

**Executive  
2025**

**24<sup>th</sup> February**

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**Redditch Borough Council – Local Development Scheme 2025**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Joe Baker
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford
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Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	Yes via Planning Advisory Panel
Relevant Council Priorities	Housing and Environment
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Executive recommend to Council that:-**

- 1) Appendix A: Redditch Borough Council Local Development Scheme 2025 is approved as the Council's programme for plan-making, effective as of 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**
- 2) Delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director for Planning and Leisure Services, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration and Governance, to approve updates to the Local Development Scheme as required.**

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 On the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024 the Government published a consultation titled '*Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system*'. Following this consultation on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024 a new version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published.
- 2.2 The proposed changes to the NPPF and the Council's response were discussed at length the Executive meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024, and prior to this at the Planning Advisory Panel (PAP) held on the 27<sup>th</sup> August. The final changes to the NPPF were also discussed at the PAP on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025.

- 2.3 The issues raised by the new NPPF will be addressed through the development of the Local Plan, this report only addresses the new timetable which is required as a result of the new NPPF.
- 2.4 The following statement accompanied the publication of the NPPF: *'areas must commit to timetables for new plans within 12 weeks of the updated NPPF or ministers will not hesitate to use their existing suite of intervention powers to ensure plans are put in place.'*
- 2.5 In order to meet the requirement outlined para 2.4 above, a new Local Development Scheme (LDS) has been produced which can be seen at appendix A. The LDS is the timetable for the Planning Policies which the Council intend to produce. The timetable was also discussed at PAP meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025.
- 2.6 The LDS outlines the likely path the Borough of Redditch Local Plan will take to adoption. It has been drafted to take into account the introduction of a new plan making system later in 2025. With that in mind, until the final details of the new system are known, the stages of plan making identified for 2026 and beyond are considered by officers to be the likely process, these stages may need to be amended at a later date. To enable amended versions of the LDS to be approved without delay, a delegation to the Portfolio Holder has been included in the recommendations associated with this report. It is envisaged that any new timetables will also be discussed at a PAP meeting as per normal practice.
- 2.7 The significant element to note on the timetable is the publication of an Issues and Options document for wide ranging public and stakeholder consultation in April or May this year. The details of the Issues and Options document and also the approach to engagement and consultation will be covered in further reports in due course.

**3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 None at this stage an agreed budget exists to prepare the Local Plan.

**4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 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.

4.2 Endorsing this LDS ensures that the Council meets the requirement of the above legislation.

**5. COUNCIL PRIORITIES - IMPLICATIONS**

**Relevant Council Priorities**

Whilst the Local Development scheme has little impact on the Council's priorities the Local Plan will have potential implications on all of the Council's Priorities, these will be highlighted in due course.

**Climate Change Implications**

5.2 It is not considered that the LDS will have any climate change implications. The Local Plan will have climate change implications and they will be detailed in future reports.

**6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**Equalities and Diversity Implications**

6.1 There are not considered to be any customer/equality or diversity implications.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

7.1 A significant risk associated with this report is if the Local Development Scheme is not adopted. The Council will not have an up to date timetable for plan production as per the requirement stated at para 2.4 above. Not

having a timetable in place may lead to intervention by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

- 7.2 In addition to having a timetable in place, it is also a requirement of the MHCLG that plan making needs to continue at pace. To that end, one of the changes made as part of the recent reforms is to add clarity to the intervention criteria by which MHCLG judge whether to intervene if plan making doesn't progress.

*'Decisions on intervention will be taken in line with relevant legal tests and should have regard to plan progress and local development needs. The Secretary of State may also consider other matters that they deem relevant to the case, including sub regional or regional or national development needs.'*

- 7.3 The paragraph above is taken from the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) and clearly identifies that a plan's progress, and meeting local development needs are going to be considered alongside wider sub regional, regional and national development needs when considering whether or not to intervene in a local authority's plan making process. Any attempt to delay plan making or not meet identified needs is likely to end in intervention.

**8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Appendix A: Redditch Borough Council – Local Development Scheme 2025