

The First Revision to the North Wiltshire District Local Development Scheme 2006 - 2009

It is necessary for the North Wiltshire District Council's Local Development Scheme, though approved by the Secretary of State in May last year, to be altered in the light of significant changes. These changes are set out in the following paragraphs.

The new planning system requires the South West Regional Assembly to produce a Regional Spatial Strategy. There has been a delay to the process at Regional level but the draft Regional Strategy was published, on a revised timetable, on the 31st March 2006. It is therefore appropriate to reflect this emerging document in North Wiltshire District Council's timetable for the production and content of its own Local Development Documents.

North Wiltshire District Council has also made significant progress in preparing new documents for the LDF in association with its Community Strategy, which was published in October this year. This ensures that all appropriate aspirations of the community that have a spatial planning dimension are taken into account.

Since the approval of the last LDS, the new Alteration to the Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016 prepared by Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council was approved recently. This introduces new strategic housing and employment land targets to take North Wiltshire District up to 2016.

At the time the last Local Development Scheme was written in late 2004, there was a considerable uncertainty over the timetable for the delivery of the Structure and Local Plan documents. The programme of delivering the new Local Development Documents was designed as an "insurance" policy, as the LDS in early 2005 stated at the time. This is no longer necessary as greater certainty now exists with the submission of the Inspector's binding report into the North Wiltshire Local Plan 2011.

In addition, it is appropriate to re-consider the form and content of the Local Development Scheme in the light of emerging Best Practice issued from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the experience of other Authorities, the emerging need for joint working with adjoining planning authorities and the Corporate Priorities of this Authority. These changes also require further resource planning.

An opportunity has also been taken to simplify the number and timing of the new local development documents. Initial consultation with the Government Office of the South West indicated that this simplified approach was welcomed.

The main changes between the Local Development Scheme 2005 – 2008 and the proposed First Revised Local Development Scheme 2006 – 2009 are as follows:

- § The timetable for the production of the Core Strategy and the Housing and Employment DPDs has been revised and extended.
- § The topic based DPDs have been deleted from the scheme
- § They have been replaced by a suitably amended Rural Area Action Plan DPD, a new Chippenham and the Main Towns Area Action Plan, a Joint West of Swindon Area Action Plan and a Bowood Estate Area Action Plan.