

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director (Planning and Property) Introduced by (Executive Member (Planning and Development))	Council	Tuesday, 16 April 2024

## Local Development Scheme (LDS)

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	No
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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 approve the publishing of the updated LDS to the Central Lancashire Local Plan website and associated Central Lancashire Authority websites.

### 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 The current LDS is out of date and, to meet national planning policy, an updated one must be adopted.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. To not approve and publish the updated LDS would make the Central Lancashire Local Plan fail to meet national planning legislation requirements.

### Executive summary

5. An updated LDS has been drafted for the Central Lancashire Local Plan and requires approval by Council.
6. Each Authority is required by national planning legislation to publish a LDS which outlines the documents and timetables for Plan-making and review.
7. A Government consultation – *Plan-making reforms: consultation on implementation* – took place in Autumn 2023. This consultation invited views on proposals to implement the parts of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which related to plan-making and a proposed a new system of plan preparation. It confirmed the Government’s intention

that the latest date for plan-makers to submit Local Plans under the current system will be 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 with adoption by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026.

8. The Central Lancashire Authorities are committed to meeting these proposed deadlines as submission under the new plan making regime would have significant impacts.
9. Key evidence work has been commissioned and policy writing is underway. However, long timelines for key evidence production have resulted in changes to the LDS timetable.
10. In order to meet the submission and adoption deadlines, a Part Two Preferred Options Consultation will not take place.
11. Attention is now focused on preparing the Pre-Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19). This version will provide a full draft Plan to be consulted on both in-person and online.
12. If approved, this updated LDS will be published to the Central Lancashire Local Plan website.

### **Corporate priorities**

13. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

<b>Housing where residents can live well</b>	<b>A green and sustainable borough</b>
<b>An enterprising economy with vibrant local centres in urban and rural areas</b>	<b>Healthy, safe and engaged communities</b>

### **The Local Development Scheme (LDS)**

14. A 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 a LDS, keep it up to date, and make it publicly accessible.
15. A 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.
16. 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**

17. 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.

18. 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.
19. Since the previous LDS was adopted, there have been significant changes to national planning policy and related legislation. A Government consultation – *Plan-making reforms: consultation on implementation* – took place in Autumn 2023 and responses are being analysed. This consultation invited views on proposals to implement the parts of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which related to plan-making and a proposed a new system of plan preparation. It confirmed the Government’s intention that the latest date for plan-makers to submit Local Plans under the current system will be 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.
20. 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 proposed deadline of submission to the Secretary of State by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and adoption of the Central Lancashire Local Plan by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026. Failure to submit under the current regime would result in significant financial and operational impacts because the three authorities would be required to commence preparation of a ‘new style’ plan under a revised local plan system.
21. 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 Part One Preferred Options from December 2022 to February 2023.
22. A volume of work has taken place so far in commissioning the required evidence base. Planning policy teams at each of the three authorities 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.
23. The previous LDS outlined that the Regulation 18 Preferred Options consultation would be split into two parts. However, with the proposed introduction of a submission deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 for plans under the current system as set out in the consultation on plan making reforms, this is no longer feasible.
24. We have therefore prepared a revised Local Plan programme and associated financial forecast, taking account of progress and updates, working with all our consultants and stakeholder partners who are minded to agree to the new timeframe. This is focussed on delivery of the Pre-Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19) in early 2025, to achieve submission of the new Local Plan by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.
25. The Pre-Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19) consultation, which will take place in early 2025, will include the outcomes of the necessary evidence, therefore ensuring that consultations can engage with the full scope of the Local Plan.
26. 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 Stage.
27. The Pre-Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19) 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, in line with requirements of each of the three authorities Statement of Community Involvement.

28. The table below provides the key dates for the production of the Local Plan, Appendix 1 provides the full LDS for review.

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

\* and \*\* are deadlines proposed by Government in its consultation on reforms to the process of local plan making and as such are outside the control of the three authorities.

### **Climate change and air quality**

29. 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 Council.

### **Equality and diversity**

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

### **Risk**

31. There is a risk assessment in place for the LDS and is included within the LDS document under appendix 1 of this report.

### **Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer**

32. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Local Plan finances are reported through the Local Plan working group and also as part of the corporate quarterly finance reports presented to Executive Cabinet.

### **Comments of the Monitoring Officer**

33. There are no concerns with this report from a Monitoring Officer perspective. Authority is sought to publish an updated LDS to meet our statutory obligations.

### **Background documents**

There are no background papers to this report

### **Appendices**

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

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