Local Plans should be more responsive with regular updates and a 5 year review rather than preparation of a new plan every 5 years. The LDS has been updated to show the new approach with amendments every 6 months rather than a 5 year update. The amended policies are likely to be for Gypsies and Travellers, Climate Emergency and Town Centres.
9. The Old Kent Road AAP and the SPDs have been rescheduled at the earliest opportunity following the EIP on the NSP and the adoption of the NSP.
10. The Gypsy and Travellers DPD has been removed and this will be part of the new process of 6 month amendments.

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT/EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

11. The LDS sets out the timetable and priorities for the preparation of Southwark's planning documents. The planning documents that are programmed in this scheme will, therefore, have significant impacts on the achievement of the Council's vision. All local development documents are required to undergo a sustainability appraisal, which will include appraisals of social as well as economic and environmental impacts, and to comply with the requirements of the Statement of Community Involvement for meaningful public participation. They will also have to have community impact statements and, where appropriate, an equalities impact assessment will be carried out.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

12. The LDS is required to identify the resources needed to complete the programme and these are all being met from existing budgets. It is also required to provide a clear understanding of the risks involved so that there is a good degree of confidence in the authority's ability to deliver once it has been brought into effect.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

13. The LDS (in the Appendix to this report) provides further details as to the changes proposed for the various planning documents which are intended to be

introduced in Southwark. The LDS also sets out the proposed timescale. Such detailed programming is necessary since section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (PCPA 2004) requires a local authority to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme. The PCPA 2004 provides that the LDS must identify:

- Which documents are part of the Local Plan and which are SPDs
 - The subject matter and geographical area to which each document relates
 - Which documents (if any) are to be prepared jointly with one or more other local planning authority
 - The timetable for the preparation and revision of the development plan documents.
14. Accordingly, the LDS explains how the different DPDs and SPDs relate both to each other and to the Core Strategy, also suggesting the subject matter and geographical area to which each document relates by its document title. In addition the LDS sets out the timetable for producing DPDs and gives timings for the achievement of the following milestones i.e. consulting statutory bodies on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal as well as the publication, submission and adoption of the DPDs. It also sets out the timetable for producing SPDs and gives timings for publications of drafts and adoption of SPDs. No documents are to be prepared jointly with any other local planning authority.
15. The report refers to the proposals for community engagement. The National Planning Policy Framework provides guidance and emphasises at paragraph 16 that plans should be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan makers and communities. Whilst there is considerable flexibility open to local planning authorities in how they carry out the initial stages of plan production, regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 requires notification to specific consultation bodies and members of the public as to what the local plan should contain and the Council will have a duty to take into account any representation made in this respect.
16. The processes required to be undertaken in the formulation of local development documents has been outlined in the LDS itself. Equality Impact Assessments are undertaken as part of the preparation of local development documents to ensure that they are in accordance with the Council's 'Approach to Equalities' document. An equalities impact assessment is therefore not required for the LDS but future monitoring of the implementation and effectiveness of the local development framework will provide evidence to support changes that could be made to existing policies or proposals for new policies in relation to equalities.
17. Decisions regarding planning policy potentially engage certain human rights under the Human Rights Act 2008 (the HRA). The statutory planning process is designed to ensure conformity with the HRA and as such no human rights concerns arise here.
18. Under Part 3D, paragraph 9 of the Southwark Constitution, the Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Planning and Transport has authority to agree policy and performance priorities for the short to medium term, in relation to his area of responsibility and taking into account the needs of the Council as a whole. Therefore, the decision to bring the revised LDS into effect is within the Member's constitutional remit and they may bring the revised LDS into effect as

referred to in the recommendation contained in paragraph 1 of this report.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (PW18/003)

19. This report is requesting the Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Planning and Transport to agree the Local Development Scheme (LDS) as detailed in the appendix 1 and 2 to be brought into effect at the beginning of September 2020.
20. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that there are no immediate resource implications arising from this report as the additional work required on the production of future planning documents will be contained within the existing departmental revenue budgets.
21. Staffing and any other costs connected with this report to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	Local Development Scheme January 2020 to December 2022
Appendix B	Local Development Scheme Timetable

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Simon Bevan, Director of Planning	
Report Author	Juliet Seymour, Planning Policy Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	16 September 2020	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		16 September 2020