

Committee: Local Plan Leadership Group

Date: 10 Nov 2022

Title: Upcoming Local Plan Team Publications

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Summary

1. The Report is to advise the Leadership Group of a series of documents intended to be published in the near future.

Recommendations

2. That the Leadership Group notes
 - a. the upcoming publication of the documents detailed in the report;
 - b. the improved 5 year housing supply situation; and
 - c. the imminent consultation on the Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document.

Financial Implications

3. None.

Background Papers

4. Report and Minutes of Cabinet 29 March 2022, Agenda Item 12, 'Developers' Contributions Guidance Supplementary Planning Document – Approval for Consultation'
5. Report and Minutes of Cabinet 20 October 2022, agenda Item 13 – Local Development Scheme

Impact

- 6.

Communication/Consultation	The availability of the various documents highlighted will aid communication and engagement by interested parties.
Community Safety	n/a
Equalities	n/a
Health and Safety	n/a

Human Rights/Legal Implications	n/a
Sustainability	n/a
Ward-specific impacts	n/a
Workforce/Workplace	n/a

Situation

7. The Local Plans team plans to publish the following items at various dates during the next few weeks.

5 Year Housing Supply Statement

8. The Leadership Group will be well aware that UDC (like very many other local planning authorities) cannot demonstrate the five year housing supply expected by government. This triggers the national policy 'presumption in favour of sustainable development', putting the Council in a very weak position in trying to resist planning applications for unwelcome types, locations or forms of housing development.
9. The headline result that UDCs housing land supply has increased from 3.52 year's supply in 2021 to 4.89 years this year, very close to the required 5 years. This is on the face of it encouraging, but the 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' will continue to apply (although in some case inspectors have reduced the weight to be given to the presumption, and dismissed appeals, on the grounds that it was near enough met), and the prospects for that level being increased, or even just maintained, for next year are not encouraging.
10. The 5 year Housing Land Supply statement is not quite ready to be published or presented to the Leadership Group, but it is intended to be published in the next few weeks, in order to get this factual information into the public realm and perhaps influencing decision makers as soon as possible. It is intended to bring the completed document to the next Local Plan Leadership Group meeting in order that some of the factors at play in reaching the achieved level of supply can be explained and considered by the Leadership Group.
11. The Leadership Group is asked to note the improved 5 year housing supply position and the intention to publish this shortly.

Revised Local Development Scheme

12. The Cabinet agreed, on 20th October, adoption of a revised Local Development Scheme reflecting the agreed new timetable for Local Plan preparation.
13. A Local Development Scheme informs the public and interested parties of the planning documents already adopted and, with timescales, those in preparation.

14. The Leadership is asked to note the intention to publish this very shortly.

Consultation Draft Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document

15. Cabinet agreed in March this year (see Background Papers) the publication for consultation of this document, with the timetabling of this dependent on resources and other priorities. In order to move towards getting such guidance adopted as soon as practicable, it is now intended to publish this for consultation mid-November or soon thereafter.

16. Member are asked to note the imminent publication, and invited to encourage responses to the consultation from interested parties.

Evidence Study Reports

17. As the Leadership Group will be aware a significant number and variety of evidence study reports have been procured to inform the development of the Local Plan content, and have had reports and presentations on a range of them. Occasionally officers are asked about these, or to be provided with copies of them. In the interests of openness it is intended to publish on the website as many of these as practicable, and as and when resources permit.

18. Note that these evidence studies are being published for information, rather than consultation. The team does not have the resources to enter into dialogue with members of the public on the content or use of these reports. The publication of the Draft Local Plan next summer will provide an opportunity for interested parties to input any views they may have on such matters into the Local Plan preparation process.

19. The Leadership Group is asked to note the intention to publish, from time to time, evidence study reports for information.

Risk Analysis

20.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
1	1	1	1

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.