



Report of	Meeting	Date
Interim Deputy Chief Executive (Chorley)	Central Lancashire Strategic Planning Joint Advisory Committee	Wednesday, 7 February 2024

Local Development Scheme Update

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	Yes
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Purpose of the Report

1. This report presents the contents of the updated Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS document is attached as Appendix 1.

Recommendations

2. To endorse the contents of the report and agree to seek approval to publish at the Council and/or Cabinet meetings for each of the three Central Lancashire Authorities.

Reasons for recommendations

3. The current LDS is out of date and to meet national planning policy, an updated one must be adopted. It is a requirement for each authority to keep an updated LDS uploaded to their website under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

Other options considered and rejected

4. Not applicable

The Local Development Scheme (LDS)

5. An LDS provides a roadmap for stakeholders and community members to understand the process and timetables of plan making. Under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), each authority is required to have an LDS, keep it up to date, and make it publicly accessible.
6. An LDS is required to outline:
 - a. The documents which are to be local development documents,
 - b. The geographical area that the policies will cover,
 - c. Which documents will be development plan documents,
 - d. Which documents will be prepared jointly; and

- e. The timetable for the preparation and revision of the Local Plan documents.
7. The existing LDS was approved by the three Councils in December 2022. This set out the timetable for adoption by December 2023. Regrettably, this deadline was not achieved and approving a new LDS is now necessary.

Local Plan Timetable

8. The preparation of the Local Plan is fluid, and it is common planning practice to make changes to the LDS to ensure the most up to date timetable is published to inform stakeholders of the plan preparation process.
9. A number of complex matters including the Covid pandemic, challenges with the recruitment of qualified planning officers (which is a national issue), several consultations of, and changes to national planning policy, and long turnaround times for key evidence preparation, has caused delays to the programme. Therefore, this revised LDS is now required to provide an up-to-date trajectory of plan making programme.
10. Since the previous LDS was adopted, there have been significant changes to national planning policy and related legislation. The three Central Lancashire Authorities remain absolutely committed to the delivery of the new Local Plan under the existing statutory plan-making regime. This updated LDS outlines how the Local Plan will meet the deadline of submission to the Secretary of State by 30th June 2025 and adoption of the Central Lancashire Local Plan by 31st December 2026.
11. To date, work on the Local Plan has progressed steadily. Consultations that have taken place include the Integrated Assessment Scoping from August to September 2019, Issues and Options from November 2019 to February 2020, and Preferred Options from December 2022 to February 2023.
12. A volume of work has taken place so far in commissioning the required evidence base. Home Teams and consultants have been undertaking detailed site assessment work, in addition to developing the structure of the new Central Lancashire Local Plan, with policy writing now underway.
13. The previous LDS outlined that the Regulation 18 Preferred Options consultation would be split into two parts. It is clear that given the statutory deadline of submission by 30th June 2025 as set out in the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill Consultation (now the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act), this is no longer feasible.
14. We have prepared a revised Local Plan programme and associated financial forecast, taking account of progress and updates, working with all our consultants and stakeholder partners and there is a consensual agreement in principle that given it is no longer feasible in the time we have available, we now focus on implementation of a programme, which is focussed on delivery of the Regulation 19 Publication Version Consultation in early 2025, to achieve submission of the new Local Plan by 30th June 2025.
15. Due to the time required to produce the necessary evidence, including around flood risk and transport, any consultation we undertake this Summer would not include all the information and therefore it would not be a draft Local Plan and would not be a meaningful consultation.

16. The Publication Version Central Lancashire Local Plan Consultation, which will take place in early 2025, still provides an opportunity for people to have their say and can still include the same level of engagement as we have done previously, i.e., drop in events, social media posts etc.
17. Requirements under Regulation 18 were met within the scope and execution of the Part One Preferred Options and there will be further consultation with the opportunity for the submission of representations at the Regulation 19 Publication Stage.
18. The table below provides the key dates for the production of the Local Plan, Appendix 1 provides the full LDS for review.

Key Stage	Timescale
Preparation of Pre-Submission Version of the Local Plan	March 2023 to January 2025
Regulation 19 Consultation	February 2025 to March 2025
Submission Stage (Regulation 22)	By 30 th June 2025
Examination in Public	Late 2025 until Summer/early Autumn 2026
Adoption	By 31 st December 2026

Risk Assessment

19. The updated LDS includes a risk assessment for the delivery of the Local Plan. This highlights issues which could affect delivery and includes:
 - a. staff capacity/turnover/absence
 - b. political delay
 - c. joint working
 - d. soundness of the Local Plan
 - e. changing legislation
 - f. finance/resource availability
20. Each of the above listed risks, and how they will be addressed if they arise as issues, are covered within the LDS.

Next Steps

21. The updated LDS will require approval at Full Council and/or Cabinet for each of the three Authorities and will be taken forward on the following dates: 16th April 2024 at Chorley Council, 6th March 2024 at Preston City Council Cabinet and 27th March 2024 at South Ribble Borough Council.

Climate change and air quality

22. The work noted in this report has an overall neutral impact on the Councils Carbon emissions and the wider Climate Emergency and sustainability targets of the Councils.

Equality and diversity

23. There are no impacts at this stage and the Local Plan itself is subject to a comprehensive impact assessment and EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) which must be published alongside the draft plan when submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

Risk

24. There is a risk assessment in place for the Local Plan.

Background documents

25. Local Development Scheme 2024-2026 (attached as Appendix 1).

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