

Report to: Cabinet Meeting: 26 March 2024

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Matthew Spoons, Sustainable Economic Development

Director Lead: Matt Lamb, Director - Planning & Growth

Lead Officers: Matthew Norton, Business Manager Planning Policy & Infrastructure, Ext.5852

Report Summary	
<b>Type of Report</b>	Open Report, Key Decision
<b>Report Title</b>	Draft Affordable Housing SPD and Planning Policy Work Programme
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To set before Cabinet the proposed Work Programme for 2024/2025
<b>Recommendations</b>	That Cabinet agree the new work programme for Planning Policy set out in Section 2 and <b>Appendix B</b> to the report.
<b>Alternative Options Considered</b>	Not applicable
<b>Reason for Recommendations</b>	To agree a Work Programme for Planning Policy for 2024/25

## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 The current work programme for Planning Policy is set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS) which was adopted last June. The timetable is attached at **Appendix A**. Clearly the most important element is the Examination of the Amended Allocations & Development Management Development Plan Document (DPD). This is now in the hands of the Planning Inspectorate and currently the Council awaits the Planning Inspectors initial correspondence on the matter. It is not proposed to update the LDS at this time until we have good understanding of the Inspector's timescales for the DPD Examination.
- 1.2 Two Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD), the Affordable Housing SPD and the Developer Contributions & Planning Obligations SPD are programmed for consultation in April and May 2024. Following a review of the Affordable Housing SPD officers have concluded given the changing environment of the delivery of social housing, both in terms of product type and scheme delivery, initial consultation with developers and registered providers needs to take place first. This initial informal consultation will allow a Draft SPD to be drawn up which is based on a more detailed understanding of the concern of the interested sectors.

- 1.3 Issues related to developer contributions have been raised as part of the examination into the DPD. Therefore, officers believe it would be more prudent to understand the outcome of this element of the examination before progressing an update to the SPD.
- 1.4 At its 12 March 2024 meeting, Planning Policy Board discussed the idea of local guidance on solar energy. The Board agreed that a Solar Energy SPD should be prepared to set out national and local policy on solar energy farms.
- 1.5 The previous item that Cabinet considered relates to the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) assuming that this has been approved this has been included in the proposed timetable.

## **2.0 Proposal/Details of Options Considered**

- 2.1 It is not proposed to update the LDS at this time as set out at 1.1 above because until we have good understanding of the Inspector's timescales for the DPD Examination it would not be possible to do so. The proposals in relation to the SCI and SPDs, whilst in the LDS, are not required to be by regulation. Therefore, we can make changes to these elements of the our work programme without updating the LDS.
- 2.2 Due to the need to ensure that the initial consultation is carried out on the review of the Affordable Housing SPD it is proposed that the formal consultation would be undertaken in June and July with a view to adopt in September. In relation to the Developer Contributions & Planning Obligations SPD it is proposed to carry out consultation in early 2025. These proposals are shown in **Appendix B** of the Report. Also shown on the timetable is the SCI consultation and the two options for the Solar Energy SPD.

## **3.0 Implications**

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

### **Financial Implications FIN23-24/9038**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report, the work programme will be paid for from the existing Local Development Framework Budget.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None