

Committee(s)	Dated:
Planning and Transportation Committee	11/02/2025
Subject: Local Development Scheme	Public report: For Decision
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes • Provides statutory duties 	This report relates to the statutory planning function
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	n/a
What is the source of Funding?	n/a
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	n/a
Report of:	Katie Stewart, Executive Director of Environment
Report author:	Gudrun Andrews, Head of Planning Policy

Summary

A new Local Development Scheme has been produced to meet the Government's deadline of 6 March 2025. This includes the key dates for the final stage of the preparation of the City Plan 2040 and dates associated with planned Supplementary Planning Documents. The new LDS will comprise of a dataset of key dates and a text document which will both be submitted to MHCLG by the deadline.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Agree that the Local Development Scheme as at Appendix 1 and the accompanying dataset be submitted to MHCLG as the updated timetable for the preparation of planning policy documents

Main Report

Background

1. A Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the schedule for preparing planning policy documents including Local Plans, Neighbourhood Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents. The latest LDS from the City Corporation is dated 31 July 2024.

2. On 13 December 2024 the Deputy Prime Minister requested that all local planning authorities update their Local Development Scheme by 6 March 2025.
3. To meet this requirement a new LDS must be produced. As the plan has already been submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities, and Local Government (SoS) (29 August 2024) the new LDS will provide an update on the examination timetable with expected key dates to meet the adoption milestone. It will also provide a programme for the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents which will provide additional guidance to policies within the City Plan.

Deputy Prime Minister's request

4. The request emphasised the need for clear, realistic, and specific dates for consultation and submission of the local plan. Since the City Plan has already been submitted, the specific dates relate to the examination process and anticipated adoption. However this presents a good opportunity to incorporate the proposed timetable for the production of Supplementary Planning Documents, which will provide further guidance and support the implementation of City Plan policies and objectives.

Digital format

5. The Government also requested the completion of an online form to ensure a consistent dataset from all local planning authorities. However, this form only covers anticipated Regulation 18 (Early Engagement dates) and does not capture the key information relevant to our current stage in plan-making. To meet the spirit of the request the data in our LDS has been aligned with the government's emerging data standards (see: <https://www.planning.data.gov.uk/dataset/local-plan-event>). It is proposed that the new LDS is submitted to MHCLG in a digital format for the key 'local plan events' such as dates of consultation, submission, hearings, Inspectors' report and adoption.
6. To make the information more recognisable and accessible, a text document will be provided alongside the dataset (see Appendix 1). This provides further background and a summary of the key data relating to the next stages in plan preparation, Supplementary Planning Documents production and the Barbican and Golden Lane Neighbourhood Plan. The key information is also set out below.

City Plan examination update

7. The City Plan is currently at examination, and the next confirmed stage is the examination hearings, scheduled for the weeks commencing 24 and 31 March, with an additional reserve week on 28 April 2025.

8. Once a plan is submitted, the timetable is determined by the Planning Inspectorate rather than the local planning authority therefore the dates of latter stages of the plan preparation are estimates.
 - Consultation on main modifications- Summer 2025
 - Fact Check Report- Autumn 2025
 - Inspectors' Final Report- Autumn 2025
 - Adoption- Winter 2025/6

Supplementary Planning Documents

9. The LDS in Appendix 1 also includes detail of the SPDs planned or under preparation for the financial years 2025/6 and 2026/7. This includes the following:
 - Offices Use (update)
 - Planning Obligations (update)
 - Protected Views (update)
 - Air Quality (update)
 - Culture
 - An Inclusive City
 - Puddle Dock
 - Celebrating Our Heritage

Neighbourhood Plans

10. As set out in the LDS there is one designated Neighbourhood Forum and Area within the square mile. This Barbican and Golden Lane Neighbourhood Forum was established on the 18 July 2023 and is valid for five years. The Neighbourhood Forum is in the early stages of plan preparation. Consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan is anticipated in 2027.

Corporate & Strategic implications

11. The City Plan 2040 has been prepared to contribute to corporate objectives, in particular the Corporate Plan. The SPDs will sit under the City Plan and will assist in delivering the aims and objectives of the plan, as well as providing guidance on policies contained within it.

Financial implications

12. The preparation of the SPDs will be undertaken under existing and identified local plan budgets.

Resource implications

13. The resources associated with the preparation of the SPDs will be undertaken within the existing team structures.

Legal implications

14. The LDS has been prepared in accordance with Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Risk implications

15. None.

General implications

16. There are not considered to be any other implications relating to the content of the proposal.

Equalities implications

17. The Public Sector Equality Duty is an ongoing requirement and will be taken into account by officers throughout the preparation of planning policy documents.

Climate implications

18. None

Security implications

19. None

Conclusion

20. The report summaries the content and approach to the preparation of the new LDS as requested by the Government.

Appendices

- Appendix 1- Local Development Scheme, February 2025

Report author

Gudrun Andrews
Head of Planning Policy

E: gudrun.andrews@cityoflondon.gov.uk