

Report to: **Strategic Planning Committee**



Date of Meeting: 9 January 2024

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

East Devon Local Plan – timetable update report

Report summary:

At Strategic Planning Committee on the 31 October 2023 it was suggested that at every second meeting of committee there should be an update report on overall progress on local plan production. This report summarises progress on key work streams. In summary it is reported that work is progressing according to timetables. It is highlighted that we have issued a tender brief seeking appointment of consultants to produce a whole plan viability assessment.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

That committee note the ongoing work on local plan production as summarised in this update report.

Reason for recommendation:

To ensure Members of committee are kept aware of local plan making progress.

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Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Democracy, Transparency and Communications
- Economy and Assets
- Finance
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Tourism, Sports, Leisure and Culture

Equalities impact Low Impact

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Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk;

Links to background information

The consultation draft local plan from November 2022 and other local plan papers can be viewed at:

[Draft Local Plan Consultation - East Devon](#)

Links to other background documents, if provided, are contained in the body of this report.

Link to Council Plan

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
 - A greener East Devon
 - A resilient economy
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1. Local plan work planning

- 1.1 At Strategic Planning Committee on 31 October 2023 it was agreed that at every second meeting an update report on local plan work progress would be presented to committee. In practical terms we would see this as being once every two months, or at committee meetings that most closely correspond to this pattern.
- 1.2 The emphasis on updating being to:
 - report on key work and tasks being undertaken
 - to highlight any concerns about deviation from the timetable, and
 - to report on forthcoming reports to committee.
- 1.3 Updating on progress should be seen within the wider context of getting to the Publication consultation stage of plan making to a target date of November 2024 and thereafter to the Submission stage to a target date of May 2025.
- 1.4 We are reviewing work progress alongside the timeline chart set out below/over. This chart was first presented to committee on 31 October 2023. It is not changed from its original iteration as there are no programming changes to report on. In subsequent drafts, however, we will look to amend if appropriate and if changes are needed, if or where so these will be reported on.

Proposed table of key work stages to take the East Devon Local Plan to Submission for Examination

Key work stages	2023			2024												2025						
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
Committee approval of this work plan (31 Oct 2023)	X																					
Ongoing evidence work and preparing Reg 18 consultation documents																						
Reports on emerging evidence as it becomes available																						
SPC approval of Reg 18 consultation																						
Reg 18 consultation																						
Officer assessment of representations received																						
Feedback on consultation to committee																						
Ongoing evidence and assessment work																						
Redrafted chapters to committee as below:																						
Ch. 1 introduction and Ch. 2 vision																						
Ch. 7 Climate change and Ch. 8 Housing																						
Ch. 10 design and Ch. 11 transport																						
Ch 15. heritage, Ch 16. community																						
Ch. 13 biodiversity and Ch. 14 open space																						
Ch 12. Landscape and Ch 19. Glossary																						
Ch 5. and Ch 6. development allocations and Ch. 9 economy																						
Ch 3. spatial strategy and Ch 17. implementation																						
Final redrafting of the proposed Publication Plan																						
SPC approval of Reg 19 Publication plan																						
Council approval of Publication plan for consultation																						
Publication plan consultation																						
Officer assessment of submissions received																						
Council approval of plan submission																						
Submission of the plan for Examination																						

 Green bars indicate key background work and consultation periods

 Red crosses indicate key committee dates (actual dates to be confirmed)

- 1.5 Referring to the chart, it is reported that officers have been undertaking ongoing evidence production and assessment to inform plan production to the end of 2023 and this is continuing into 2024. Work is progressing to timescales. We can report that in December 2023 we issued a brief inviting consultants to tender for undertaking a whole plan viability assessment. This work also includes work outputs, that parallel local plan viability assessment, to inform a review of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charges. Future reports on the CIL work will be brought to committee.
- 1.6 A whole plan viability assessment is critical evidence to support the local plan. It will establish, amongst other matters, whether infrastructure and contributions sought from development, and as such as specified in policy, can be borne out from and by development profits and returns. At a future point in local plan making it is likely that Committee will need to debate and decide on where priorities for developer contributions lie and therefore what standards or levels of provision should be sought in differing local plan policies.

2. Future reports to committee

- 2.1 In accordance with the timetable for local plan production the current emphasis on work production is producing reports setting out proposed consultation on selected topic matters, highlighted in the report to committee in October 2023, for consultation in March and April 2024. These will come to Committee in March 2024 and be in respect of consultation on:
- Employment allocations
 - Potential new housing or other allocations
 - Clyst Valley Regional Park Boundary
 - Green wedges
 - Coastal Preservation Areas
 - Designated Neighbourhood Area housing requirements
 - Town centre retail boundaries
- 2.2 Under our current work programme we will seek to bring reports to Strategic Planning Committee on the 6 February 2024 on the following subject matters:
- Self-build monitoring
 - Water Cycle Study update
 - Strategic Flood Risk Assessment update
 - Updated Coastal Change Management Area boundaries (specifically for Sidmouth)
 - Designated Neighbourhood Area housing requirements

Financial implications:

There are no direct financial implications resulting from the report.

Legal implications:

There are no substantive legal issues to be added to this report.