

Epping Forest District Council Local Development Scheme Adopted June 2015

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) requires local planning authorities to prepare and maintain a local development scheme setting out the development plan documents it intends to prepare together with details and a timetable for their preparation. This document seeks to provide that information.

The Council's first local development scheme was published in March 2005, and was reviewed in October 2007. This scheme proposed a number of development plan documents: a core strategy DPD, land allocations DPD and two action area plans. The most recent local development scheme was adopted in July 2014: this proposed to produce a single document – the Epping Forest Local Plan. The timetable for this has changed and the scheme set out below supersedes the July 2014 local development scheme.

The present policy position

The Government published the National Planning Policy Framework in March 2012 which replaced a significant amount of detailed national policy. In addition further national guidance is set out in the online Planning Practice Guidance first published in March 2014 and regularly updated.

The current Local Plan was adopted in January 1998. Alterations to that Plan were adopted on 10 July 2006 and superseded or changed some of the policies in the adopted 1998 Local Plan. The remaining policies in the Local Plan will be used in conjunction with the Local Plan Alterations as the local planning policies for this District and given weight in accordance with the degree to which the policies are deemed to be compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. Those policies rated as compliant, generally compliant or partially compliant will continue to be used until the adoption of the new Local Plan supersedes them.

The Council is progressing with the preparation of a single district wide local plan. This new Local Plan for the area therefore will determine the amount and distribution of development and policies related to development but must be in general conformity with national policy.

Planning for minerals and waste will continue to be undertaken by Essex County Council, and it will produce its own Local Development Scheme for the future production and review of a Minerals Development Framework and a Waste Development Framework. Epping Forest District Council will continue to be a consultee during production of these.

1. Following the analysis of responses to the Community Choices consultation which took place between 30 July and 15 October 2012, the Council agreed to prepare a district-wide local plan. This will provide a framework for the

future development of the district and include strategic vision and policies for the period up to 2033, site allocations and development management policies. The projected timetable is set out in the table below.

2. There will be opportunities for community engagement in the content of the plan on a 'continuous' basis but for practical purposes the next key stage will be the consultation on the Draft Plan which is scheduled to take place between July and September 2016. Following consideration of the consultation responses the Council will prepare the plan for submission. Prior to the submission of the plan for examination by an independent inspector, all interested parties will be invited to make representations relating to the soundness of the plan. This is scheduled to take place for 6 weeks (in accordance with the regulations) between April/May 2017 with the submission of the Plan for examination scheduled for September/October 2017.
3. The consultation documents will be accompanied by draft Policies Maps, prepared to the appropriate level of detail for each stage, and which will be kept up to date as the plan is developed and amended. Sustainability Appraisals and Reports will be published simultaneously as part of these consultation exercises.
4. In preparing the new local plan, the Council needs to satisfy the 'duty to co-operate' requirements of the Localism Act 2011 which mean that Councils need to co-operate on relevant cross boundary planning matters. This applies particularly to Harlow District Council where provision may be made in this district for some of Harlow's proposed expansion. Epping Forest Council adjoins ten local planning authorities – Harlow, East Herts and Broxbourne in Hertfordshire; Uttlesford, Chelmsford and Brentwood in Essex; and the London Boroughs of Havering, Redbridge, Waltham Forest and Enfield. Preparation of the local plan also involves co-operation with Hertfordshire and Essex County Councils, the Greater London Authority, Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, the City of London Corporation, Epping Forest Conservators and all appropriate statutory undertakers and relevant Government agencies.
5. The Council is also considering the introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in the district. This is the mechanism that Councils are able to use to collect contributions from developers toward the infrastructure needs of the district. If the Council decides to implement a CIL charge in the district, consultation will be undertaken on the proposed charging schedule in accordance with the appropriate regulations and subject to a separate examination.
6. The adopted Policies Map will be revised as and when new local development documents, or their revisions, are themselves adopted.
7. This revised Local Development Scheme will come into effect on 11 June 2015. It will continue to be reviewed on a regular basis. The reviews will be reported to Members and published on the Council's website, to ensure (i) that progress with the preparation of the local plan is closely monitored and managed; and (ii) the local community and other interested parties are kept fully informed.

| Local Plan | |
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| Role and Subject | Determines the amount and location of development for the district together with some release of Green Belt land for this purpose. Sets out the spatial vision, objectives and strategy, all development sites and development management policies for the development of the district for the period up to 2033. |
| Which "saved" policies will it replace? | All |
| Geographical coverage | District wide |
| Status | Development Plan Document |
| Conformity | Consistent with national planning policy and planning practice guidance |
| Timetable | |
| Evidence gathering & background work Issues & Options preparation and public consultation including initial sustainability appraisal ♣ | October 2011 – September 2012 Consultation on the issues & options 'Community Choices' took place between 30 July 2012 and 15 October 2012 |
| Draft plan preparation and sustainability appraisal | October 2012 – May 2016 |
| Consultation on draft plan (a minimum of 8 weeks) | July - September 2016 |
| Preparation of Submission Plan and Sustainability appraisal | September-February 2017 |
| Pre-submission publication and representations on soundness (6 weeks) Regulation 19 | April/May 2017 |
| Submission to Planning Inspectorate for Examination Regulation 22 | September/October 2017 |
| Examination in public Regulation 24 | Subject to discussion with the Planning Inspectorate and timetabling – likely to be |

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| | early 2018 |
| Receipt of report Regulation 25 | May 2018 |
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| Expected Adoption & Publication (including policies map) Regulation 26 | September 2018 |
| Production | |
| Lead department | Planning Policy (Neighbourhoods Directorate) |
| Management | The Portfolio Holder (and the relevant Scrutiny Panel and Cabinet as necessary) will consider drafts. Full Council will approve final draft documents prior to submission. |
| Resources | Planning Policy Team with consultative input from Development Management Team Corporate Support, Economic Development, Environment and Street Scene, Country Care, Finance and ICT, and Housing' |
| Community and Stakeholder Involvement | In accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement |