

Committee(s): Policy, Resources & Economic Development Committee	Date: 13 July 2022
Subject: Brentwood Local Plan Timetable (Local Development Scheme 2022-2025)	Wards Affected: All
Report of: Phil Drane, Corporate Director (Planning and Economy)	Public
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Summary

As part of the plan-making process a revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) (local plan timetable) has been prepared. This provides an update to the currently published version, approved in September 2019.

The timetable requires updating to reflect the review and update required to the Brentwood Local Plan 2016-2033 under Policy MG06. This sets out the need to prepare a revised local plan to accommodate objectively assessed housing needs and submit to the Secretary of State for independent examination within 28 months of adoption, which is July 2024. An update to the timetable is also required for the preparation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- R1. Approve the Brentwood Local Development Scheme 2022-2025, as set out in Appendix A.**

Main Report

Introduction and Background

1. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the council to prepare a Local Development Scheme (LDS) and keep it up to date. The main purpose of the LDS is to set out the rolling programme for the preparation of planning documents that will form Brentwood Borough Council's Development Plan and planning guidance. It identifies the key stages and timescales for the preparation of planning documents. This will provide the public and other

relevant stakeholders with information on what documents are being produced and the predicted timescales involved.

2. The council's most recent LDS timetable was approved in September 2019 (Item 168, Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee). Since then the local plan has been submitted, examined and adopted. A review of the plan is underway and so a new timetable needs to be approved for this work.
3. The proposed updated timetable covers the period 2022-2025 (Appendix A).

Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

4. Policy MG06 of the Brentwood Local Plan 2016-2033 commits the council to immediately begin a partial review and update of the plan to account for longer-term growth needs towards the end of the plan period and beyond. To define what partial means, a scope will need to be set to identify what parts of the plan are to be updated. This has been partly confirmed by the wording of Policy MG06 in terms of identifying sites to meet housing needs and identifying necessary highways and transport infrastructure to support this growth. However, it could also include a review of policies according to potential changes to the planning system and on swiftly evolving themes, such as green/environmental needs and ambitions, for example. This would be similar to what some other local planning authorities have included in recent local plan reviews.
5. The timeframes for undertaking this update are specified in Policy MG06, which requires work to commence immediately upon the adoption of the plan with submission of the update for examination within 28 months. This means that submission of the update should take place by 31 July 2024. This is alongside progressing the adoption of Community Infrastructure Fund (CIL) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).
6. It is important to keep the timetable up-to-date to provide accurate information to stakeholders using the document as well as meeting legislative requirements. The previous version of the LDS was published in September 2019. Since then, the local plan has been submitted and undergone examination, resulting in a conclusion of soundness. At the Extraordinary Council meeting on the 23 March 2022, the Brentwood Local Plan 2016-2033 was adopted (Item 373). This also included approval of Recommendation 4, which stipulated that the Local Development Scheme be revised and presented to a future meeting of the Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee (see Item 373, Recommendation 4). This was to reflect the preparation of the local plan review, CIL and SPDs.

7. The LDS is split into a number of different sections. The first section sets out the current national and local planning policy context relevant to Brentwood borough. The second part of the document provides the timetable for the preparation of development plan documents, CIL and SPDs. The final sections of the document provide information regarding monitoring and reviewing and an analysis of the risks and contingencies involved.
8. An alternative option would be not to approve the updated LDS and continue to use the version published in September 2019, which is now out-of-date. However, this would result in stakeholders being less well informed on changes to the Development Plan, CIL, SPDs and other relevant information.

Reasons for Recommendation

9. It is necessary to have an up-to-date local plan timetable. Delivery of the plan against the published timescales is monitored by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The revised Local Development Scheme sets out the timetable for preparation of the Local Plan Review, as well as supporting documents such as Community Infrastructure Levy and Supplementary Planning Documents.

Consultation

10. Public consultation on the LDS is not specifically required by the Regulations. Each document highlighted in the LDS will be subject to specific public consultation in line with the statutory regulations at the appropriate time.

References to Corporate Plan

11. The Local Development Scheme sets out the timetable for the production of the local plan, which is a delivery vehicle for several the council's Corporate Strategy objectives. The plan's policies contribute towards key priorities to grow the economy, protect the environment, develop communities, improve housing and delivering an effective and efficient council.
12. Linked to these key priorities are the council's underpinning strategies across service areas. Many of these have or are being prepared alongside the local plan, such as the Economic Development Strategy, Environment Strategy, Corporate Asset Strategy, Leisure Strategy, Housing Strategy and Parking Strategy. New strategies or future reviews will need to consider the local plan's strategic objectives and policies.
13. CIL provides a source of funding for the council and its partners to deliver infrastructure projects in the borough. Funds would be secured from development in an agreed and transparent manner. This directly contributes

towards the corporate priority to grow the economy, and objectives to support and promote major infrastructure improvements.

Implications

Financial Implications

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14. The timetables set out in the Local Development Scheme 2022-2025 are considered to be realistic and achievable within existing agreed budgets. Human Resource requirements will continue to be monitored to ensure that appropriate required support can be secured when needed to avoid timetable slippage.

Legal Implications

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15. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the council to prepare a Local Development Scheme and keep it up to date. Accordingly the recommendations set out within this report ensure that the council is meeting its statutory obligations.
16. Furthermore, compliance with the Local Development Scheme is taken into account when development plan documents are examined by the Planning Inspectorate as appointed by the government. Therefore, it is important that the council publishes and maintains these documents to demonstrate that development plan documents are legally compliant.

Economic Implications

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17. There are no specific economic implications arising from the publication of an updated Local Development Scheme. However, the documents outlined within the timetable for preparation will identify future development in the borough and how this is managed, which will contribute towards economic growth.

Equality and Diversity Implications

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18. Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 creates the public sector equality duty which requires that when the Council makes decisions it must have regard to the need to:
 - a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act
 - b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
 - c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

19. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a)

20. An Equality Impact Assessment was prepared for the Brentwood Local Plan 2016-2033 (Equalities Impact Assessment, February 2022). This will need to be updated as work on the Local Plan Review progresses.

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

None

Background Papers

- Item 373, Extraordinary Council, 23 March 2022, Brentwood Local Plan 2016-2033: Adoption
- Item 168, Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee, 19 September 2019, Local Development Plan Update

Appendices to this report

- Appendix A: Brentwood Local Development Scheme 2022-2025 (July 2022)