

Broads Local Plan Local Development Scheme
Report by Planning Policy Officer

Summary: The Local Development Scheme which sets out the timetable for the production of the Local Plan has been drafted and sets out the key stages of the Plan's production.

Recommendation: That the Planning Committee endorse the Local Development Scheme.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Now the Sites Specifics Local Plan has been adopted, attention turns to reviewing the adopted planning policies of the Broads Authority, comprising the Core Strategy (2007), the Development Management Policies DPD (2011), the remaining adopted policies from the 1997 Local Plan as well as the Flood Risk Supplementary Planning Document (2008) and the Site Specifics Local Plan (2014), and producing a comprehensive Local Plan.
- 1.2 The first element to producing the Broads Local Plan is the production of the Local Development Scheme. This is effectively a timetable showing when the various stages of the Local Plan production will be.

2 Key Stages of the LDS

- 2.1 *Statement of Community Involvement. (SCI)*
This sets out how the Broads Authority will consult with the public on Local Plans and Planning Applications. The current SCI was produced in 2006 and is in need of reviewing.
- 2.2 *Duty to Cooperate*
This is an essential ongoing strand of the production of the Local Plan. It is proposed that this duty will be taken forward through workshops with the constituent District, City, Borough and County Councils as well as other relevant organisations.
- 2.3 *Evidence Base*
Policies need to be justified by background evidence base; the evidence will also inform the policy content. This stage is likely to involve significant work, but the full extent and nature of this work is not currently known. Much of the information needed is likely to be available, but will need to be collated and assessed.

2.4 *Issues and Options*

This is the first stage of the Local Plan consultation. It will also include a Call for Sites for development and the sites put forward will need to be assessed against appropriate and robust criteria.

2.5 *Preferred Options*

Whilst not required by the Regulations (Local Plans can go straight to publication and submission), it is considered that this second consultation stage will give the public another opportunity to influence the Local Plan and will assist in the process of demonstrating inclusion and soundness.

2.6 *Workshops*

Various workshops are proposed. The aim of these is to gather local knowledge and gauge local opinion.

2.7 *Publication, Examination and Adoption*

Following consultation on the Preferred Options, the next stage is the Publication of the Plan, which is the formal submission stage. It is then subject to Examination, the production of Inspector's report into the Plan and finally adoption. Members will be familiar with this process as the Sites Specifics Local Plan has recently gone through these stages.

3 The Potential for Slippage

3.1 Whilst the Local Plan's proposed stages are realistic and attainable, there will always be the risk of slipping from the projected timetable. The stages and timeline will be closely monitored and any likely slippage will be reported to Planning Committee.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 As the Local Plan is produced, there will be financial implications including:

- Evidence base production with the precise cost unknown and largely dependent on the scale of the work required, but estimated at up to £20,000 plus staff time
- Production of consultation documents (could amount to around £5,000 over the two or three years)
- Potentially a cost implication from events held during consultations ((for venue hire for example) estimated at £1,000)
- Examination, likely to be around £40,000
- Final printing of the document (around £5,000)

The Authority has an annual Planning Policy budget which will be used to fund the majority of expenditure on this area although this may need to be reinforced from time to time from the Planning Delivery Grant reserve.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The preparation of the Local Plan is an important function of the Local Planning Authority statutory process and the LDS sets out how this will be undertaken in a reasonable and timely manner.

Background papers: None

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Appendices: Appendix A: The Local Development Scheme.

