
| | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Report to: Planning Committee Cabinet | Date of Meeting: 11 January 2012 16 February 2012 |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|

Subject: Local Development Scheme for Sefton

Report of: Director of Built Environment **Wards Affected:** All

Is this a Key Decision? Yes **Is it included in the Forward Plan?**
No

Exempt/Confidential No

Purpose/Summary

To explain the purpose and proposed content of Sefton's draft Local Development Scheme (LDS) for 2012, available to view at www.sefton.gov.uk/LDS, and seek Members' approval for the submission of the document to the Department for Communities and Local Government

Recommendations

That Planning Committee recommends that Cabinet and Council

Approve the draft Local Development Scheme, for submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government

That **Cabinet:**

- 1) Approve the draft Local Development Scheme for submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government; and
- 2) Note that the proposal was a Key Decision but, unfortunately, had not been included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions. Consequently, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) had been consulted under Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution, to the decision being made by Cabinet as a matter of urgency on the basis that it was impracticable to defer the decision until the commencement of the next Forward Plan because there is a need to have an up-to-date Local Development Scheme. This is purely for procedural reasons, as the independent Inspector for the forthcoming Merseyside Waste Plan will check whether the timescales in each authority's Local Development Scheme are up-to-date and contain accurate dates for the Waste Plan.

How does the decision contribute to the Council’s Corporate Objectives?

| <u>Corporate Objective</u> | | <u>Positive Impact</u> | <u>Neutral Impact</u> | <u>Negative Impact</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Creating a Learning Community | | ✓ | |
| 2 | Jobs and Prosperity | | ✓ | |
| 3 | Environmental Sustainability | | ✓ | |
| 4 | Health and Well-Being | | ✓ | |
| 5 | Children and Young People | | ✓ | |
| 6 | Creating Safe Communities | | ✓ | |
| 7 | Creating Inclusive Communities | | ✓ | |
| 8 | Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy | ✓ | | |

Reasons for the Recommendation:

To meet the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and Regulations in relation to the preparation of the Council’s Local Development Framework.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) identifies a number of activities that are needed to make progress with the Local Development Framework that have financial implications. This will include updating some of our key evidence and the cost of an examination in public.

This continuing work with the Core Strategy presents a budget pressure for the next few years, as there is currently no identified budget to meet the full anticipated costs of the strategy through to adoption in 2014/15. Following further discussion with the Head of Finance and ICT a report setting out estimated costs and timescales will be prepared in early 2012.

(B) Capital Costs

None

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

| |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Legal It is a statutory requirement to have an up-to-date Local Development Scheme</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Human Resources N/a

Equality

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | No Equality Implication | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. | Equality Implications identified and mitigated | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. | Equality Implication identified and risk remains | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Impact on Service Delivery:

Will assist in the project management of Local Developments Documents and inform members of the public to when they can be involved in the planning policy process.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Finance (FD1241) and Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD 602/11) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

Are there any other options available for consideration?

No – it is a statutory requirement to have an up-to-date Local Development Scheme.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet/Cabinet Member Meeting

Contact Officer: Steve Matthews

Tel: 0151 934 3559

Email: steve.matthews@sefton.gov.uk

Background Papers:

None

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Under the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act each Local Planning Authority is required to produce a Local Development Framework (LDF). This is effectively a portfolio of planning documents of which the key ones for Sefton are the Core Strategy and the joint Merseyside Waste Plan. We are also required to produce a 3-year project plan in the form of a Local Development Scheme in order to help us effectively manage and allocate resources to the production of planning documents.
- 1.2 The LDS must include the key milestones or stages for preparing each Development Plan Document, including when consultation will be undertaken, when we will submit the document to the Secretary of State and when we intend to adopt the document.

2. What does the Local Development Scheme contain?

- 2.1 The draft LDS can be viewed at www.sefton.gov.uk/LDS. Sections 1 to 3 provide an introduction to Sefton and Sefton's current development plan. Section 4 provides a review of the previous Local Development Scheme and our progress in meeting the timetable it sets out.
- 2.2 Section 5 is the heart of the LDS explaining what planning documents we intend to prepare and why. It summarises how the documents fit together, the areas they affect, and the timescales for producing them.
- 2.3 Section 6 outlines the requirements of sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessment in the development of planning policy. The purpose of these is to ensure that planning policies help to promote sustainable development. Section 7 gives an indication of the resources required to meet the timetable set out in the LDS. Section 8 provides an outline of the studies and background work that have been completed or are underway. These are essential to justify the policies which are proposed. Finally a risk assessment is included at section 9 to show how we will work to avoid delays and errors in the plan making process.

3 Priorities within the Local Development Scheme

- 3.1 The top priority for the next three years is the **Core Strategy**. This is the document that will set out the vision, strategy and core policies for the 'spatial' development of Sefton over the next 15 to 20 years. It will aim to reflect the vision and objectives of other strategies prepared both within the Council [e.g economic development strategy] and by our partners [e.g in relation to health issues].
- 3.2 A working group of Members will be set up to guide the next stage of preparation of this document. Studies have taken place on a wide variety matters which are essential background to the Core Strategy, such as housing, employment, retailing and flood risk. There was a wide-ranging consultation in 2011, including drop-in events across Sefton and presentations to local groups. This has resulted in an improved understanding of the issues and challenges facing Sefton, and people's perceptions of how these might best be addressed. Work will continue to use this information to help shape the preferred option for the Core Strategy.

3.3 The key dates for the Core Strategy, as set out in the LDS, are:

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Early consultation | To November 2012 |
| Options consultation | (May to August 2011) |
| Preferred options consultation | (September to November 2012) |
| Publication of submission (final draft) Core Strategy | April 2013 |
| Submission of Core Strategy to Secretary of State | July 2013 |
| Pre-examination hearing | September 2013 |
| Examination in public | November 2013 |
| Receipt of Inspector's Report | February 2014 |
| Adoption of Core Strategy | April 2014 |

Emerging best practice has suggested that authorities expand the scope of their Core Strategy to include site allocations and development management policies. Given the time taken to prepare the Core Strategy to its current state in Sefton it is likely that this is the path we will take rather than producing separate documents. We have therefore not programmed a separate Site Allocations or Development Management DPD in this LDS. We have also removed the Seaforth Area Action Plan, which had been in the previous LDS, as the scope of this document will need to be reviewed in light of proposals for the growth of the Port and any issues arising from the Retail Strategy Review update with regard to Seaforth centre. Further information will be provided in future updates of the LDS.

3.4 Work on the **Joint Merseyside Waste DPD** ['Waste Plan'] is now approaching completion. The preparation of the Waste DPD is a priority to meet Government targets for managing waste in a more sustainable manner. In particular, Merseyside needs to reduce its reliance on landfill by providing alternative facilities for recycling, reprocessing, treatment and disposal.

3.5 The Merseyside authorities (Liverpool City Council, Knowsley Council, Sefton Council, St. Helens Council, Wirral Council and Halton Council) have agreed to prepare this DPD jointly. This work is being led by the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service. Consultation on the 2nd stage of Preferred Options took place in mid-2011. The draft Waste Plan is scheduled to be submitted to the Secretary of State in February 2012, the examination is due in June 2012, and adoption is anticipated by the end of 2012.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 The cost of producing Local Development Documents has in the past been partly met from Housing and Planning Delivery Grant. This has primarily been used to fund studies and pay towards consultation costs. The studies have cost in the region of £220,000 over the past five years. A number of these will need to be updated or 'refreshed' and financial provision will need to be made to cover these costs. At this stage it is difficult to estimate the cost of reviewing the evidence as it will depend on the approach to be taken in the Preferred Option, the next stage in

the development of the Core Strategy. This will be the subject of a further report in early spring, but the costs are anticipated to be more than half of the original total cost of producing the evidence. Further information on the cost implications and how these will be met will be provided in subsequent reports when the extent of the new evidence required is known.

5. Risk Assessment

- 5.1 Developing a programme for the production of documents for a three-year period raises a number of potential risks. Failure to meet committee dates as set out in the project plan may arise for a number of reasons. Potential risks, and how they will be anticipated, are set out in section 9 of the LDS.