

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

9 SEPTEMBER 2020

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK PROGRESS UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update Members on progress towards delivery of the Plan Review in relation to the Allocations and Development Management Policies and associate evidence base documents. To seek approval to update the Plan Review Timetable and approve the adoptions of an Annex to the Statement of Community Involvement to reflect current restrictions on consultation and publicity during the pandemic.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 Work on the evidence base supporting the Plan Review in relation to the Allocations & Development Management Development Plan Document (DPD) has been severely disrupted by the flooding earlier in the year and by the imposition of the lockdown in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. The Local Development Scheme adopted in November 2019 is now no longer achievable.

3.0 Current Progress

3.1 A number of key evidence base documents are being prepared to support the Plan Review and progress towards completing these is set out below.

Open Space Strategy

3.2 The audit of open space and the Open Space Strategy is being prepared on behalf of the District Council by Knight Kavanagh Page. This work has been delayed by the pandemic and officers are currently in discussions with them to finalise the audit and present the Draft Strategy to the next meeting of the Committee and then carryout stakeholder consultation.

Housing Needs Assessment

3.3 The assessment of housing need in the District is currently being finalised by Arc Consulting, this will provide important up to date information about the type and tenure of new housing that will need to be built supporting proposed affordable housing policies in the Plan Review. It will also provide a framework for negotiation with developers on individual planning applications. It is currently being finalised and it is intended that it will be shared with Members in the next cycle of Committee meetings.

3.4 The changes to the affordable housing requirements which the government is currently proposing and reported elsewhere in this Agenda is likely to cut across this work and will need to be carefully considered.

Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) and Pitch Delivery Strategy

3.5 The GTAA provides an understanding of the accommodation needs of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population in Newark & Sherwood through a combination of desk-based research, stakeholder interviews and engagement with members of the travelling community living on all known sites, yards and encampments. A total of 123 interviews or proxy interviews were completed. The final study is available to view on the Council's website at <https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/planreview/>.

- 3.6 Through the assessment, the full extent of need for the period between 2013-2033 totals some 152 pitches – however of this 34 pitches reflect need from households, which do not meet the Traveller planning definition. It will not be necessary to allocate specific land to meet this need, as it forms a component of the wider housing needs of the District (reflecting a subset of need arising from households residing in caravans). However Romany Gypsies, Irish and Scottish Travellers may be able to claim a right to culturally appropriate accommodation under the Equality Act (2010). Proposals to meet this need will fall to be assessed on their merits against the criteria in Core Policy 5 of the Amended Core Strategy. This leaves a requirement of 118 pitches for those households who meet the planning definition.
- 3.7 It is important to understand that this is need to be met over the whole plan period, nevertheless this represents a substantial scale of need and one, which will require a detailed and robust strategy to deliver. Committee may well recall that when Full Council submitted the Amended Core Strategy it resolved to take all necessary measures to deliver the additional pitches required.
- 3.8 A range of activities are currently being undertaken to identify pitches and sites including the preparation of a Pitch Delivery Strategy which looks at the capacity of current sites and how they may be able to accommodate additional capacity. This work has been significantly delayed, first by the floods earlier in the year and then by lock down introduced in response to the pandemic. This work is programmed to be finished in the next month. However it is important to understand that existing sites alone will not meet this need and therefore alongside the Pitch Delivery Strategy the Council is seeking out other potential sites and will make another formal ‘call for sites’ shortly.

4.0 Proposed LDF Timetable

- 4.1 Taking into account progress on finalising the evidence base, including identifying future pitch provision the following time table for the Plan Review is being proposed:

Amended Allocations & Development Management DPD
Options Report Consultation (January/February 2021)
Detailed Approach to Gypsy & Traveller policy and allocations
Publication of Draft DPD (and final Integrated Impact Assessment) for period of Public Representation (May/June 2021)
Consideration of representations and any potential amendments
Submission of DPD to Secretary of State (September 2021)
Examination by Inspector (December 2021)
Consultation on Main Modifications (February/March 2022)
Receipt of Inspector's Report (May 2022)
Adoption and Publication (June 2022)

- 4.2 It is also proposed that next year work on the reviewing the Developer Contributions & Planning Obligations SPD starting in 2021 with consultation alongside the Draft DPD to allow the document to be finalised when the DPD is submitted.

5.0 Draft Statement of Community Involvement Annex

- 5.1 Due to the pandemic various requirements of the Statement of Community Involvement cannot be met. Emergency regulations have removed requirements to deposit Planning Policy documents publically. In order to make clear that during the pandemic we will not be engaging in the same way an annex to the SCI has been produced and is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 5.2 It is proposed that this is adopted by Economic Development Committee as an Annex to the 2015 document. Given the current circumstance and the various changes that have occurred in the system since 2015 (when the current SCI was adopted) it is proposed that a wider review be undertaken in 2021.

6.0 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment is being prepared alongside the Plan Review process to ensure that the impact on groups with protected characteristics of the proposals are considered as part of the policy making process. It is clearly extremely important that housing provision in line with identified need is identified for the Gypsy and Traveller community.
- 6.2 With regard to the changes proposed within the Draft SCI Annex those groups who are not e-enabled or who have access to digital services will not be independently able to access various consultation documents, however officers as part of the arrangement set out in the Annex be able to provide assistance upon request.

7.0 Financial Implications – FIN20-21/7930

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

8.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives

- 8.1 The Community Plan Objective “Accelerate the supply of new homes including associated facilities” includes a requirement to complete the Plan Review and identify sites for Gypsy and Traveller pitch provision.

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

- (a) Committee note progress towards meeting the timetable of the adopted Local Development Scheme;**
- (b) Committee agree to amend the Local Development Scheme to reflect the proposed approach set out in Section 4 and 5 of the report;**
- (c) the amended Local Development Scheme comes into force on 10 September 2020; and**
- (d) the Statement of Community Involvement Annex attached at Appendix A be adopted as statement of current consultation practice during the pandemic.**

Reason for Recommendations

To comply with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and amending regulations and to adopt a statement of current consultation practice during the pandemic.

Background Papers

Local Development Scheme November 2019.

For further information please contact Matthew Norton on Ext 5852.

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