

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	30 March 2022
Subject:	Local Development Scheme
Report of:	Interim Planning Policy Manager
Corporate Lead:	Head of Development Services
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Built Environment
Number of Appendices:	One

Executive Summary:

The Tewkesbury Borough Local Development Scheme ('LDS') outlines the timetable for preparing statutory development plan documents (local plans) in the Borough. The existing published version (adopted by the Council in January 2021) requires revision as the timetable is now out of date and an up-to-date LDS is required as part of the preparation of the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Strategic Plan ('JSP' - formerly the Joint Core Strategy 'JCS' Review).

Recommendation:

That the updated Local Development Scheme for Tewkesbury Borough, attached to this report at Appendix 1, be RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL for adoption.

Reasons for Recommendation:

In order to fulfil the Council's statutory duty to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme setting out the project timetable for preparing and revising development plan documents.

Resource Implications:

Resource implications for preparing the statutory development plan documents are not affected by updating the Local Development Scheme.

Legal Implications:

The preparation and maintaining of a Local Development Scheme is required under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) with further requirements and guidance set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The LDS must specify (among other matters) the local plan documents which, when prepared, will comprise part of the development plan for the area and the timetable for the preparation and revision of those documents. Local Plans, together with Neighbourhood Plans form part of the Development Plan for the Borough (together with any minerals and waste plans).

Risk Management Implications:

The main risk associated with the Local Development Scheme relates to the failure to reach key milestones in the time specified and then not updating these, causing delay to the progression of the development plan documents identified. As such, development plan documents when examined need to be prepared in accordance with the Local Development Scheme.

Performance Management Follow-up:

Outcomes will be reported through the Council's performance tracker.

Environmental Implications:

The Local Development Scheme provides organisations and individuals with responsibilities/interests in environmental issues with information as to when they can get involved with planning policy processes in the Borough and kept track of progress of the same.

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

1.1 Local Planning Authorities are required by law to prepare, publish, and maintain a Local Development Scheme setting out the timetable for preparing statutory development plan documents (local plans), which form the "Development Plan".

1.2 The Council's first LDS was prepared in March 2005 and revised in November 2009, April 2013, October 2017 and January 2021.

2.0 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME PURPOSE

2.1 The purpose of the LDS is to set out the documents that will comprise the Development Plan and which will be prepared by Tewkesbury Borough Council. It also needs to give details as to what they will contain, their geographic coverage and their production schedule. It is important that plans for the future of the Borough are produced in a timely and efficient manner. If they are not, development which is necessary for the Borough's continued growth and prosperity may be delayed or abandoned, the coordination of housing development and infrastructure provision may be difficult to achieve and there is the potential for development to be approved on appeal in locations that the Council does not consider suitable.

2.2 The Development Plan Documents that are yet to be prepared and/or adopted and will make up Tewkesbury Borough Council's future Development Plan (as already set out in the current LDS) are:

- the Joint Strategic Plan (strategic level document containing policies for large scale housing, employment and other forms of development and environmental protection). This will cover matters relating to Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury areas and has, to date, been referred to as the Joint Core Strategy Review ('JCS'). The change in title of this document is being proposed as it reflects up to date legislation and national planning policies which also mean a full (rather than a partial) plan review will be necessary; and
- the Tewkesbury Borough Plan (Borough level document looking at issues specific to Tewkesbury Borough, for example non-strategic development/site allocations, rural housing and economic strategies).

2.3 Neighbourhood Development Plans also form part of the Development Plan for Tewkesbury Brough and a number of plans have been 'made' or are currently in production. Although eventually adopted by the Borough Council, Neighbourhood Development Plans are developed by local communities. Therefore, these plans are not directly progressed by the Borough Council and the timescale for their development is largely dependent on local communities. As such, the LDS does not contain detail on the timetables for any emerging neighbourhood plans.

3.0 DEVELOPMENT PLAN PREPARATION STAGES

3.1 An updated LDS is presented at Appendix 1 to this report. It contains the latest timetable for the production of the Joint Strategic Plan and the Tewkesbury Borough Plan. The key milestones for each are provided below.

3.2 The key stages for the **Joint Strategic Plan** are:

- Issues and Options Consultation - Winter 2018/19 (Complete).
- Preferred Options Consultation – Spring 2023.
- Pre-submission Consultation – Autumn 2023.
- Submission to SoS – early Spring 2024.
- Examination - Summer 2024.
- Adoption – Winter 2024/Spring 2025.

3.3 The key stages for the **Tewkesbury Borough Plan** are:

- Adoption – Spring 2022.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 None.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 The preparation and maintaining of an LDS does not require public consultation as it is effectively the Council's work plan.

6.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

6.1 Emerging Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Strategic Plan.
Emerging Tewkesbury Borough Plan.
Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy 2011 – 2031.
Tewkesbury Borough Local Plan to 2011.

7.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

7.1 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
Localism Act 2011.
National Planning Policy Framework (2021).
Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012).

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

8.1 The LDS is based upon adequate resources being available to satisfactorily complete each stage of the work. This includes: the Planning Policy Team and other staff input; evidence base; assessments/appraisals; communications/materials/publicity; and community involvement.

9.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)

9.1 None directly related to this report, although a development plan led approach to development will help ensure that new development is supported by the necessary facilities and infrastructure. The adoption of the JCS and the TBP will remain matters to be decided by the Council.

10.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)

10.1 The timetables set out in the LDS need to reflect the statutory and democratic processes that govern plan preparation combined with the resources available to undertake the work.

11.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

11.1 October 2017 – approval of LDS by Executive Committee.

11.2 January 2021 – approval of LDS by Executive Committee.

Background Papers: None.

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Appendices: 1 – Tewkesbury Borough Local Development Scheme February 2022.