

## Councillors Briefing Note No. 310

**Service:** Economic Development and Planning

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**Date Prepared:** December 2016

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### **UPDATE OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

The Council has a statutory duty to prepare and update a Local Development Scheme (LDS), which sets out the development plan documents (DPDs) that are to be, or being prepared and timetable for their preparation.

The current published LDS covered the period 2015 to 2018 and was brought into effect in January 2015 with more recent updates on the timetables made available on the Council's website. The LDS has been reviewed and timetables updated to reflect the changes in circumstance that have affected progress on the DPDs in the 2015 LDS. Progress on the DPDs, together with the implications for the timetable, is summarised below

- The Draft Chippenham Site Allocations DPD was submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination in July 2015 and the hearings commenced in November of that year. Suspension of the hearings by the Inspector to allow the Council to undertake a schedule of work led to the hearing sessions reopening in October 2016 and consultation on further proposed modifications to the plan will close December 2016. The timetable has been updated to reflect this and adoption is now anticipated early 2017.
- Consultation on the scope of the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations DPD was undertaken in 2014 and informal consultation subsequently undertaken with Parish and Town Councils in 2014 and 2015. Delays to the timetable have occurred due to the complexity of the Plan, the additional work required by the Inspector examining the Chippenham Site Allocations Plan and the considerable interest with Neighbourhood Planning across Wiltshire, which the Council has a duty to support. The timetable has been updated to reflect this and consultation on a draft Plan programmed to commence June 2017, five months delay on the previously published programme.
- Consultation on the scope of the Gypsy and Traveller DPD was completed in April 2014 and a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) to inform the plan published in December 2014. However, the identification of suitable sites has affected progress and is still ongoing. The Government's change in the definition of Gypsy and Travellers in the National Planning Policy Framework, after the publication of the GTAA, also now requires further consideration. The revised timetable has been updated to reflect this ongoing work and consultation on a draft Plan is now programmed to commence December 2017.

- Consultation on the scope of the Partial Review of the Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD and evidence to inform the partial review was completed in May 2015. Progress on the other DPDs has been prioritised and progression of the partial review will be considered under a full review of the LDS programmed in 2017.

The 2016 LDS can be found via [this link](#). It is an interim LDS pending full review in 2017. The Council, as recognised in the 2015 LDS, is preparing a new joint Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) with Swindon Borough Council to inform the need for a further review of Core Strategy policies particularly in relation to the housing market areas and levels of growth to extend the plan periods of both authorities Plans. The findings from this assessment will be known early 2017 and will help determine what form the review of the Wiltshire Core Strategy will take.