

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LDS) UPDATE</b>
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	<b>25 FEBRUARY 2025</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR BOGLE CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>
NOT APPLICABLE.
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>
All Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) are required to set out their intentions with regards to developing planning documents, and the timetable/s for doing so, in a 'Local Development Scheme' (LDS). The purpose of the LDS is to set out to the public the direction of travel with regards to the LPA's Development Plan Documents but to also serve as means for the Government to monitor performance against.
In the case of Southampton City Council, the new LDS 'Preparing Our Development Plans' was adopted in July 2019 with subsequent update in December 2020 and December 2021. However, given the recent progress with the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan and Government instructing updates for all local plan timetables by 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, it is considered necessary to update this document again to ensure it presents an accurate view of the current situation and planned activity for the future.
The major amendments proposed concern: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The position related to the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan update; and</li> <li>2. The Southampton City Vision Local Plan timetable (Appendix 1 of the adopted LDS)</li> </ol>
Other minor amendments have been made to incorporate new relevant information and ensure an up to date position more generally (see Appendix 1 for tracked changes version).
Approval is sought for the update and publication of the LDS as set out in Appendix 1 (note: tracked changes have been used to highlight all changes to the current adopted version) and, in the event provisions from the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act come into force, delegated powers to be given to the Head of Transport and Planning to produce its replacement 'local plan timetable' and to update the document from time to time as required. This will also help aid in meeting the new national

requirement for local planning authorities to update their local plan timetable at least every 6 months.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

	(i)	To resolve that the updated Local Development Scheme (Appendix 1) is to have effect on 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2025.
	(ii)	In the event provisions from the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act come into force, to grant delegated powers to the Director of Transport and Planning to produce the local plan timetable in substantially the same terms as the updated LDS and to maintain and make future updates (to reflect progress on the Local Plan) in consultation with the cabinet lead.

**REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.	To ensure that Southampton City Council is providing an up-to-date position regarding the development and update of planning documents, including an accurate timeline for the production of the emerging Local Plan, Southampton City Vision, and to comply with Government instruction for an updated local plan timetable to be published by 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 and for this to be updated at least every 6 months.
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**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

2.	Do nothing – This option was rejected as leaving the LDS as it is currently would suggest that the details contained within it are still up to date and accurate, which they are not. The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan is further advanced, and this should be acknowledged, plus the timetable for the Southampton City Vision Local Plan is now out of date and needs updating for the purposes of transparency to the public and Government monitoring.
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**DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)**

3.	As the local planning authority, Southampton City Council has a statutory duty to produce a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS must set out the Council’s timetable for producing and reviewing its planning documents, which includes documents such as the Local Plan. This document must also outline any planning policy documents the Council intends to produce and the timescales for doing so in order for progress to be monitored by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).
4.	The current LDS, ‘Preparing our Development Plans’, was adopted in July 2019 with subsequent updates approved by Cabinet in December 2020 and December 2021. The most recent version is attached in Appendix 2. This report seeks the approval of an updated version (Appendix 1) in which details on the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan are revised to reflect recent progress and the timetable for the preparation of Southampton City Vision, our new Local Plan, is amended to present an accurate position. Other minor amendments are also made to add in new relevant information and to ensure an up to date document overall (see Appendix 1).
5.	In December 2024, MHCLG instructed all local planning authorities to ensure an up to date LDS, with local plan preparation timetable, is published by 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2025. They also confirmed that this document, including local plan

	timetables, are expected to be reviewed and updated, if necessary, at least every 6 months.
6.	Approval is therefore sought for the update and publication of the LDS as set out in Appendix 1 (note: tracked changes have been used to highlight all changes to the current adopted version).
7.	The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 introduces new provisions, which, when they come into force, will replace the current statutory provisions for local development schemes as well as for plan making. They are anticipated to come into force in Spring 2026. The requirement for the council to produce a Local Development Scheme (LDS) will be removed and councils will be required to instead produce and maintain a similar document to be known as the “local plan timetable”. Government expects this document to be updated at least every six months. Significantly, the new provisions do not require a ‘resolution’ of the council for it to come into effect and officers assume the removal of this requirement is in order to facilitate and expedite future and more frequent updates. When the new provisions come into force, the council will need to produce its local plan timetable and thereafter maintain and update it. Given that the first timetable will reflect this updated LDS, members are requested to delegate to the Director of Transport and Planning to produce the timetable in substantially the same terms as the LDS and to maintain and make future updates (to reflect progress on the Local Plan) in consultation with the cabinet lead.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>	
8.	There are no costs associated with the amendment of this timetable in the LDS. This work is business as usual activity for the Strategic Planning Team.
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
9.	Not applicable.
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
10.	As the Local Planning Authority, Southampton City Council has a statutory duty to produce a Local Development Scheme, under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This will be replaced by the requirement to produce a “local plan timetable” when provisions from the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 come into force.
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
11.	In preparing and publishing a LDS (or a local plan timetable) the Council must have regard to its duties under s.149 Equalities Act 2010 (the Public Sector Equality Duty) to ensure the Scheme contents and design principles are put forward having regard to the impact on communities, how people engage with the planning process and the need to eliminate all forms of harassment, victimisation and discriminations.
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
12.	The risk of Southampton City Council not updating the LDS would mean that an inaccurate view of planning document development continues to be presented publicly, and the Council would not have complied with

	Government instruction to update. Furthermore, continuing with an out-of-date timetable for the Southampton City Vision Local Plan would mean that MHCLG's monitoring will continue to show that the Council is non-compliant with the timetable for production and the Council could be subject to Government intervention.
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
13.	The Local Development Scheme is a statutory document that Southampton City Council is required to produce, in accordance with Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Appendix 1 - Preparing Our Development Plans (2025)(tracked changes version)
2.	Appendix 2 - Preparing Our Development Plans (2021)
3.	Appendix 3 – LDS Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA)

#### **Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None.
2.	

#### **Equality Impact Assessment**

<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	
<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.</b>	<b>No</b>

#### **Other Background Documents**

**Other Background documents available for inspection at: N/A**

<b>Title of Background Paper(s)</b>	<b>Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)</b>
1.	N/A
2.	