

**West Wiltshire District Council**

**Council**

**5 January 2004**

**Local Development Scheme**

**1. Purpose**

To consider a draft Local Development Scheme (LDS) for West Wiltshire.

**2. Background**

The new national planning system replaces the old arrangement of County Structure Plans and District Local Plans with the Regional Spatial Strategy produced by the Regional Assembly and Local Development Documents (LDDs), produced at District level.

As a first stage in this new system, local planning authorities have to produce a LDS. This is a public statement of the Council's programme for the production of LDDs over the next 3 years.

The District Plan 1<sup>st</sup> Alteration, adopted in June 2004, continues to form part of the Development Plan for West Wiltshire and is "saved" for a period of at least 3 years. However, progressively the Council should introduce LDDs, which will, over time, replace the District Plan.

This LDS must be submitted to the Secretary of State by March 2005. The submission of this document is a key criteria in determining the Planning Delivery Grant settlement for 2005/6.

**3. Key Issues**

It is for each local planning authority to decide which LDDs to produce. However, the Government expects each Council, at an early stage, to plan for the production of the following documents:

- A Statement of Community Involvement - which sets out how the Council will involve the community in the preparation, alteration and continuing review of all Local Development Documents and planning applications;
- Core Strategy - which sets out the spatial vision and strategy for an area and sets out broad locations (but not sites) for delivering development and transport needs;
- Proposals Map - which identifies the areas of protection and locations for particular land uses.

The production of other LDDs is dependent upon local priorities. These will include Documents which will replace policies in the adopted District Plan and should also include any Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), which will provide further guidance on the implementation of current planning policies.

Set out in Appendix 1 is a draft LDS for West Wiltshire. The Scheme is designed to meet the Government requirements and to meet this Council's current corporate and planning priorities.

The LDS includes the following planning policy & conservation documents which the Council will commence, produce and/or adopt during the next 3 years.

| <b>Local Development Documents</b>   | <b>Reason for Production</b>   |
|--|--|
| Statement of Community Involvement   | Government requirement   |
| Annual Monitoring Report   | Government requirement   |
| Recreation Plan and Proposals  | To implement the results of the Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment<br>Spotlight Area: Better Access to Recreation |
| The Core Strategy  | Government requirement<br>The primary spatial planning document for implementing the Community Strategy                |
| Proposals Map  | Government requirement<br>An ongoing need to update the planning policy map of the District                            |
| Affordable Housing (SPD)   | Spotlight Area: Meeting Housing Need   |
| Residential Development Design Guide (SPD)                                     | Spotlight Area: Improving Development Control  |
| Bradford on Avon Town Centre Conservation Area (CA) Character Assessment (SPD) | Key priority of the Council's approved Conservation Strategy<br>Spotlight Area: Improving Development Control          |
| Melksham Town Centre CA Character Assessment (SPD)                             | Key priority of the Council's approved Conservation Strategy<br>Spotlight Area: Improving Development Control          |
| Trowbridge Town Centre CA Character Assessment (SPD)                           | Key priority of the Council's approved Conservation Strategy<br>Spotlight Area: Improving Development Control          |
| Newtown, Trowbridge CA Character Assessment (SPD)                              | Key priority of the Council's approved Conservation Strategy<br>Spotlight Area: Improving Development Control          |
| Westbury Town Centre CA Character Assessment (SPD)                             | Key priority of the Council's approved Conservation Strategy<br>Spotlight Area: Improving Development Control          |
| Warminster Town Centre CA Character Assessment (SPD)                           | Key priority of the Council's approved Conservation Strategy<br>Spotlight Area: Improving Development Control          |

The LDS is a rolling Scheme which will be monitored on an annual basis and reviewed, as necessary, by the Council.

#### *Financial and Legal Implications*

The submission of the LDS by March 2005 is a key criteria in determining the level of Planning Delivery Grant that this Council receives. The submission of the LDS is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

#### *Environmental Implications*

This report has no direct environmental implications.

#### *Human Rights Implications.*

The Human Rights implications recommended in this report have been considered and are acceptable and the checklist has been addressed.

### **4. Options**

The subject of LDDs and the timetable for their production is a matter for this Council to consider. The suggested programme reflects key objectives of the Council's corporate plan and other Council approved strategies set within the context of Government policy.

Consultation on the draft LDS is taking place with the Government Office for the South West, the Planning Inspectorate and the Regional Assembly. The Secretary of State has the authority to direct the Council to change the submitted LDS if he/she believes the LDS does not meet the Government's objectives.

### **5. List of Background Papers**

File Ref: Local Development Scheme

File Location: Planning Policy and Conservation Section

### **6. Recommendation**

It is recommended that Council

- a) notes the draft Local Development Scheme set out in Appendix 1;
- b) delegates authority, for finalising and submitting the LDS, to the Portfolio Holder in consultation with the Planning Policy & Conservation Manager.

#### **Plain English Guidance Given**

Cllr Michael Mounde  
Portfolio Holder Planning

Mark Russell  
Planning Policy Manager

#### **List of Appendices**

Appendix 1: Draft Local Development Scheme