

REPORT TITLE: REVISED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

10 AUGUST 2023

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR JACKIE PORTER, CABINET MEMBER FOR PLACE AND LOCAL PLAN

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WARD(S): ALL (TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY ARE NOT WITHIN THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK)

PURPOSE

The Council has a statutory duty under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) to maintain an up-to-date Local Development Scheme (LDS). The revised LDS attached to this report (Appendix 2) would fulfil this requirement including by setting out an adjusted timetable for the production of the Council's Local Plan. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to this revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) which was previously brought into effect in July 2021 and to set out the factors that have resulted in the need to revise the LDS.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the revised Winchester District Local Development Scheme August 2023, as set out in Appendix 2 to this Report, be approved and brought into immediate effect; and
3. That authority is delegated to the Strategic Planning Manager, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan, to undertake minor updating and drafting of any amendments required prior to publication.

IMPLICATIONS:

1 COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

- 1.1 Tackling the Climate Emergency and Creating a Greener District
- 1.2 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the timetable for the preparation and adoption of the Local Plan which is a statutory requirement of Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The preparation of the Local Plan must comply with the requirements of national planning legislation and the need to deliver sustainable development which encompasses all considerations in relation to the built and natural environment.
- 1.3 The LDS does not include any Local Plan policies on tackling the climate emergency and creating a greener district as this is the role of the Local Plan. The draft Regulation 18 Local Plan was prepared through the climate emergency lens. It is important that the Local Plan is read as a whole as there are a number of policies in the plan that will, when it is adopted, contribute towards dramatically cutting the district's carbon footprint and assist the Council to become carbon neutral by 2024 and achieve the same position for the district by 2030.
- 1.4 Homes for all
- 1.5 It is the role of the Local Plan rather than the LDS to determine where and how much residential development should be located in the district outside the South Downs National Park. The number of new homes that we need to plan for is set by the government by its standard method (currently 692 dwellings per year). The government requires all authorities in the country to have a five-year rolling supply of housing land. The Local Plan includes a development strategy and identifies the quantum of housing that will be required predominantly in Winchester, the market towns, and larger villages, to meet the government target for our district.
- 1.6 Vibrant Local Economy
- 1.7 Whilst this is not a matter for the LDS, creating a vibrant economy is a really important matter for the Local Plan. The Local Plan identifies how we will enable Winchester District to continue to have a vibrant economy by providing opportunities for new purpose-built employment space, the sustainable consolidation and expansion of existing businesses, and preservation of current employment floor space whilst seeking to protect and enhance our town and other centres which provide a range of facilities and services.
- 1.8 It is important that the Local Plan that is submitted to an Inspector for the Local Plan Examination is based on a sound evidence base that is up-to-date. Both the Retail and Employment studies were concluded at the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020. As these studies needed to be refreshed and updated, consultants have been appointed to prepare a Town centre and Employment

update. The revised LDS has factored in when the findings from these two reports will be made available and they can be incorporated in the Regulation 19 Local Plan.

1.9 Living Well

1.10 It is the role of the of the Local Plan rather than LDS to identify how developers need to achieve high quality, well-designed places which are all a critical part of place making and an integral component of climate change and the city council's journey to net-zero and health and wellbeing agendas. Allied to this an important function of the new Local Plan is that it needs to fully consider and address how development can help meet the needs of our residents including age ranges, genders and ability which have been incorporated into a topic on High Quality, Well-Designed Places and Living Well.

1.11 Your Services, Your Voice

1.12 Whilst there is no legal requirement to consult on the Local Development Scheme, the Local Plan has been developed using a variety of engagement and consultation techniques. A key part of the plan making process is to seek early and open engagement on the content and shape of the draft Local Plan which is one of the reasons the LDS must be kept up-to-date so that people are kept informed about progress on the Local Plan and the next steps.

1.13 At the heart of any new plan is the development strategy for the district and options were consulted upon as part of the Strategic Issues & Priorities Document (SIP) in 2020 and feedback that has been received on the draft Regulation 18 Plan. All of this information will be used to inform the Regulation 19 Local Plan.

2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

2.1 The resources for the preparation of the various elements of the Local Plan is approved as part of the budget process.

2.2 The Local Plan had an earmarked reserve balance of £290k at the start of 2022/23 along with a baseline revenue budget of £36,700. The current forecast for external expenditure supporting the current local plan has recently increased in order to be able to deal with the additional unforeseen cost of changes such as the introduction of the requirement to have additional studies (e.g. Local Plan Viability Assessment, undertaking more work on Sustainability Appraisal and employing Counsel) and for additional research to be prepared on introducing energy efficiency standards and on embodied carbon, This is in addition to in-house resources to operate the Local Plan team.

2.3 The local plan spending forecast has been updated to reflect the additional requirements and this has flagged a shortfall in funding for 2024/25. In addition to this it is important to start planning for the next five year local plan

period, historically funding has been made available in earmarked reserves in advance of the five year work plan. Plans to address these shortfalls are presented to September Cabinet within the General Fund Outturn report.

3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Having an up-to-date LDS is a fundamental element of the Local Plan process and it is a requirement to submit the LDS at submission stage to the Planning Inspectorate. Maintaining an up-to-date LDS is one of the first tests of soundness at the Local Plan examination as it is statutory requirement under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). It is, therefore, essential that it is kept under review and updated accordingly.
- 3.2 The Local Plan must be prepared in line with the process set out in national legislation/regulations and can only be adopted by the Council if it is found to be legally compliant and sound by a Planning Inspector that is appointed by the Secretary of State to conduct a public examination.

4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Strategic Planning Team leads the preparation of the Local Plan and associated documents that are included in the LDS. This includes commissioning consultants and working with colleagues across the whole of the council, neighbouring local planning authorities under the Duty to Co-operate, statutory agencies (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency et al) and the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH).
- 4.2 The resource available to the team are kept under review to ensure the plan process remains on track culminating in adoption of the new plan. As all the Strategic Planning team are employed directly by the Council, there are no workforce implications for the extension to the timeline but the longer the timeframe, there is a risk of staff leaving or leaving as a result of retirement.

5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Once the Local Plan has been adopted, it will be the statutory Development Plan which means that any applications that come forward that are made by council, or involve land in our ownership, will need to be assessed against the policies and proposals in the Plan.
- 5.2 The LDS does not contain any Local Plan policies that have property and asset implications.

6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 There is no requirement to consult on the LDS, however, the Council is required to make it publicly available and keep it up to date. Discussions have taken place with the Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan regarding the content of this revised LDS. An all Member briefing will be

arranged prior to the Cabinet meeting. An email alert will also be sent to Parish and Town Councils and organisations that are registered to receive updates on the Local Plan will be notified about the Cabinet meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.2 The Council's declaration of climate emergency is a defining issue for the Regulation 18 Local Plan in terms of how the Plan can support the objective of dramatically cutting the district's emissions. The preparation of the Local Plan must comply with the requirements of national planning legislation and the need to deliver sustainable development which encompasses all considerations in relation to the built and natural environment.

7 PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

- 7.1 The LDS does not introduce new policy. However, undertaking an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is a key part of preparing a 'sound' Local Plan and has been factored into the timetable that has been included in LDS. The Local Plan process needs to ensure that the issues and options that are considered during the process do not lead to direct and indirect discrimination, and should advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those with a 'protected characteristic' (race, age, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy or maternity) and all others.
- 7.2 The same consultants have been appointed to undertake an EqIA and Health Impact Assessment, alongside the Sustainability Appraisal and the Habitats Regulations Assessment cited above, under the umbrella of the IIA for the SA and EqIA.
- 7.3 The Local Plan will be subject to and required to publish equality impact assessments to ensure that the policies and proposals are consistent with the Council's Equality Policy.

8 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 Not Applicable. The LDS is a project management tool that sets out the timetable for the Local Plan.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 The production of a Local Plan requires consideration of the potential risks involved in its preparation. These vary from local matters such as changes in staffing levels or political / administrative changes to those of regional or national significance including publication of revised government guidance and changes to the plan making system.

- 9.2 The current Local Plan covers the period 2019 to 2039. The current LDS identifies that the Local Plan would be adopted in August 2024. The end date of the Local Plan is important as it a requirement by government that Local Plans cover a minimum of 15 years from the date of adoption.
- 9.3 Extending the timetable for preparing the Local Plan, which this paper is recommending, would mean that the end date of the Local Plan would need to be amended to cover the period 2020 – 2040. There is a potential risk with extending the Plan period as the Council would not be able to count the housing completions that took place in 2019 (643 dwellings). However, as housing completions at the Major Development Areas at Whiteley and the West of Waterlooville are both delivering significant housing completions, Officers consider that this risk would not have an impact on the housing buffer in the Regulation 18 Local Plan (1,450 dwellings). Allied to this, the longer that it takes the Council to adopt the Local Plan means that:
- it continues to be important that the Council is able to demonstrate that it can maintain a 5 year housing supply so that existing Local Plan policies are not superseded by any changes in the National Planning Policy Framework (maintaining a 5 year housing land supply is becoming increasingly harder due to the impacts of nutrient neutrality);
 - the longer it will take for the Council to start implementing new Local Plan policies such as the policies on energy efficiency standards and raising the bar on design issues; and
 - Developers who have sites that are allocated for development in the Regulation 18 Local Plan may start submitting planning applications in advance of the Local Plan being adopted which relates to the point above about being able to maintain a 5 year housing land supply.
- 9.4 The LDS at Appendix 2 includes a matrix at Table 1 which identifies a range of potential risks involved with preparing a Local Plan, their impact and likelihood of occurrence together with contingency and mitigation measures. A more detailed risk assessment will need to be prepared as there are a several strands of work that need to align for the delivery of this revised timetable.

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
Financial Exposure	Funding for the preparation of the Local Plan comes out of Local Plan budget and vacancy savings across Built Environment Service. Funding for Local Plan Review is expected to be covered by the earmarked reserve which	Joint commissioning of research with neighbouring authorities for example, through the Partnership with South Hampshire (PfSH).

	<p>have been increased to consider new Evidence Base that needed to be commissioned in order for the Local Plan to be adopted.</p>	
Exposure to challenge	<p>Ensure the Plan making process follows national planning legislation. Furthermore, the draft Local Plan has been subject to review by Counsel who has been retained by the Council to assist Officers with the production of the Local Plan and the Local Plan Examination. The longer it takes for the Local Plan to be adopted the longer it will take to start implementing new Local Plan policies such as the policies on energy efficiency standards and raising the bar on design issues.</p> <p>In order to help reduce the risk of challenge, a PINS Advisory meeting took place on the 15th June 2023. The meeting discussed the emerging Local Plan and representations/issues that came out of the Regulation 18 Local Plan consultation process.</p>	<p>There is great opportunity through the Local Plan making process to engage with a wide range of people on the future development of the district.</p>
Innovation	<p>Ensuring that the Council is creative in the way that it engages with as many people as possible and reaching out to hard to reach groups is a key part of the Local Plan process. Publicity and the methods</p>	<p>The opportunity has been taken to change the presentation of the Local Plan to make it more appealing and interesting to a wide range of audiences. Several changes have been made</p>

	<p>of Local Plan engagement will be a key component of this. This needs to build on the RTPI awards that given for the local plan engagement strategy that was developed for the Strategic Issues and Priorities public consultation.</p>	<p>to the stand-alone Local Plan website to support the branding 'Your Place, Your Plan' building upon the earlier success of the SIP consultation/Regulation 18 Local Plan consultation. This will be developed further with the publication of the Regulation 19 Local Plan.</p>
Reputation	<p>Producing a 'sound' Local Plan is one of the city council's biggest corporate priorities. The development of the Local Plan needs to undergo various statutory stages, and, in this respect, it is essential that there are various checks put in place to make sure that it follows the correct procedure. This includes asking for advice from a leading KC at key stages of the Local Plan process and allowing time for key parts of the Local Plan Evidence Base (e.g. the Strategic Transport Assessment) to be completed.</p>	<p>The preparation of the Local Plan is a great opportunity to reach out and engage with as many people as possible. Developing a new Local website and the Local Development Scheme and Local Plan are kept up to-date to ensure that the Council communicates when people can get involve and provide feedback on the Local Plan.</p> <p>Engaging with the local community is a real opportunity as it will clearly set out the Council vision for the district up to 2039 bringing with it certainty and investment to the area. The success of this public engagement process can then be replicated by other departments within the Council.</p>
Achievement of outcome	<p>The Plan needs to go through various statutory stages and it will be necessary to ensure that</p>	<p>The Council has declared a climate emergency and there is a great opportunity to provide</p>

	all of the appropriate steps are undertaken in order to provide a 'sound' Local Plan. This can only be achieved if the Local Plan is underpinned by an Evidence Base and sufficient time is allowed for this to be incorporated into the Local Plan.	leadership in terms of not only the presentation and policies of the Local Plan, which seek to reduce/minimise the impact of new development on the environment, but also how the Council engages with the local community and other interested parties.
Property	n/a	n/a
Community Support	Develop a Local Plan programme that allows sufficient time for the consultation and assessment of responses to the consultation and other subsequent key stages that require further consultation. The Local Plan process is required to comply with several statutory stages of publication. Officers will learn from the previous consultation and identify a range of different engagement methods that reach out to the widest range of people and stakeholders, local community groups	Ensure that the communication methods used for consultation are relevant to the task and ensure those interested in the plan making process are kept up-dated and are provided with opportunities to participate building on recent work undertaken by the Council such as the Winchester Vision 2030, the SIP and the Regulation 18 Local Plan consultation.
Timescales	Ensure that there is sufficient capacity in the Strategic Planning team to be able to progress the Local Plan and timings are realistic as set out in the Local Development Scheme. Using additional temporary resources to keep the Local Plan on the project timetable on track if required although	The LDS needs to be kept up-to date and adjusted if necessary to take into account and address new issues such as nutrients.

	this is becoming increasingly harder due to the lack of people with Local Plan experience.	
Project capacity	Ensure that the necessary resources are available. See above commentary on Timescales and Financial Exposure	Work with colleagues, neighbouring authorities through joint commissioning of evidence studies including, for example, the work on PfSH.

10 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

10.1 **Regulation 19 Local Plan**

10.2 The Regulation 19 Local Plan will need to be agreed by Cabinet/Full Council as this is the version of the Local Plan that the Council would like examined. In order to avoid the situation that the Local Plan is found 'unsound' by an Inspector all of the necessary evidence base and various documents that need to be prepared (e.g. Statements of Common Ground) need to be completed and available on the Council website. This is why all the evidence base needs to be up to date and matters such as fulfilling the Duty to Cooperate need to be completed as these matters cannot be resolved at the Local Plan Examination.

10.3 Due to factors which are listed below a revised LDS being proposed in this paper is recommending:

- a) From Quarter 2 (July to September) 2023 to Quarter 4 (January to March) 2023/24 – completion of the work that is outlined in paragraphs 10.12 -10.48 of this Report.
- b) Quarter 1 (April to June) 2024 – approval sought from Cabinet/Full Council to consult on the Regulation 19 Local Plan.
- c) Quarter 2 (July to September) 2024 – public consultation on the Regulation 19 Local Plan.
- d) Quarter 3 (October to December) 2024 – submission of the Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate.
- e) Quarter 4 (Jan to March) 2024/25 – Local Plan Examination.
- f) Quarter 1 (April to June) 2025 – Consultation on the Main Modifications.
- g) Quarter 3 (Oct to Dec) 2025 – Inspector's Report
- h) Quarter 3 (Oct to Dec) 2025 – Adoption of the Local Plan.

10.4 These key stages are outlined in a diagram in the LDS that is attached at Appendix 2.

10.5 **What is the purpose of the LDS?**

- 10.6 The LDS is effectively a project plan that sets out the timetable to produce the Local Plan. The LDS is required under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011). The LDS must specify (among other matters) the documents which, when prepared, will comprise the Local Plan for the area. It must be made publicly available on the Council's website and be kept up-to-date to enable local communities and interested parties to keep track of progress.
- 10.7 The LDS is important in the context of communication and transparency. The local community, businesses and others with an interest in the future planning of the District must be properly informed of the planning documents that the Council intends to produce and the timescale for their preparation, consultation and adoption.
- 10.8 Consultations on the Local Plan will continue to be advertised and interested parties notified in accordance with the Council's Adopted Statement of Community Involvement. The LDS provides information about when consultations are likely to happen.
- 10.9 The LDS is also a useful tool for establishing and reflecting the Council's priorities and enables work programmes to be set for the preparation of planning documents. It also provides a context for the review of planning documents once they have been prepared.
- 10.10 **The existing LDS**
- 10.11 The current LDS was last updated in July 2021 which is available on the Local Plan website [Local Development Scheme 2021 - Winchester City Council](#). This document identifies that public consultation on the Regulation 19 Local Plan would take place in August/September 2023 and the Local Plan would be adopted in August 2024.
- 10.12 It is important to note that there was a 3 month delay in consulting on the Regulation 18 Local Plan from the current timetable in the LDS. This was due to the introduction of the requirement of Natural England under the Habitats Regulations Assessment to be able to demonstrate nutrient neutrality and the Council giving Parish/Town Councils longer to identify sites in their settlements for development. Despite the best efforts of the Strategic Planning Team to keep Local Plan timetable on track, the public consultation dates for the Regulation 19 Local Plan and the date of the adoption of the Local Plan in 2024 are no longer achievable for the reasons set out in paragraphs 10.13 – 10.44.
- 10.13 **What factors resulted in the need for a revised Local Plan timetable?**
- 10.14 **Regulation 18 Local Plan consultation**
- 10.15 Consultation on the Regulation 18 Local Plan did take place in November/December 2022. The high level result of this public consultation have been reported to a meeting of the Local Plan Advisory Group on the 8th March 2023.

10.16 A total of 3,438 written comments were submitted on the Local Plan policies and site allocations that were included in the Regulation 18 Local Plan from 967 responses from individuals, business, organisations, and charities across the Winchester District. It is important to note that there are considerably more comments than this as often people have made more than one comment on a particular policy. The number and the technical nature of the representations have meant that it has taken longer to analyse and identify changes to the draft policies that was originally allowed for in the current LDS.

10.17 Officers from the Strategic Planning Team are now:

- finalising Officer analysis and preparing a series of recommended changes to the policies/text and any allocations as a result of the representations that will need to be agreed with Members via the Local Plan Cabinet meeting/Full Council;
- identifying and commissioning any new areas of evidence base that has been a result of the representations on the Regulation 18 Local Plan; and
- concluding a number of initial meetings with the statutory agencies (e.g. Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England) in order to help to clarify their representations.

10.18 Prior to consultation on the Regulation 19 Local Plan Officers needs to progress with preparing several Statement of Common Grounds (SoCG's) which need to be agreed with the statutory agencies and neighbouring Local Planning Authorities. These will be accompanied by a Duty to Co-operate Statement. This is a key piece of work that Officers have been unable to progress as Officers have been working on several other areas of work. SoCG's are extremely important as the Council will need to be able to demonstrate to an Inspector at the Local Plan Examination that the preparation of the Local Plan has complied with the legislation. A separate SoCG is being agreed with the Partnership for South Hampshire authorities (PfSH).

10.19 In addition to analysing the representations and preparing the SoCG's, there are several other further technical work streams that are currently being undertaken by the Strategic Planning team following the Regulation 18 public consultation which are listed in Appendix 1. For ease, the main areas of work have been summarised below.

10.20 **Nutrient neutrality**

10.21 The Winchester district falls within three riverine catchments in relation to nutrient neutrality. This includes the East Hampshire catchment and the Test and the Itchen catchments.

10.22 In November 2018 the European Court of Justice issued a ruling 'Dutch N' which confirmed the need for nutrient neutrality. In 2019 Natural England issued guidance to 32 Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), including

Winchester City Council, adding nutrient neutrality in relation to total nitrogen as a requirement for overnight accommodation that impacts EU/nationally protected sites in the Solent. The Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) started working on developing total nitrogen mitigation solutions which became available across the Solent in 2021.

- 10.23 In March 2022 Natural England issued additional guidance to a further 42 LPAs in respect to nutrient neutrality for habitat sites. The guidance introduced phosphorus neutrality in relation to the Itchen catchment as a requirement for overnight accommodation. This means that any new overnight accommodation in the Itchen catchment is required to mitigate the impacts of phosphorus as well as total nitrogen.
- 10.24 The Solent has recognised problems from nitrate enrichment. High levels of nitrogen from human activity and agricultural sources in the catchment have caused excessive growth of green algae (a process called eutrophication) which is having a detrimental impact upon protected habitats and bird species. Accordingly, to meet the requirements, the Habitats Regulations Assessment it will be essential that the IIA, which is being prepared alongside and informs the content of the Local Plan, calculates and refers to a solution to the demands of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphates) as a result of housing growth that has been allocated for development in the Local Plan.
- 10.25 There have been numerous positive discussions taking place with Officers from PfSH to identify and find solutions to nutrients. Whilst there are now several successful trading platforms for nitrates, dealing with phosphorous is more challenging.
- 10.26 Developers and site promoters have been asked as part of the Site Deliverability Statements, to identify how they intend to address nutrients for the allocated sites in the Regulation 18 Local Plan. Funding bids have been submitted by PfSH to the government to help fund potential solutions and a decision is awaited. However, at this moment in time for the purposes of Plan-making, the LPA is currently unable to identify a deliverable solution for nutrient neutrality to deliver the housing in the Local Plan. This is a key area of work that still needs to be resolved over the coming months to meet the requirements of the Habitat Regulations Assessment. As a result of this, the Local Plan timetable has been revised to allow more time for this to happen.
- 10.27 **Town Centre and Employment Study**
- 10.28 As indicated in paragraph 1.8 as both the Retail and Employment studies are currently being refreshed and updated as they were both completed at the outbreak of the COVID 19.
- 10.29 Whilst the current LDS was prepared after the outbreak of the COVID-19 the full implications of the pandemic, in terms of the impact on the high streets and the economic ramifications, were far more far reaching than were first imagined which has resulted in the need to ensure that these studies are updated. The revised LDS has factored in when the findings from these key

two reports will be made available and how the findings can be incorporated in the Regulation 19 Local Plan.

10.30 **Strategic Transportation Assessment.**

10.31 A meeting was convened the first week of January 2023 with Officers from the Strategic Planning team and Officers from Hampshire County Council (HCC) trading arm to discuss and agree the technical requirements of undertaking a Strategic Transport Assessment to support the next stage of the Local Plan. HCC trading arm were identified as being the most appropriate and efficient organisation to do this work as they have successfully completed similar work for other neighbouring Local Planning Authorities and they have a close working relationship with SYSTRA who hold the transport model. However, it took HCC trading arm several months to provide Officers with a fee proposal to undertake the necessary work. When the fee proposal did arrive the cost of undertaking this commission was considerably more than initial discussions with HCC had indicated (which meant that agreement had to be sought had to be sought to cover the budget deficit). The quote for the completion of the work was also over a much longer time period than had been originally been discussed.

10.32 Following the final agreement with the time scale and the cost of this commission, the trading arm of Hampshire County Council have been appointed to prepare a Strategic Transport Assessment. This will assess and propose appropriate mitigation for the cumulative transport impacts of the proposed site allocations that contained within Winchester City Council's emerging Local Plan. The commission will use the existing SYSTRA report <https://www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk/LibraryAssets/attach/42/109282-001b-SYSTRA-WCC-Local-Plan-2038-Stage-1-Transport-Assessment-Final-with-Apps-23092020-2-.pdf> as a starting position. The work will involve undertaking transportation modelling and preparing an accompanying report through the Solent Sub Regional Transport Model (SRTM) and it will include sites with extant planning permission and sites that are being built out. This evidence will support the Local Plan and be a robust part of Local Plan Evidence Base that can be relied on at the Local Plan Examination. The work involves undertaking:

- A baseline transport model run (no site allocations, the baseline position in 2039);
- A do-minimum transport run (with site allocations but with no mitigation);
- A do-something transport run (with site allocations and associated mitigation); and
- engagement with the relevant Highway Authorities to be able to demonstrate the Duty to Cooperate.

10.33 Traffic data that is gathered from the above transport model is required to quantify likely impacts and confirm which roads within 200m of a European

site will experience significant increases in traffic because of the Local Plan (alone or in combination). If traffic data shows an increase in traffic on roads passing European sites of 1,000 Annual average daily traffic or more, air quality assessment would then be required to inform the Appropriate Assessment.

10.34 As it is extremely important that the cumulative impact of the Local Plan site allocations is fully assessed, and appropriate mitigation measures are identified and costed into the Local Plan Viability Assessment. The timetable for the completion of this work has also had a significant impact on the LDS as this key piece of work will now not be completed until the end of April 2024. The timetable for completion of this Strategic Transport commission has now been factored into the revised LDS.

10.35 Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

10.36 In preparing the Local Plan the Council must also legally comply with its own statutory Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which the Council adopted in December 2018.

10.37 The Council is very keen to continue to engage with the widest possible audience and it is extremely important that the SCI is kept up-to-date in terms of how we are going to do this in a post COVID world. Allied to this the government requires SCI's to be updated every 5 years, which is another reason why this document is currently being reviewed and updated by Officers. This will involve obtaining permission from Cabinet for consultation to be held on a recommended revisions to the SCI, time for Officers time to analyse any comments and enough time for Officers to make any changes resulting from the public consultation before seeking Cabinet's permission to adopt a revised SCI. In order to help to de-risk the Local Plan process all of this work has been factored into the revised LDS.

10.38 Meetings with the Department of Levelling, Housing and Communities (DLUHG)

10.39 Two meetings have taken place with the Department of Levelling, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in order to keep them up-to-date with progress on the Local Plan and to discuss the key challenges that the Council is facing with bringing the new Local Plan forward.

10.40 Local Plan Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Advisory meeting

10.41 In order to help to de-risk the Local Plan Examination process, Officers from the Strategic Planning team took up offer from DLUHC to convene a PINS Advisory meeting on the 15th June 2023.

10.42 The purpose of a PINS Advisory meeting is to provide a Local Planning Authority (LPA) with advice on their emerging Local Plan and its evidence base and to help the LPA prepare for the examination. Advisory meetings are not compulsory, but most LPA's find that they make a positive contribution to the examination of the Local Plan. The Advisory meeting is used to:

- The LPA's overall approach (particularly if the meeting takes place at an early stage);
- Issues relevant to the soundness and/or legal compliance of the emerging plan, focussing on the issues identified by the LPA;
- The duty to co-operate;
- The adequacy of the evidence base;
- Whether topic or background papers are needed to explain the LPA's approach to key issues; and
- What to expect during the examination

10.43 A Planning Inspector was appointed by PINS to conduct the Local Plan Advisory meeting. The meeting which was attended by Officers of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan. The meeting provided the opportunity to raise several key questions that the team wanted to discuss with the Inspector which have arisen from the Regulation 18 Local Plan consultation, the Local Plan process and the Local Plan Evidence base.

10.44 **Matters that were discussed with the Inspector included:**

- Approach towards Duty to Cooperate;
- Local Plan Period;
- Standard Method (SM) and affordable housing;
- Unmet needs;
- Phasing;
- Housing Supply;
- Plan Strategy and site selection;
- Habitats Regulation Assessment;
- Gypsies and Travellers provision;
- Neighbourhood plans;
- Approach towards nutrients; and
- Carbon neutrality and low carbon infrastructure.

10.45 These two additional steps that have been outlined in paragraphs 10.37 – 10.44 were not planned for in the current LDS, which we have added to ensure we work with national support and the highest quality Local Plan is produced and submitted for examination to the Planning Inspectorate.

10.46 **Planning Advisory Service (PAS)**

10.47 In recognition that the Local Plan timetable needed revising, Officers contacted PAS as they provide free consultancy and peer support to help local authorities prepare Local Plans. DAC Planning were subsequently appointed by PAS to conduct an independent review of a draft Local Plan timetable and to identify whether the Local Plan could be brought forward any quicker and whether enough time had been allowed in the process to complete all of the necessary steps to prepare a ‘sound’ Local Plan.

10.48 The advice from DAC has been discussed internally and with the Cabinet Member for Place and the Local Plan and taken into account when putting together a revised LDS.

10.49 **Revised timetable**

10.50 The proposed revised LDS for approval is at Appendix 2.

10.51 The timetable for the consultation on the Reg 19 Local Plan, the submission of the Local Plan and the Local Plan Examination have all been revised to allow time to complete all of the above evidence base and to take into account all of the factors and the challenges that have been listed above.

10.52 The timetable for the Local Plan now identifies that public consultation on the Regulation 19 Local Plan that is required under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012, will now not take place until early summer 2024. Whilst every effort continues to be made to progress the Local Plan, the timetable beyond Regulation 19 stage is, in part, dependent on a number of external factors such as the content of the representations on the Regulation 19 Local Plan, any changes to national policy and availability of the Planning Inspectorate to convene the Local Plan Examination.

10.53 Once agreed by Cabinet, a copy of the revised LDS will be placed on the Council’s website.

11 **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

11.1 Members could decide to not revise the LDS but would not be in accordance with the Council’s adopted SCI. The LDS is a keyway of informing everyone when the next stage of public consultation on the Local Plan is likely to happen and it is a statutory requirement to have an up-to-date LDS it is not the recommended option. As indicated in paragraph 3.1, on day 1 of the Local Plan Examination, a key question the Inspector will ask is whether the Local Plan has been produced in accordance with the Council’s adopted SCI and the LDS. As this is a key test of soundness, this reiterates the need to have an up-to-date LDS.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Committee Reports:-

CAB32226 – Development Scheme January 2020.

Other Background Documents:-

CAB3357 – Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation October 2022.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Local Plan evidence base that is currently underway

Appendix 2 – Winchester District Local Development Scheme 2023

Appendix 3 – Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix 1 - Local Plan evidence base that is currently underway

Report	Progress
Site deliverability statements	Site promoters/owners of sites that were included in the Reg 18 Local Plan have been contacted in order to understand any constraints, infrastructure requirements and how they intend to deal with nutrients.
Strategic Transport Assessment	HCC (trading arm) have been appointed to undertake a transport assessment of the Local Plan site allocations.
Employment and Town Centre Study	Lambert Smith and Hampton have been appointed and studies are well underway with updating the 2020 reports.
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)	There is an existing SFRA which is currently being updated by AECOM who have been commissioned through PfSH to prepare a district wide SFRA.
Sequential assessment of site allocations	A meeting has been held with the Environment Agency (EA) and a site sequential report will need to be prepared and agreed with the EA.
Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)	A draft IDP has been prepared and infrastructure providers are being contacted. An infrastructure workshop has taken place with HCC on the 2 nd June 2023 to discuss their specific infrastructure needs.
The need for student accommodation	The two universities in Winchester have been contacted to establish the demand for student accommodation. Discussions have also taken place with Sparsholt College to understand their accommodation needs.
Updated SHELAA	An updated SHELAA has been taken to the 18 th July Cabinet meeting.
Update the Statement of Community	Work is underway on reviewing and

Involvement (SCI)	updating the contents of the SCI. The updated SCI will need to be consulted on.
Review and test the development strategy including the settlement hierarchy, contribution to PfSH unmet needs, and updating all the housing figures	This work is ongoing.
Nutrient Neutrality Report	Working with PfSH a Local Plan nutrient neutrality assessment is currently being undertaken which will need to be agreed with Natural England and the Environment Agency.
Embodied Carbon Report	Consultants have been appointed to assess the various options that could be open to the city council to tackle embodied carbon and to recommend how this could be included in the Local Plan.
Approach towards Gypsy and Travellers	The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment has identified an overall need for gypsy and travellers. Further work to be undertaken on how this need should be approached.