

Committee(s)	Dated:
Planning and Transportation Committee	01/11/2022
Subject: Local Development Scheme 2022	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,2,4,7,9,11,12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	£0
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Gwyn Richards, Planning & Development Director	For Decision
Report author: Peter Shadbolt, Environment Department	

Summary

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a programme for preparing the City's planning policies. It sets out the timetable for preparing planning policy documents. The LDS needs to be periodically reviewed to keep it up to date. An updated LDS has been prepared setting out an updated programme for the later stages of the City Plan review, along with other planning policy documents. The updated LDS is appended to this report.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- Approve the updated Local Development Scheme for publication; and
- Resolve that the updated Local Development Scheme is to have effect from 1 November 2022.

Main Report

Background

1. A Local Development Scheme (LDS) is required under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The LDS must set out the documents which, when prepared, will comprise the Local Plan for the area and the timetable for their preparation and revision. It must be made publicly available and kept up-to-date so that local communities and interested parties can keep track of progress.
2. The current City Local Plan was adopted in January 2015 and plans for development requirements up to 2026. The City Corporation is preparing a new City Plan covering the period to 2040. The new Plan addresses revised

national and London Plan policy and emerging development trends and requirements, whilst maintaining a positive planning framework to meet the City's long-term needs.

Proposals

3. The current version of the LDS was approved by this Committee in December 2020. Since then, a draft Proposed Submission version of the Plan has been subject to public consultation, which generated a number of responses, most significantly in relation to tall buildings and the impact of development on the Bevis Marks Synagogue. In light of these representations, and principally a Conformity Objection from the Mayor of London in relation to policies on tall buildings, further technical work on tall buildings and the heritage character of the City is required. The Local Plan Sub-Committee has also requested that further engagement work is undertaken with stakeholders in order to explore key issues and ensure the City Plan is informed by a broad range of views. This is ongoing and being progressed alongside other technical work to ensure that the Plan can provide a positive strategy for a post-Covid City. This technical work is expected to complete in the first half of 2023. The revised timetable has also provided an opportunity to better align the City Plan to the City Corporation's Climate Action Strategy and other Corporation initiatives, including Destination City.
4. Officers are currently working with Members of the Local Plan Sub-Committee to consider key policy directions and the scope of changes required to the Plan, informed by emerging evidence. This work will continue through the remainder of 2022 and into 2023, before a revised Proposed Submission Draft Plan is considered by the Sub-Committee and brought back to this Grand Committee for approval. The Plan will then need to be considered and approved by Policy & Resources Committee and the Court of Common Council before being issued for public consultation and, following that consultation, submitted to the Secretary of State for Public Examination..
5. Appendix 1 sets out the updated LDS, which identifies the proposed stages and timetable for the City Plan review process. In summary the remaining key stages are:

Stage of Local Plan review	Dates
Consultation on revised Proposed Submission Draft Plan	December 2023 - February 2024
Submission to Secretary of State	June 2024
Public Examination	Summer/Autumn 2024
Adoption	June/July 2025

6. To meet these timescales, the following Committee meetings are envisaged.

Committee	Dates
Local Plan Sub-Committee – to continue exploring key policy issues and overall strategy of the Plan	November 2022 – June 2023
Local Plan Sub-Committee – to consider draft policies	June/July 2023

Planning & Transportation Committee – to agree draft City Plan for consultation	Sept/Oct 2023
Policy & Resources Committee – to agree draft City Plan for consultation	Oct/Nov 2023
Court of Common Council – to agree draft City Plan for consultation	Oct-Dec 2023

7. The LDS is only required to include details of Development Plan Documents (DPDs), which in the City currently comprise a single City Plan. However, it has been considered helpful in the past to include other planning policy documents within the City’s LDS so that Members and users of the planning system can be aware of all documents that are either adopted or in preparation. It is proposed to continue this approach, and the updated LDS therefore provides details about Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and the Statement of Community Involvement.
8. Legislation requires that to bring the LDS into effect the local planning authority must resolve that the LDS is to have effect and specify in the resolution the date from which it is to have effect. It is recommended that the updated LDS be brought into effect from today’s date. The updated LDS will be published on the City Corporation’s website, together with any subsequent changes to the City Plan programme.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. The LDS sets out the overall work programme for the remaining stages of the City Plan review and the preparation or review of other policy documents, and has no direct corporate or strategic implications in itself. However, the City Plan and other planning policy documents listed in the LDS will be prepared or revised with regard to the Corporate Plan and to the City Corporation’s other plans and strategies, where relevant.

Financial/Resource Implications

10. The costs of progressing the City Plan review through to adoption will be met partly from existing staff resources and the existing City Plan budget allocation. However, a considerable amount of new and updated evidence will be required to support the Plan and wider public engagement is now proposed which will have additional financial and staff resource implications. Officers are updating the detail technical and statutory work programme to consider the scope of the additional resource requirements and any need for additional budget allocation, in particular to meet Public Examination costs, will be brought back to this Committee for consideration.

Risk Implications

11. The attached LDS has been prepared on the basis of the current regulatory and legislative context, Nevertheless, there are a number of risks that could impact on the City Plan programme, the key ones being:
 - **National planning reforms.** The Government is progressing the Levelling Up Bill through Parliament which proposes a number of changes to the operation of the national planning system. Separately, Government

Ministers have announced an intention to progress further changes to planning as part of a wider reform programme. There is a risk that new national legislation or guidance is progressed which introduces new processes or requires changes to the draft City Plan. The City Corporation may need to undertake further review of the draft Plan to reflect such national policy changes. This risk will be mitigated by adopting a flexible approach and by keeping abreast as closely as possible with the progress of potential national changes. Any implications for the City Plan arising from such changes will be reported to the Planning & Transportation Committee.

- **Response to consultation.** Public consultation may raise issues that had not been fully anticipated and give rise to the need to carry out further research, re-drafting and modification of the City Plan or SPDs. A continued emphasis on early and ongoing consultation and liaison will mitigate this risk.

Other Implications

12. There are no specific legal, equalities, climate or security implications arising from this report. Any such implications will be addressed when each planning policy document is produced, for example through Equalities Assessments and the City Plan Integrated Impact Assessment where appropriate.

Conclusion

13. Members are recommended to approve the updated LDS for publication and to resolve that it should take effect from today's date.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Local Development Scheme 2022

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