

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

Date 26th October 2021

REDDITCH LOCAL PLAN UPDATE AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Matthew Dormer
Portfolio Holder Consulted	YES
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford
Ward(s) Affected	All wards
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	YES
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on progress of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan Review; a timetable for the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.5 production (Local Development Scheme); the opportunity to retrospectively approve consultation responses submitted to nearby authorities and to approve the Statement of Common Ground with Solihull Borough Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Committee is asked to **RECOMMEND** that:

- 1) the update on progress on the Redditch Local Plan Review be noted;
- 2) the Local Development Scheme No.7 for the production of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.5 be approved (Appendix A);
- 3) the consultation responses provided to neighbouring and nearby authorities be retrospectively approved (Appendices B to F); and
- 4) the Statement of Common Ground with Solihull Borough Council be approved (Appendix G).

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 Whilst there are no immediate direct financial implications of adopting the revised Local Development Scheme, the costs to progress the Local Plan Review through all stages of the plan-making process, including associated evidence gathering and ultimately independent examination are considerable. The allocation of financial resources for progression of the Local Plan Review has previously been considered though the budget setting process.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 Under regulation 10A of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) local planning authorities must review Local Plans at least once every 5 years from their adoption date to ensure that policies remain relevant and effectively address the needs of the local community.
- 3.3 The Local Development Scheme is produced under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The legislation states that Councils must prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme specifying:
- the Local Development Documents (LDDs) which are to be Development Plan Documents (DPDs);
 - the subject matter and geographical area of each Development Plan Document;
 - which Development Plan Documents (if any) are to be prepared jointly with one or more other local planning authorities;
 - any matter or area in respect of which the authority has agreed (or propose to agree) to the constitution of a joint committee; and,
 - the timetable for the preparation and revision of the Development Plan Documents.
- 3.4 The Localism Act 2011 removed the requirement to submit the LDS to the Secretary of State. It is however important for Councils to continue to publish up-to-date information on the progress of Local Development Documents. The Borough Council thus has flexibility to decide how best to present this information to the public, although as a minimum Planning Practice Guidance states that the LDS should be published on the Council's website.

Background / Service Implications

Update on progress of the Redditch Local Plan Review

- 3.5 The Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4 was adopted in January 2017. Under regulation 10A of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) local planning authorities must review local plans, at least once every 5 years from their adoption date to ensure that policies remain relevant and effectively address the needs of the local community. The National Planning Policy Framework reiterates the requirement that policies in Local Plans are to be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years and should then be updated as necessary (paragraph 33).
- 3.6 During October/November 2020 authority was granted through Executive and Full Council (see Background paper) for Officers to begin work on reviewing the BORLP4 and to consider the need for a new plan. Since then, work has been progressing in assessing whether the existing policies in BORLP4 are still fit for purpose and procuring the necessary evidence to support revised policies, for

example a Housing and Employment Development Needs Assessment, in addition to preparing a suitable timetable (Local Development Scheme No.7) which sets out the timescales for the production and consultation on the revised plan.

- 3.7 Planning Advisory Panel is due to take place on 20th October to consider the emerging themes for the Local Plan and the LDS.

Local Development Scheme No.7 (Appendix A)

- 3.8 The previous Local Development Scheme (LDS) was adopted by the Borough Council in July 2016. This new LDS (Appendix A) is required to update the programme of preparing and consulting on strategic planning documents, whilst continuing to reflect the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It must be stressed the LDS only addresses the timescales for the revised Local Plan, the content of that review will be considered in subsequent reports.

Consultation responses provided to nearby authorities (Appendices B to F)

- 3.9 Several responses have been prepared by Officers in response to other Local Authority consultation periods including to Birmingham City Council, the Black Country, South Staffordshire and South Warwickshire (see Appendices B to F). Many of the responses fall under the Duty to Co-operate and therefore require Member approval through the Executive Committee and Full Council. Communication with neighbouring and nearby authorities to produce Local Plans is on-going.
- 3.10 The responses listed at Appendices B to F were written in consultation with the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services and the Portfolio holder for Planning, Economic Development, Commercialism and Partnerships before being submitted to the respective authorities.

Statement of Common Ground with Solihull Borough Council (Appendix G)

- 3.11 Solihull Borough Council are currently mid-way through their Examination in Public for the Solihull Local Plan. As part of the documentation for the Plan Review authorities are required to prepare Statements of Common Ground to outline where agreement can be sought between authorities. Communication with Solihull has been on-going and at present only a draft version of the Solihull and Redditch SoCG has been submitted to the Examination, as Redditch did not raise any concerns over the level of unmet housing need Solihull was prepared to accommodate from elsewhere within the Housing Market Area. The Duty to Cooperate sessions of the Examination have already taken place, with no further issues raised. However, before the close of Examination Solihull Borough Council require a signed off version to be submitted. This is attached for consideration and approval at Appendix G.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.12 The revised Local Development Scheme allows customers to easily identify opportunities to be involved in Local Plan production.
- 3.13 The Local Plan Review will be accompanied by an Equalities Impact Assessment.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The update to the adopted BORLP4 is essential now due to the risks posed of not having an up-to-date plan in place and national policy requirements.
- 4.2 A Local Development Scheme is essential to set the overall programme and identify how strategic planning documents will be managed and progressed.
- 4.3 Without an up-to-date Local Development Scheme, development plan documents at independent examination could be found unsound due to the Council failing to comply with a statutory duty contained in the Localism Act 2011.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix A - Redditch Local Development Scheme No.7
Appendix B – RBC response to Birmingham City Council (March 2021)
Appendix C – RBC response to Black Country Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (March 2021)
Appendix D – RBC response to South Staffordshire (June 2021)
Appendix E – RBC response to South Warwickshire (June 2021)
Appendix F – RBC response to Black Country (Oct 2021)
Appendix G - Solihull Statement of Common Ground

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4 –
<https://www.redditchbc.gov.uk/council/policy-and-strategy/planning-policies/borough-of-redditch-local-plan/borough-of-redditch-local-plan-no-4/adopted-borlp4.aspx>
National Planning Policy Framework -
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework-2>
Localism Act 2011 - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/section/210>
Planning Practice Guidance – Plan-making - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making>
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) -
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/contents>

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/767/regulation/11/made>
27th October 2020 Executive Committee Report -
<https://moderngovwebpublic.redditchbc.gov.uk/documents/s40353/White%20Paper%20Exec%20Report.pdf>

7. KEY

BORLP4 – Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4
DtC – Duty to Cooperate
LDS – Local Development Scheme
NPPF – National Planning Policy Framework
SCI – Statement of Community Involvement
SoCG – Statement of Common Ground

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