

Report to: Strategic Planning Committee

Date of Meeting: 4 February 2025

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A



## **New planning policy – Local Development Scheme**

### **Report summary:**

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out a programme and timetable for production of future planning policy documents. The previous LDS dates from late 2024, but in response to communication from the Ministry of Housing, Communities Local Government, dated 13 December 2024, an update is required. This report introduces the proposed new LDS, summarises key content and provides more information on plan production considerations.

### **Is the proposed decision in accordance with:**

Budget Yes  No

Policy Framework Yes  No

### **Recommendation:**

That Strategic Planning Committee recommend to Council that the proposed new Local Development Scheme, as appended to this report as Appendix 1, should be endorsed and take effect immediately following approval.

### **Reason for recommendation:**

To ensure the Council has an up to date Local Development Scheme.

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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

## Climate change Low Impact

**Risk:** Low Risk; The direct risk is low. But a new LDS related to the issue of local plan production for which there are wider substantive risks.

### Links to background information

Links to background documents 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. Introduction

- 1.1 There is a requirement for planning authorities to have an up-to-date Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS is programme planning document setting out timetables for plan making work.
- 1.2 The new proposed LDS forms a future work programme for the Planning Policy team at the Council and is appended to this committee report. The new LDS lists key policy documents that are proposed to be produced by the Planning Policy team or in which the policy team is partnering in production. The LDS also provides an overview of and advises on relevant planning policy work undertaken by outside partners, to include Devon County Council, in respect of waste and minerals plans and local communities in respect of Neighbourhood Plan making.
- 1.3 The reasons for this new LDS, noting the last one was approved in late 2024, is because the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government advised on the 13 December 2024 [Chief Planner's newsletter December 2024 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/Chief%20Planner's%20Newsletter%20December%202024.pdf) that:

*“Updated Timetables for Local Plan Preparation In light of the changes to the NPPF, the Deputy Prime Minister has asked that all local planning authorities produce an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) within 12 weeks of the publication of the NPPF, i.e. by no later than 6 March 2025. The updated LDS should include clear, realistic, and specific dates for consultation and submission of the local plan. We ask that once updated, the LDS is made publicly available, and a copy is sent to the Ministry .....*”

- 1.4 The main change from the previous version of the LDS is that the first stage Regulation 19 consultation will now start in February 2025 rather than January.  
  
We are required to report to government that we have updated the LDS and hence bringing this report to committee now.

**Financial implications:**

There are no direct financial implications identified in this report.

**Legal implications:**

The legal implications are set out within the report (002533/4 February 2025/DH).