

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:**

**Title:** Draft Updated Local Development Scheme

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**Report  
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## Summary

1. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the timetable to produce the Councils Development Plan Documents (DPDs) but is primarily focused on the emerging and new Uttlesford Local Plan 2021 - 2041.
2. The LDS sets out the key production and public consultation stages and should be kept up to date – as such, it will be updated as necessary throughout the preparation of the Local Plan.
3. The updated LDS will be published alongside a proposed draft Uttlesford Local Plan 2021 – 2041 consultation, to commence 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 for six weeks.

## Recommendations

4. That Cabinet note the contents of the LDS, including the updated timetable for preparing the new Uttlesford Local Plan and approve it for publication.

## Financial Implications

5. The budget falls within the existing framework for the Local Plan.

## Background Papers

6. The Updated Draft LDS is set out at **Appendix 1**.

## Impact

Communication/Consultation	None required for the LDS. The Local Plan timetable proposes two consultation phases for people to make representation on the Local Plan, which are intended to ensure effective communication, consultation and engagement.
Community Safety	No impact
Equalities	No impact associated with the LDS. The Local Plan will be subject to EQIA.
Health and Safety	No impact.
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None for LDS. Preparation of a Local Plan is a statutory duty. There is a requirement to meet legal tests and comply with regulations.
Sustainability	No impact associated with the LDS. The Local Plan will enable the delivery of sustainable development in Uttlesford and is subject to Sustainability Appraisal.
Ward-specific impacts	None directly related to the LDS.
Workforce/Workplace	N/A

## Situation

7. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) requires Local Planning Authorities to prepare, maintain and publish a Local Development Scheme (LDS).
8. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the timetable to produce Development Plan Documents (DPDs), such as the Local Plan, including key production and public consultation stages.
9. The main focus of the updated LDS is the timetable for the preparation of the emerging and new Uttlesford Local Plan 2021 – 2041.

10. The Updated LDS will be published alongside the proposed draft Local Plan consultation to commence 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 and will be updated as necessary throughout the preparation of the Local Plan.
11. The key Local Plan milestones include the draft Local Plan consultation commencing in November. This is a Regulation 18 consultation that enables a genuine and meaningful opportunity for interested parties to contribute to the preparation of the Local Plan. The Council can, and is likely to, amend and update the draft Local Plan following the consultation and ahead of the next stage of plan preparation.
12. Following the draft Plan consultation (Regulation 18), the Council will consider what changes are appropriate taking into account the representations made. The Council will then publish a final 'submission draft' plan, which is the Regulation 19 stage and is where the Council publish the Final Plan they intend to submit to the Secretary of State. The Regulation 19 Plan will be published in June/ July 2024 and Plan Submission will follow in December 2024.
13. It is anticipated that the Local Plan Examination will take place during 2025 and run into the first part of 2026. It can be expected that the Plan would be adopted around the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2026, although it should be noted that the timetable of the Plan after submission is in the hands of the Planning Inspector, not the Council.
14. Government have signalled their intention to make changes to the NPPF and for the approach to plan making. It is stated that details of the new approach will be published in late 2024 and that plans being prepared under the new system will commence in 2025 onwards.
15. Government have made clear that Councils currently preparing Local Plans should continue using the current system. Transitional Arrangements have been set out that ensure that any Plan submitted by June 2025 will be Examined under the current planning system. Under these arrangements, any such Plan will also need to be Adopted by 31 December 2026.
16. It is considered that there is sufficient time for the Council to submit a plan ahead of the June 2025 deadline, although there is relatively little flexibility for changing the timetable set out in this LDS.

## Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That the timetable proposed in the LDS slips	<p>2</p> <p>There will always be some uncertainties concerning the preparation of a Local Plan, which, could result in some minor changes to the timetable.</p>	<p>1 to 3</p> <p>The severity of impact will depend on the extent of any changes proposed. However, these relate to the preparation of the Local Plan. This paper relates only to the updated LDS.</p>	<p>The Policy Team will make use of effective Project and Resource Management and report any risks to Cabinet via the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Infrastructure and Stansted Airport on a regular basis.</p>

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.

## **APPENDIX 1:**