RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Local Development Scheme attached at Appendix 1 be adopted and brought into effect immediately.

Summary

For the Local Plan to be found sound, it must be prepared in accordance with the Council’s Local Development Scheme (LDS). The borough’s most recent LDS (the programme for preparing a Local Plan) was last updated in June 2014. This related to the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 which has now been found unsound by a planning inspector. Work has commenced on a new Local Plan to cover the period 2011-2036. An update to the Statement of Community Involvement will also be necessary. A new LDS is therefore required to provide the future programme for preparing this document. The new LDS is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

Statutory Powers

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
Planning Act 2008
Localism Act 2011
Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

Introduction

1. It is a legislative requirement and part of the tests of soundness that a Local Plan is prepared in accordance with the Council’s Local Development Scheme (LDS).

2. An LDS was most recently prepared in June 2014, prior to the submission of the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 for examination by the Secretary of State. As advised separately on this agenda, the Inspector’s final report has now been received by the Council. This found the Plan unsound and unable to proceed to adoption. Work has now commenced on a new plan to cover the
period 2011-2036. It is therefore necessary to prepare a new LDS to provide the broad timetable for this work.

Local Development Scheme (LDS)

3. This new LDS sets out the intended programme for the preparation of the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2011-2036. A significant amount of work will need to be undertaken over the next few months in preparing a new evidence base to support the Local Plan. It is also important to ensure that time is spent engaging with local communities and other interested parties to ensure that their ideas, and concerns, are taken into account in working up potential options for developing a long term strategy to guide development in the borough. At the same time, the Council recognises its responsibilities to plan expediently to meet people’s pressing development needs, including the need to provide a five year supply of housing land.

4. The LDS therefore proposes consultation on broad options for development (regulation 18) at the end of this year (December 2015). It is intended that this consultation document will set out the broad strategic issues arising in the borough through the period to 2036, and the suggested strategic responses including broad locations. This consultation would be followed by publication of a detailed pre-publication draft of the Local Plan in June 2016. The Plan would then be submitted for examination by the Secretary of State in November 2016 with adoption anticipated by September 2017.

5. This timetable broadly aligns with officer’s understanding of the current timetable for the preparation of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire’s update to the South Hampshire Strategy.

6. The Statement of Community Involvement will also need to be updated.

7. The new version of the LDS is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

Financial Implications

8. It is anticipated that the work programme set out in this LDS can be achieved within the committed resources of the Planning Policy & Implementation section. The previous LDS had envisaged the need to start a review of the 2011-2029 Local Plan in early 2016. This LDS essentially brings this work forward by one year. The additional costs associated with this are offset in part by the lower than anticipated costs of the examination of the 2011-2029 Local Plan.

Risk Assessment

9. If the Council does not have an up-to-date LDS, or a Local Plan prepared in accordance with it, there is a high risk that the Local Plan will be found unsound, and will not be able to progress to adoption.
Equality and Diversity Implications

10. This LDS sets out the Council’s intention to prepare a Local Plan for the borough that is readily accessible, takes into account community aspirations and accords with national policy.

11. An equalities impact assessment will be prepared in time for consultation on an issues and options paper for the Local Plan at the end of this year. Previous assessments in relation to the 2011-2029 Local Plan identified no potentially adverse impacts for any particular group.

Conclusion

12. The preparation of a new Local Plan to cover the period 2011-2036 requires a new LDS to set out the broad timetable, and key milestones, for this work. The proposed timetable strikes a balance between seeking to meet short term development pressures, including a five year supply of housing land, whilst ensuring that a robust evidence base is prepared to inform a Local Plan which has been prepared with meaningful engagement with local communities and interested parties. It is recommended that the revised LDS at Appendix 1 to this report should be adopted and brought into effect immediately.

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Appendices Attached: 1
Report No PP000152

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information:

None