



Title of meeting: Cabinet
Date of meeting: 27 June 2023
Subject: Local Development Scheme
Report by: Ian Maguire, Assistant Director of Planning & Economic Development
Wards affected: All
Key decision: No
Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to introduce the updated Local Development Scheme (LDS), which sets out the timetable for the preparation of development plan documents in Portsmouth.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Approve the updated LDS as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

3. Background

3.1 The LDS sets out the timetable that Portsmouth City Council will follow in the preparation and adoption of planning policy documents. The main planning policy document that the Council is currently preparing is the new Portsmouth Local Plan. The City Council is also working with the other Hampshire Authorities on the Partial Review of the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Local Plan. The timetable for this Plan is published on Hampshire County Council's website. There is one made Neighbourhood Plan in Portsmouth, the Milton Neighbourhood Plan. Other neighbourhood plans may come forward in due course. There are a number of adopted Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) in Portsmouth. A Parking SPD is being prepared to follow on from the new Parking Strategy and the timetable for this SPD is set out in the LDS.

4. Reasons for recommendations

4.1 Following on from three Regulation 18 consultations, the City Council is now moving ahead with its Pre-Submission Local Plan. This includes following the principles agreed by Full Council on 11 October 2022 for development on Tipner West and Horsea Island East, which will be allocated as a strategic site in the Pre-Submission Plan. Officers are also working on final evidence gathering for City-wide studies including housing and employment need, transport and biodiversity net gain. Members and especially the Portfolio Holder for Planning Policy and City Development have been involved in the preparation of the Local Plan throughout. Most recently, there were a number of All

Member Local Plan Workshops in which Members provided a steer on both strategic site and city-wide policies.

4.2 The Pre-Submission Local Plan will be considered by Members at Cabinet and then Full Council. Subject to approval by Members the Pre-Submission consultation will run for six weeks focused on matters of legal compliance and soundness.

4.3 Providing that no matters are raised that the Council consider go to the heart of soundness or legal compliance, then the Portsmouth Local Plan will be submitted for examination. After that, the timetable for the examination is in the hands of the Planning Inspectorate rather than the City Council. Due to imminent changes in the plan making system brought in by the Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill, there is likely to be a flurry of local plans submitted for examination to avoid the changes. This may well result in delayed examinations.

4.4 Assuming that the examination in public goes well, the Inspector is likely to make a number of main modifications that the City Council will need to consider and then consult on. The Inspector will then produce their final report on the Portsmouth Local Plan and the Council will decide whether to adopt its new Local Plan.

4.5 The main risk to the LDS and the preparation of the new Portsmouth Local Plan is national changes to the planning system. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill will make significant changes to the system of plan making in England when enacted alongside far reaching changes proposed to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The key change that impacts on plan making in Portsmouth is the deadline of 30 June 2025 for the City Council to submit its new Local Plan for independent examination under the existing legal framework. All independent examinations of local plans must be concluded, with plans adopted by 31 December 2026. These plans will be examined under the current legislation. Local Plans that miss this deadline will need to start afresh under the new system. This would inevitably be very costly for the City Council.

4.6 Four development plan documents will be superceded by the adoption of the Portsmouth Local Plan. They are as follows:

- Southsea Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP)
- Somerstown and North Southsea AAP
- Portsmouth Plan Core Strategy
- Portsmouth City Local Plan saved policies

5. Integrated impact assessment

5.1 An Integrated impact assessment is not needed for the LDS. This is because the 2023 LDS is an update to a previous document. The principle of preparing a new Local Plan for Portsmouth is well established and is not a new initiative.

6. Legal implications

6.1 An LDS is required under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011). Paragraph 003 of the Planning Practice



Guidance Paragraph (Reference ID: 61-003-20190315)¹ states that it must specify, among other matters, the documents which, when prepared, will comprise the Local Plan for the area. It must be made available publicly and kept up-to-date. It is important that local communities and interested parties can keep track of progress. Local planning authorities should publish their LDS on their website.

7. Director of Finance's comments

There are no financial implications arising directly from the update to the Local Development Scheme proposed in this report. Costs associated with the production of the Portsmouth Local Plan will be met from the existing cash limited budget.

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Signed by:

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Portsmouth Local Development Scheme	https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Portsmouth-Local-Development-Scheme-March-2022-Accessible.pdf
Southsea Town Centre Area Action Plan	https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/development-and-planning-southsea-town-centre-area-action-plan.pdf
Somerstown and North Southsea Area Action Plan	https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/development-and-planning-somerstown-and-north-southsea-area-action-plan.pdf
Portsmouth Plan Core Strategy	https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/The-Portsmouth-Plan.pdf
Portsmouth City Local Plan saved policies	https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Portsmouth-City-Local-Plan-Accessible-except-colours.pdf

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by:

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making>

