

Local Plan Review Update

Final Decision-Maker	STRATEGIC PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
Lead Head of Service	<i>Rob Jarman (Head of Planning and Development)</i>
Lead Officer and Report Author	Mark Egerton
Classification	Public
Wards affected	<i>All Wards</i>

Executive Summary

At the 10th March 2020 meeting of this committee, Members resolved that officers provide a short, written update at each meeting of this committee, concerning any slippage and/or progress on delivering the Local Plan Review on the timescale agreed. This report provides the requested update.

Purpose of Report

For noting

This report makes the following recommendations to this Committee:

1. That the content of this report is noted

Timetable

Meeting	Date
Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee	7 th October 2020

Local Plan Review Update

1. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	<p><i>The four Strategic Plan objectives are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Embracing Growth and Enabling Infrastructure</i> • <i>Safe, Clean and Green</i> • <i>Homes and Communities</i> • <i>A Thriving Place</i> <p>The Local Plan Review (LPR), can contribute to all four objectives. The Scoping Themes and Issues consultation document previously agreed by this Committee explains this interrelationship between the Strategic Plan objectives and the LPR.</p>	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning & Development
Cross Cutting Objectives	<p><i>The four cross-cutting objectives are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Heritage is Respected</i> • <i>Health Inequalities are Addressed and Reduced</i> • <i>Deprivation and Social Mobility is Improved</i> • <i>Biodiversity and Environmental Sustainability is respected</i> <p>Similarly, the relationship between these objectives and the LPR is explained in the Scoping, Themes and Issues consultation document.</p>	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning & Development
Risk Management	<p><i>There is less time available for a robust evidence base</i></p>	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning & Development
Financial	<p>Provision has been made for the costs of delivering the local plan review within the Council's agreed budget and medium-term financial plan.</p>	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning & Development

Staffing	There are no significant staffing implications resulting from this update report	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning & Development
Legal	This report does not raise any specific legal implications. More widely, the preparation of the LPR is governed by specific legislation and regulations and informed by national planning policy and guidance. Legal advice on specific matters is obtained from MKLS and/or counsel as the LPR is progressed and this is incorporated.	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning & Development
Privacy and Data Protection	This report does not raise any specific privacy/data protection issues at this stage.	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning & Development
Equalities	No implications identified as part of this report and recommendations. An impact assessment has been undertaken. This is a live document that is revisited as the review progresses	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning & Development
Public Health	The LPR will have, or has the potential to have, a positive impact on population health and that of individuals	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning & Development
Crime and Disorder	The LPR can potentially have a positive impact on crime and disorder.	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning & Development
Procurement	This report does not raise any specific procurement issues at this stage.	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning & Development

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the 10th March 2020 meeting of the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure (SPI) Committee, Members resolved that officers provide a short-written update at each meeting of this committee, concerning any slippage and/or progress on delivering the plan on the timescale agreed. This report provides the requested update.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 22nd September 2020, this committee agreed to the publication of the current evidence base for the Local Plan Review. This means that developers, stakeholders, and communities have the

opportunity to evaluate these documents. In addition, and in respect of the future work programme it resolved that:

1. *Full Council be recommended to approve the Local Development Scheme 2020-2022 (September 2020 edition);*
 2. *Full Council be recommended to approve the Maidstone Statement of Community Involvement (September 2020);*
 - a. *The Statement of Community Involvement Covid-19 Temporary Addendum (May 2020) adopted by the Committee on 9 June 2020 forms an Addendum to the Statement of Community Involvement (September 2020), be agreed;*
 - b. *The Head of Planning and Development be granted delegated powers to reverse the changes within the Maidstone Statement of Community Involvement Covid-19 Temporary Addendum (May 2020) adopted by the Committee on 9 June 2020 as soon as Covid-19 restrictions allow, and whilst this Addendum remains in place, the Council will endeavour to provide paper copies of consultation documents referred to in the Statement of Community Involvement (September 2020) to any resident when requested.*
 3. *The Head of Planning and Development be given delegated powers to make minor editorial and presentational adjustments to the Local Development Scheme and Statement of Community Involvement prior to publication; and*
 4. *As further details of the proposed changes to the planning system emerge, these will be reported to the Committee with any options/recommendations.*
- 2.3 Subsequently, at its 30th September meeting, Full Council endorsed the relevant resolutions from the 22nd September SPI Committee. Consequently, the next public consultation on the Local Plan Review will take place at the beginning of December 2020 and is expected to last for a minimum 3-week period. It will also consolidate spatial strategy and non-strategic components.
- 2.4 Given that there is now agreement to combine the spatial strategy with non-strategic components, the subsequent consultation will provide preferred approaches and, where appropriate, reasonable alternatives, to both of these topic areas.
- 2.5 There has been considerable debate around the decision to reduce the timescale for the December 2020 consultation from 6 weeks to a minimum of 3 weeks. Consequently, officers have assured Members that early work will be undertaken with Parish Councils and key stakeholders on the consultation proposals, in order to maximise the effectiveness of the consultation. It is intended for this to take place in the period between the agreement of the draft Preferred Approaches consultation documents on the 9th November and the commencement of formal public consultation at the start of December.
- 2.6 In the meantime, discussions regarding the spatial strategy are reaching a critical stage and at its meeting of 9th November, this Committee will be presented with the draft consultation documents, including the draft spatial strategy, for its approval to consult under Regulation 18 of The Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

2.7 In preparation for the 9th November meeting, it is intended to undertake workshops with Members with a particular focus on employment and retail matters, as well as the spatial strategy. Whilst there have been a number of sessions with Members around the overall spatial strategy, there has been a commitment to provide a focus on employment and retail in advance of publishing the preferred spatial strategy.

3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

3.1 *This report is for noting*

4. RISK

4.1 This report has no specific risk management implications and the risks associated with the Local Plan Review programme are contained within a strategic risk assessment.