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**REVISED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

Committee: Full Council

Date: 5 October 2017

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[S146]

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1.0 **ISSUE**

1.1 For Council to agree to an updated timetable (in the form of an updated Local Development Scheme) for the preparation of the Local Plan.

1.2 Note: the recommendation in this item is subject to the recommendations, in the main, being approved for the preceding item (relating to the Local Plan). If the recommendations of the preceding item are not approved, then this item should be deferred to a future meeting.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 That Council:

(A) approves with immediate effect the attached Local Development Scheme (LDS), which sets out a timetable for the ongoing production of a district wide Local Plan.

3.0 **BACKGROUND/OPTIONS**

**Introduction**

3.1 In July 2015, Council approved the commencement of a new Local Plan for East Cambridgeshire. In doing so, it approved a Local Development Scheme (LDS) setting out the timetable for preparing the new Local Plan. It is unlawful to prepare a Local Plan without first agreeing and publishing a LDS. It is also a requirement to keep an LDS up to date.

3.2 Since July 2015, preparation of the Local Plan has proceeded well, to the point of preparation of a Proposed Submission Local Plan (see preceding item for full details).

**Local Plan Timetable**

3.3 As Members will be aware, preparing a Local Plan is heavily governed by Acts, Regulations, case-law, European Directives and Government policy/guidance. One such element of this is the statutory requirement to publish, and keep up to date, a 'Local Development Scheme' (LDS). An LDS sets out the timetable for preparing a Local Plan.

- 3.4 Our present LDS was approved in July 2015, and set an ambitious timetable of completing the Local Plan by February 2018. It is always important to be ambitious in setting the timetable because, perhaps oddly, a local planning authority is not permitted to produce a Local Plan ahead of its LDS timetable but can produce one which slips from the timetable (thus, if a less ambitious timetable was published, and a local planning authority was quicker than such a timetable, it legally would have to stop production of the Local Plan, until the scheduled timetable caught up).
- 3.5 However, it is now clearly apparent that the ambitious timetable as set in July 2015 will not be quite met, and therefore it is sensible now, for the benefit of all parties and to meet legislative requirements to keep the LDS up to date, to review the LDS and set down an adjusted timetable. The reasoning for the slight slippage is predominantly:
- a reflection of the considerable scale (and more so than previous Local Plans) of representation and feedback from our communities, Parish Councils and Members,
  - the need to consider and amend proposals in the light of extensive (and still ongoing) national policy changes to planning and housing matters,
  - a reflection that the timetable was always ambitious, for reasons set out above.
- 3.6 Overall, the timetable is still to achieve a Local Plan in just over 3 years (from commencement in July 2015 to adoption), which reflects favourably on the last ECDC Local Plan (6 years production) and typical Local Plan production nationally (5-8 years). Our near neighbours Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire are currently in their seventh year of preparing their respective Local Plans.
- 3.7 The recommended revised LDS, setting out the revised timetable for producing the Local Plan, is set out at Appendix 1. This now anticipates adoption of the Local Plan in October 2018.
- 4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT
- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.
- 4.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required (though the preparation of the Local Plan itself has required assessments).

5.0 APPENDICES

5.1 Appendix 1 – LDS for approval

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<b><u>Background Documents</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Contact Officer</u></b>
None	Room12A The Grange Ely	Richard Kay Strategic Planning Manager (01353) 616245 E-mail: <a href="mailto:richard.kay@eastcambs.gov.uk">richard.kay@eastcambs.gov.uk</a>