

Title: Local Development Scheme (LDS)  
 Lead Officer: Amit Bratch (Principal Planning Officer) and Andrew Cornfoot (Planning Policy & Major Sites Delivery Manager)  
 Portfolio Holder: Councillor Chris King (Place)  
 Wards of the District directly affected: All wards

<b>Approvals required</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	12/02/2024	Cllr Chris King
<b>Finance</b>		Andrew Rollins
<b>Legal Services</b>	09/02/2024	Ross Chambers
<b>Chief Executive</b>	13/02/2024	Chris Elliott
<b>Director of Climate Change</b>		Dave Barber
<b>Head of Service(s)</b>	12/02/2024	Philip Clarke
<b>Section 151 Officer</b>		Andrew Rollins
<b>Monitoring Officer</b>		Graham Leach
<b>Leadership Co-ordination Group</b>		
<b>Final decision by this Committee or rec to another Cttee / Council?</b>	Yes	
<b>Contrary to Policy / Budget framework?</b>	No	
<b>Does this report contain exempt info/Confidential? If so, which paragraph(s)?</b>	No	
<b>Does this report relate to a key decision (referred to in the Cabinet Forward Plan)?</b>	Yes, Forward Plan item 1,378 – scheduled for 6 March 2024	
<b>Accessibility Checked?</b>	Yes	

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## Summary

This report seeks approval for a refreshed Local Development Scheme (LDS) to the version published in December 2022. The LDS is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and sets out the work of the Planning Policy team over the next 3 years in terms of the production of planning documents.

## Recommendation(s)

- (1) The Cabinet notes the content of the Local Development Scheme (LDS) (Appendix 1) and agrees to adopt the LDS and its proposals for delivery of planning policy documents over the forthcoming 3 years.
  - (2) That Cabinet notes that existing resources are proposed to be used within the planning service to ensure there is officer capacity to deliver the LDS.
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## 1 Reasons for the Recommendation

- 1.1 Adoption and publication of a Local Development Scheme is a statutory requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which lays out the coverage and duration of the document required. This includes a provision for an annual review of the Scheme to ensure it remains relevant and up to date.
- 1.2 The Warwick District Local Plan (2011-2029) was adopted in September 2017. This comprehensive Plan sets out additional Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) that are required to support the Local Plan and add further detail for applicants, decision makers and other relevant stakeholders in the planning process.
- 1.3 Much of the programme of work in the LDS is driven by commitments in the Local Plan. As well as these commitments, additional work will arise in response to either local planning issues, changes in Council priorities or changes in national legislation. Where possible these are factored into the LDS, to ensure that it both provides an update on progress made and identifies new areas of policy being worked on.
- 1.4 Since the adoption of the Local Plan in September 2017, the Planning Policy team has delivered 8 Supplementary Planning Documents, set out below:
  - Parking Standards
  - Residential Design Guide
  - Air Quality and Planning
  - Land East of Kenilworth Development Brief
  - Public Open Space
  - Custom and Self-Build
  - Developer Contributions
  - Affordable Housing.
- 1.5 In addition, the team has also produced supplementary planning guidance on the mix of housing for large scale developments and guidance relating to Policy H6 (Houses in Multiple Occupation and Student Accommodation) of the Local Plan.

- 1.6 Furthermore, the Planning Policy team has worked closely with relevant qualifying bodies (usually parish or town councils) to assist in the adoption of Neighbourhood Development Plans with 10 having been adopted since 2016, 8 of which were 'made' following the adoption of the Local Plan. The team has designated Neighbourhood Area status to Stoneleigh and Ashow and have undertaken a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Cubbington Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.7 Cubbington Parish Council are undertaking a 6-week Regulation 14 consultation on a draft of the Cubbington Neighbourhood Development Plan between 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 and 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
- 1.8 The adoption of so many SPDs and Neighbourhood Development Plans since the adoption of the Local Plan can be considered a success and has assisted Development Management in their decision-making processes. However, the production of Local Plans/DPDs require substantially more work than SPDs and therefore in the coming three years, the LDS will focus on the delivery of a lesser number of documents, reflecting the work required to adopt them. For Local Plans/DPDs there are more statutory required stages for public consultation and an examination in public with a Planning Inspector, in addition to the early preparation and consultation stages required for an SPD. This takes a considerable amount of additional time and stretches resources. The additional stage for adoption also introduces more variables in terms of certainty of delivery within timescales that may be set at the outset of a workstream.
- 1.9 Whilst not required to be set out in the LDS, it is important context to understand other important work undertaken by the Planning Policy & Site Delivery team that supports the Council and impacts upon resources available to developer DPDs and SPDs. This includes (list not exhaustive):
- Production of an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)– produced annually to monitor progress against Local Plan objectives
  - Production of an Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) – produced annually to report on contributions sought and received from developments for the provision of infrastructure and the subsequent use of those contributions
  - Publication of a housing trajectory and 5 Year Housing Land Supply statement – updated annually
  - Preparation of an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)
  - Maintenance of a Brownfield Land Register
  - Maintenance of a Custom & Self-Build Register and associated progress reporting
  - Government monitoring returns
  - Quarterly and annual monitoring of development
  - Consultees on planning applications
  - Advice provided to Development Management and additional consultancy support procured where appropriate (e.g., for the Gigafactory application), other Council departments, WDC members, Parish Councils and other stakeholders in the planning process
  - Management of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – including its day-to-day administration, supporting parish and town councils and distributing funds to them, engaging with infrastructure providers and allocating funds to infrastructure projects and annually updating the CIL Charging Schedule

- Active engagement in a sub-regional planning group (Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Association of Planning Officers – CSWAPO) including the joint commissioning of key technical information to underpin policy, e.g., the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA)
- Working collaboratively with neighbouring authorities in the context of the Duty to Cooperate requirement
- Procuring and managing consultants to provide updated evidence on various planning policy matters
- Significant role in the delivery of major development sites through supporting Development Management and working with developers, members and other stakeholders.

#### 1.10 **Policy Team Resources**

1.11 The Policy & Site Delivery team comprises of 3 main components: planning policy, site delivery and managing the Community Infrastructure Levy. Focusing solely on the first of these components, the policy team currently comprises:

- Principal Planning Officer x 1
- Senior Planning Officers x 2 (1.4 FTE)
- Planning Officer/Senior Planning Officer (Career grade post) x1 (current incumbent at Planning Officer level)
- Planning Assistants x2 (one being a 2-year fixed term contract)
- Development Monitoring Officer x 1

1.12 Previously 1.5 FTE posts were working full time with Stratford colleagues to deliver the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP). However, for a number of reasons including to build resilience in the team, providing opportunities for all staff to be involved in the preparation of the Plan and to allocate work more fairly a decision was taken that everyone in the policy team will be involved in the production of the SWLP. A new delivery model was agreed which included a new management structure, and various theme groups were created namely Environment, Transport & Connectivity Climate Change, Growth Strategy Infrastructure and Delivery, Economy & Town Centres, Housing, Wellbeing & Design. There is a member of staff acting as co-ordinator of each group, with support from other colleagues.

1.13 Whilst the team is nearly fully staffed it should be noted that both Senior Planning Officers work part-time hours and as such the team is short by 0.6 FTE at this level. Furthermore, it must be acknowledged that the team is relatively inexperienced.

#### 1.14 **Progress on LDS items since December 2022 and proposed new items in the LDS**

1.15 The South Warwickshire Local Plan and Net Zero Carbon DPD have dominated the work of the planning policy team. The relevant sections below highlight the progress that has been made on these two workstreams.

1.16 The SWLP has required more staff time than had perhaps been envisaged and owing to this there has been slow or limited progress on other documents set out in the 2022 Local Development Scheme.

- 1.17 The following sub-sections highlight progress on stated priorities in the previous LDS. They also provide explanatory information that supports the updated LDS now proposed, as set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.18 ***South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP)***
- 1.19 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires Local Plans to be reviewed every 5 years to ensure that they remain relevant and continue to deliver the growth laid out in the Plans. This Council has previously agreed that work on the Local Plan Review will be undertaken jointly with Stratford District Council, whose Core Strategy is also in need of review and the authorities are now working collaboratively to produce a South Warwickshire Local Plan.
- 1.20 The two councils undertook a Scoping and Call for Sites consultation, which ran from 10<sup>th</sup> May until 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021. Following this consultation, the team collated representations from the consultations, developed and commissioned further evidence to support the Plan. Officers have regularly met with a SWLP Advisory Group comprising members across the two councils to secure support and seek direction, where appropriate. A Joint Cabinet Committee has also been established to take formal decisions relating to the Plan.
- 1.21 The Issues and Options consultation along with a second Call for Sites was undertaken between 9<sup>th</sup> January to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 following approval from the Joint Cabinet at its meeting in December 2022. The aim of this consultation was to refine the initial growth options explored in the Scoping Consultation and setting in greater detail the scope of the Plan and the issues that it seeks to address. It was initially hoped this consultation could take place earlier in 2022. However, it was delayed to ensure that a key piece of evidence to inform the Plan, the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) took into account key findings of the 2021 Census, published in summer 2022.
- 1.22 More than 8,000 representations were received to the consultation along with around 200 new call for sites, in addition to around 550 received in the first call for sites. Although the majority of the responses were received via the online consultation portal there were a lot of email responses. The first task was to add the email and postal representations to the online portal. Following that the responses were divided amongst officers to analyse the responses and produce a consultation statement.
- 1.23 Another key task has been to collate information for all call for sites and to start analysing the promoted sites. This work is ongoing with members of the team sifting the sites for hard constraints that would inhibit development on that parcel of land.
- 1.24 Following the first sift the officers will then assess the sites using the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) methodology. This exercise will be able to identify the sites into a Red, Amber and Green category (RAG) rating.
- 1.25 The team continue to compile a wide-range of evidence to support the preferred options consultation. This will help inform the spatial strategy of the plan, site selection and policies to be contained within the plan.
- 1.26 In addition to this the team will be undertaking further engagement with a number of stakeholders to help inform the preferred options consultation.
- 1.27 The Advisory Group agreed a new timetable following the Joint Cabinet Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 and the timetable was subsequently published on the SWLP website, ahead of this LDS update. This LDS replicates

the timetable agreed by the Joint Cabinet Committee. The next stage of the Plan is to undertake a Preferred Options consultation, earmarked to commence in November 2024. The two councils are also keeping a close eye on the implementation of proposals for reforms to plan-making, particularly the guidance due to be published in Autumn relating to new-style 30-month plans.

**1.28 Net Zero Carbon (NZC) DPD**

1.29 Significant progress has been made on the preparation of this document since the LDS was last published. Prior to the last LDS update, the Council had submitted the DPD for Examination in Public in October 2022 and an Inspector was appointed in the November 2022.

1.30 The Plan has since been through Examination in Public (EiP) hearing sessions between 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

1.31 Some of the key milestones following the examination have been set out below:

- On 30th March 2023 the Inspector wrote to the Council outlining the next steps for the DPD Examination. He also praised the Council's management of the sessions stating *"...I would like to thank the Council's Team for the way in which the hearing sessions were approached, arranged, and conducted. This enabled the hearing sessions to take place as smoothly, effectively, and efficiently as possible and for that I am grateful"*.
- In his letter, the Inspector requested further information to be submitted and indicated that Main Modifications to the DPD will be required for reasons of 'soundness' in accordance with Paragraph 35 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). As such, it would be necessary to undertake a period of public consultation on the modifications. The Inspector also provided an indicative timetable for the next stages of the Examination and suggested that the Council will receive the final report by end of September 2023, which was subsequently revised to the end of October 2023.
- Following exchanges of information and documentation between the Council and Inspector, the Inspector wrote to the Council on 12th May 2023 confirming that he was satisfied with the content of additional documents that the Council had provided.
- A Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications (and minor changes, referred to as Additional Modifications) were produced by the Inspector and asked for further work to be completed by the Council. On 22nd May 2023 officers wrote to the Inspector with a final schedule of proposed Main Modifications, a schedule of Additional Modifications, a Sustainability Appraisal/Habitat Regulations Assessment update, and a composite version of the DPD showing all proposed modifications indicated in the schedules.
- The main modifications consultation was undertaken between 5th June-17th July 2023. The consultation generated 14 separate representations. The responses were sent to the Inspector via the Programme Officer. The Council also produced a consultation statement that was sent to the Inspector setting out the Council's reply to each response.

1.32 However, the Council did not receive the report by the end of October as previously indicated by the Inspector. The officers exchanged correspondence with the Programme Officer and were advised that the Inspector was sick and

that the Council will receive the report by end of December 2023. An email was received from the Inspector on 18<sup>th</sup> December indicating that the Council will not be issued a report until the New Year as the Quality Assurance (QA) process had not been completed for the report by The Planning Inspectorate (PINS).

- 1.33 During this time, a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) 'Planning – Local Energy Efficiency Standard Update' was made on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and the Government published a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023. In light of these matters, the Inspector has subsequently written to the Council requesting that we undertake a further 2-week consultation with the Regulation 19 respondents. The Inspector also asked the Council to provide their response to the WMS.
- 1.34 This consultation ran from 9<sup>th</sup> January to 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The Council has submitted a response to the Consultation as have 5 other interested parties (two individuals and three responses from the development industry).
- 1.35 The Inspector is now considering the representations made and the Council is now awaiting an update from the Inspector on the timetable for the publication of his Final Report. As such, there is currently uncertainty around the timing of this.
- 1.36 Upon receipt of the Inspector's Final Report, a report will be brought to Cabinet regarding the adoption of the DPD. A formal decision to adopt the DPD must be taken at Council.
  
- 1.37 ***Net Zero Carbon Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)***
- 1.38 It was agreed during the examination that the Council will produce a Supplementary Planning Document to provide detailed guidance on the policies contained within the DPD. The scope of the document was shared with the Inspector during the examination process.
- 1.39 The guidance will aid the implementation of the policies and seek to minimise the potential for confusion or challenge. It will assist officers in Development Management with the assessment of documentation required to support planning applications resulting from the adoption of the DPD. It will also provide clarification and certainty to applicants about what is required and guidance to support them in designing schemes to meet the requirements of the DPD.
- 1.40 The SPD was produced and was subject to a public consultation for six weeks between 18<sup>th</sup> October and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023. A total of 26 responses were received during the consultation process. The Council will prepare a consultation statement setting out the authority's responses and highlighting any changes that will be made to the document in response to the representations.
- 1.41 A training session was provided to development management, policy, enforcement, and historic environment colleagues to familiarise them with the contents of the SPD. The session was attended by 31 colleagues including senior managers and two members of SLT. Further training and information events are to be arranged for councillors and also applicants/agents.
- 1.42 Following the preparation of the consultation statement and making necessary changes to the SPD, a report will be brought to Cabinet to formally adopt the SPD. The timing of this however is dependent upon the adoption of the DPD (which in turn is at the mercy of the Inspector) as the SPD provides further guidance to the DPD rather than existing Local Plan policies.

1.43 ***Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) DPD***

1.44 In the 2022 LDS a PBSA DPD has been indicated for commencement in Q3 of 2023 and adoption Quarter 2 of 2025. The PBSA DPD had previously slipped due to priority being given to the SWLP and the NZC DPD. Furthermore, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the numbers of overseas students had made it difficult to predict what the accommodation needs for Warwick University students may be. These challenges in predicting student numbers would make it very difficult to have a reliable evidence base on which to prepare a PBSA DPD and on which its soundness would depend.

1.45 The team had previously explored with the University how it might be able to support the Council in bringing forward this document at the earliest opportunity. Officers have resumed these discussions to see what tangible support might be available to expedite this piece of work and are meeting with representatives from Warwick University to discuss this work and ascertain what information they will be able to share with us.

1.46 Officers have started collating data to help inform the issues to be grappled with, including data relating to relevant planning applications and appeals. It is envisaged that once the data gathering exercise has been completed, officers will produce a first draft of the document that will be subject to a six-week statutory consultation period. The consultation is identified for Quarter 3 of 2024. However, officers are open to exploring the possibility of producing an SPD rather than a DPD, if that sufficiently would address matters that the document seeks to cover.

1.47 ***Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)***

1.48 Whilst not a DPD or SPD, the 2022 LDS indicated that the Statement of Community Involvement would be reviewed, updated and adopted by the summer of 2023.

1.49 Despite some delay owing to other priorities (notably the SWLP and Net Zero Carbon DPD) the policy team have made significant progress with this document and have recently adopted an updated SCI. The document was subject to a six-week statutory consultation between 17<sup>th</sup> July - 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023. We received 10 representations to the consultation comprising of responses from 5 individuals, 4 organisations and 1 councillor.

1.50 A Consultation Statement was prepared setting out the Council's reply to each of the responses received. The representations did not raise any matters of significance that warranted any changes to the SCI.

1.51 The report that was taken to Cabinet in July 2023 included an approved recommendation giving delegated authority to Head of Service for Place, Arts and Economy, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Place to make any minor amendments and adopt the SCI. Both have recently agreed to adopt the SCI and therefore the SCI and associated Consultation Statement has been published on the Council's website.

1.52 ***University of Warwick Masterplan SPD***

1.53 The 2009 University Masterplan created a framework for growth between 2009-2019 and The Hybrid Plan, approved in 2018 guides the development of the campus from 2019-2023. Both are now out of date or in need of updating and there is a need to develop a new masterplan to reflect the University's vision to



2030 and beyond. Officers at Warwick District and Coventry City Council have agreed with the University that the preparation and adoption of an SPD would be sensible to guide development proposals that may come forward and ensure that development comes forward under a comprehensive vision for the University and crucially that key matters such as transport, biodiversity, flood risk/drainage and sustainability/energy are properly considered and a framework for planning obligations is agreed.

1.54 The production of the SPD has been led by the University, with input from officers. Officers have had various meetings with the University and officers from Coventry CC and Warwickshire CC about the SPD and have been represented on a Steering Group for this work. A first draft of the SPD has been produced and officers have fed back a comprehensive set of comments. A report will be taken to Cabinet in March/April 2024 to seek approval to undertake a public consultation on the SPD. The SPD is then likely to be consulted upon after Local Elections in Coventry in May with a view to analysing any representations received and subsequently adopting the SPD by the end of 2024.

1.55 ***Old Town (Royal Leamington Spa) Regeneration SPD***

1.56 Leamington's Creative Quarter is a long-established regeneration partnership initiative which has recently made significant progress with its first development on the ground at Spencer Yard, supported the by Future High Street Fund (FHSF). The second development, also supported by the FHSF, is utilising WDC building assets at Stoneleigh Arms on Clemens Street and Old School on Court Street. To maximise the catalyst for further regeneration in the surrounding area of the Old Town, a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is proposed covering Althorpe Street, Court Street, Wise Street.

1.57 Architects were appointed by the Council to progress with the work. Good progress has been made on the document. However, following the change in administration, the production of the SPD has paused for reflection and the purpose and scope of the document have been reviewed with some adjustments being made to the boundary of the area that is the subject of the SPD.

1.58 A public consultation on the SPD is proposed for between Q3-Q4 of 2024, with proposed adoption in Q2 of 2025.

1.59 ***Parking Standards SPD***

1.60 An update to the Parking Standards SPD is proposed to provide greater clarity and remove ambiguity relating to Parking Survey requirements. It is proposed that the consultation solely relates to this matter. There are currently not the resources, nor would it be a priority over the production of other documents notably the South Warwickshire Local Plan, to undertake a more comprehensive review of these standards at this point in time.

1.61 ***Canalside DPD***

1.62 A Regulation 19 consultation was undertaken on the Canalside DPD between 9<sup>th</sup> November and 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

- 1.63 Through the consultation, the Canal and River Trust raised some fundamental concerns in terms of the tests for soundness that need to be met in order for a DPD to be successful at Examination.
- 1.64 The team paused work on the DPD to focus on other priorities, including the SWLP and Net Zero Carbon DPD. However, we subsequently re-established communication with the Canal and River Trust and have met to better understand their concerns and how they might be addressed.
- 1.65 Having more recently reviewed the DPD, officers also wish to re-visit the purposes of the DPD and benefits of its adoption and also will need to update its content given time elapsed.
- 1.66 It is likely that a further Regulation 19 consultation, if not another Regulation 18 consultation will be required if the Council want to proceed to adoption. The LDS assumes that only a Regulation 19 consultation will be required, although this will be reviewed when it is clearer what changes are to be made to the DPD.
- 1.67 Whilst the policy team wishes to move this document forward, in light of the political and public interest in the adoption of policy on purpose-built student accommodation and the priority of progressing other documents within the LDS, it is proposed to give priority to the other workstreams. The Canalside DPD will remain in the LDS demonstrating the commitment to producing the document, although will not have a timetable against it. Should sufficient capacity mean that this can be progressed alongside other documents, then officers will endeavour to do this. As the LDS is reviewed every year, priorities will be reviewed next year and in the interim the policy team will review the benefits of producing the DPD.

## **2 Alternative Options**

- 2.1 Adopt an alternative LDS. The Council could choose not to adopt this Local Development Scheme, and instead suggest a different range of priorities and timetable for the delivery of the identified documents. However, the attached LDS has been developed to bring forward the right documents as swiftly and efficiently as possible in a realistic timeframe and given the resources available. Therefore, this option has been discounted.
- 2.2 Additional budget to increase staff resources could be made available to deliver workstreams more quickly or deliver additional workstreams. This has not been pursued given the associated financial costs to the council.
- 2.3 The preparation and maintenance of a LDS is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and therefore it is not an option to not publish an updated LDS.

## **3 Legal Implications**

- 3.1 There are no legal implications associated with the proposed LDS. As highlighted in the Alternative Options section above, the preparation and maintenance of a LDS is a statutory requirement.

## **4 Financial Services**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications relating to this report.

- 4.2 Any costs associated with additional evidence to be produced for the South Warwickshire Local Plan will be funded through the existing allocated budget for the delivery of the plan (and the cost of all the consultancy work will continue to be split across Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon district council's).
- 4.3 It is anticipated that any costs associated with the delivery of other documents referred to in the report will be delivered through existing departmental budgets.

## **5 Corporate Strategy**

- 5.1 Warwick District Council has adopted a Corporate Strategy which sets three strategic aims for the organisation. Each proposed decision should set out how the report contributes to the delivery of these strategic aims. If it does not contribute to these aims or has a negative effect on them the report should explain why that is the case.
- 5.2 Delivering valued, sustainable services – The documents set out in the LDS have the potential to have significant impact upon the lives of the district's residents, in particular the South Warwickshire Local Plan and Net Zero Carbon DPD. The SWLP will ensure that the housing and employment needs of the district to 2050 are met and will contain policies to promote the development of sustainable communities. The detailed guidance in some of the policy documents will help to improve the service we provide to our internal and external stakeholders.
- 5.3 Low cost, low carbon energy across the district – The documents set out in the LDS have the potential to help the residents and business in reducing energy use and cut the energy bills. The Net Zero Carbon DPD and the SWLP will both result in the improved energy efficiency and sustainability of buildings in the district. The Net Zero Carbon SPD will provide useful guidance on how to make buildings more energy efficient.
- 5.4 Creating vibrant, safe and healthy communities of the future – All the documents set out in the LDS have the potential to have a positive impact on people's lives and of particular importance are South Warwickshire Local Plan and Net Zero Carbon DPD. The SWLP will ensure that right type and quantum of housing, employment, leisure and other supporting infrastructure is delivered in the district. The concept of a 20-minute neighbourhood is proposed in the SWLP ensuring that key facilities are available within a certain walking distance. Health and wellbeing will be at the heart of deciding the growth strategy for the future.

## **6 Environmental/Climate Change Implications**

- 6.1 The LDS itself will not have any environmental/climate change implications. However, the documents being prepared will include policies and guidance that will deliver positive environmental and climate change benefits for the district in accordance with the Council's Climate Change Action Programme. In particular, the SWLP and the Net Zero Carbon DPD will provide stronger policies that go beyond existing Local Plan policies relating to sustainable development and will aim to deliver developments that are net zero carbon in operation. The NZC DPD is critical to achieving the Council's stated goal of total carbon emissions within Warwick District being as close to zero as possible by 2030.

## **7 Analysis of the effects on Equality**

- 7.1 The documents in the LDS will be subject to statutory public consultations in accordance with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement. The individual documents will be subjected to an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) wherever required.

## **8 Data Protection**

- 8.1 There are no data protection implications associated with the production of the documents in the LDS.

## **9 Health and Wellbeing**

- 9.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications associated with the production of the LDS. However, the documents produced within the LDS will help deliver health and wellbeing benefits owing to the delivery of better-quality homes and a reduction in the potential for fuel poverty, well connected neighbourhoods and the provision of services and infrastructure that will positively impact the health and wellbeing of the citizens in the district. Wherever required the documents will be subjected to Health Impact Assessment (HIA).

## **10 Risk Assessment**

- 10.1 The adoption and publication of a LDS is a statutory requirement. Therefore, failure to update the LDS could see Warwick District fall short of meeting its statutory requirements.
- 10.2 Separate decisions have been taken to progress items in the LDS and risks associated with those documents have been considered. Key risks include the requirement to review Local Plans every 5 years, changes to Plan Making process, changes in Government/national policy including, but not limited to, changes set out in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill and the impact that not adopting the Net Zero Carbon DPD might have on the Council meeting its stated climate change ambitions.
- 10.3 A risk to the delivery of the LDS is the limited experience within the team in the production of Local Plans and also the impact of staff leaving and the challenging market to be able to recruit replacements.

## **11 Consultation**

- 11.1 The production of a Local Development Scheme is a statutory requirement and should be reviewed regularly. This report and Appendix 1 set out the planning policy priorities regarding the production of policy documents for the next three years, albeit to be reviewed next year. It seeks to set out a realistic and deliverable programme for delivery given staff resources.

### **Background papers:**

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 Joint Cabinet Committee report:  
<https://estates8.warwickdc.gov.uk/cmIS/MeetingDates/tabid/149/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/637/Meeting/4837/Committee/131/Default.aspx>

### **Supporting documents:**

None.