

Title: Local Development Scheme (LDS)

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Portfolio Holder: Councillor Chris King (Place)

Wards of the District directly affected: All wards

Approvals required	Date	Name
Portfolio Holder	16.01.25	Cllr Chris King
Finance	21.01.25	Andrew Rollins
Legal Services	16.01.25	Sue Mullins
Chief Executive	15.01.25 and 21.01.2025	Chris Elliott
Director of Climate Change	21.01.25	Dave Barber
Head of Service(s)	22.01.25	Philip Clarke
Section 151 Officer	21.01.25	Andrew Rollins
Monitoring Officer	21.01.25	Graham Leach
Leadership Co-ordination Group		
Final decision by this Committee or rec to another Cttee / Council?	Yes	
Contrary to Policy / Budget framework?	No	
Does this report contain exempt info/Confidential? If so, which paragraph(s)?	No	
Does this report relate to a key decision (referred to in the Cabinet Forward Plan)?	Yes, Forward Plan item 1,533 – scheduled for 6 th February	
Accessibility Checked?	Yes	

Summary

This report seeks approval for a refreshed Local Development Scheme (LDS) to the version approved and published in March 2024. 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)** That 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 a proposal is being considered elsewhere at this meeting for additional funding to support the delivery of the South Warwickshire Local Plan and agrees that, subject to Council approving this funding, that a proportion of this be set aside for additional staffing to support the delivery of the South Warwickshire Local Plan and other elements of the Local Development Scheme.
 - (3)** That, in the event that the additional funding is not made available for the South Warwickshire Local Plan, that a further report will be brought to Cabinet to consider the implications for the work programme set out in the Local Development Scheme.
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1 Reasons for the Recommendation

- 1.1 Adoption and publication of a Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a statutory requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which lays out the coverage and duration of the document. This includes a provision for an annual review of the LDS 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 a Net Zero Carbon DPD which has brought forward the Future Homes Standard ahead of the Government's official date of adopting them. The document places the Council as one of a limited number of authorities nationally to have adopted stringent energy efficiency targets.
- 1.5 In addition to the above DPD, the Planning Policy team has delivered 10 SPDs, 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.
 - Net Zero Carbon.
 - University of Warwick Masterplan Framework (jointly with Coventry City Council).
- 1.6 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 and other guidance, including the implementation of the First Homes affordable housing product, introduced by the previous Government.
- 1.7 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 has undertaken a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Cubbington Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.8 Cubbington Parish Council undertook a 6-week Regulation 14 consultation on a draft of the Cubbington Neighbourhood Development Plan between 22nd January 2024 and 4th March 2024.
- 1.9 They have also carried out Regulation 16 consultation which started on 31st October for six weeks ending on 12th December. Following the consultation the Planning Policy team will need to input the received responses onto our online consultation system. The responses will then be provided to the Cubbington Parish Council to provide answers to comments received during the consultation. The Council will agree next steps with the Parish Council, in light of the type and number of responses to the consultation, to enable the progress of the Cubbington Neighbourhood Plan to referendum and adoption.
- 1.10 The adoption of the NZC DPD and so many SPDs and Neighbourhood Development Plans since the adoption of the Local Plan can be considered a success and has assisted the Development Management Team?? in their decision-making processes. However, the production of Local Plans/DPDs requires 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.
- 1.11 Whilst not required to be set out in the LDS, it is important to understand other important work undertaken by the Planning Policy & Site Delivery team that

supports the Council and impacts upon resources available to develop 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 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) 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 the Development Management Team 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.
- Supporting neighbourhood groups with the production, examination and adoption of Neighbourhood Development Plans.
- Responding to regional and national consultations.
- 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).
- Active engagement in a regional planning group (West Midlands Development Needs Group).
- Working collaboratively with neighbouring authorities in the context of the Duty to Co-operate 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.

1.12 **Policy Team Resources**

- 1.13 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 (PPO) x 1
 - Senior Planning Officers x 2 (1.6FTE) (the team has been carrying a vacancy and a full time member of staff will be starting in March 2025).
 - 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 that is due to end on 31st March 2025)
 - Development Monitoring Officer x 1
- 1.14 The full time Senior Planning Officer left the Council in May 2024, and the post been vacant until recently, with the new postholder commencing employment in March 2025. The other Senior officer works part-time hours (0.6 FTE). It should also be noted that one of the fixed term Planning Assistant roles will end in March 2025 with no further confirmation as to what will happen with the role. The team is relatively inexperienced with a number of members of the team having limited planning policy experience.
- 1.15 A three-year post preferably at a senior planning policy officer will be needed to support the planning policy work associated with this LDS, in particular the delivery of the South Warwickshire Local Plan. It is intended that this will be funded through the South Warwickshire Local Plan budget (that is subject to a Budget Report on the same agenda as this report), and thus no growth is required to the Councils base budget as part of this report.
- 1.16 **Progress on LDS items since March 2024 and proposed new items in the LDS**
- 1.17 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.
- 1.18 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 2024 LDS.
- 1.19 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.
- 1.20 ***South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP)***
- 1.21 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.
- 1.22 The two councils undertook a Scoping and Call for Sites consultation, which ran from 10th May until 21st June 2021. Following this consultation, the Planning Policy 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.

- 1.23 The Issues and Options consultation along with a second Call for Sites was undertaken between 9th January to 6th 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.
- 1.24 The Planning Policy team has continued 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.
- 1.25 The Advisory Group agreed a new timetable following the Joint Cabinet Committee on 23rd 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 in December 2024. The next stage of the Plan is to undertake a Preferred Options consultation which commenced on 10th January 2025 and will run until 7th March 2025. It was agreed to consult for a further two weeks than the statutory 6 weeks, given the importance of the document and the amount of information contained within it. Consultants were appointed to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) to support the Preferred Options Document. The SA will be consulted upon alongside the preferred options consultation.
- 1.26 Following the consultation the SWLP team will analyse the responses received and prepare a consultation statement that will be made available on the SWLP website.
- 1.27 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 The next stages of the plan production will include proposed public consultation (Regulation 19) between December 2025 and February 2026. The submission to Secretary State (Regulation 22) is timetabled for September 2026. The consultation on proposed modifications is put forward between July-August 2027 with Adoption (Regulation 26) in December 2027.
- 1.29 ***Net Zero Carbon (NZC) DPD***
- 1.30 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.
- 1.31 The Plan underwent Examination in Public (EiP) hearing sessions between 7th and 9th March 2023.
- 1.32 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.

- 1.33 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 would receive the report by end of December 2023. An email was received from the Inspector on 18th December 2023 indicating that the Council would 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).
- 1.34 During this time, a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) 'Planning – Local Energy Efficiency Standard Update' was made on 13th December 2023 and the Government published a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) on 19th December 2023. In light of these matters, the Inspector subsequently wrote to the Council requesting that it undertook a further 2-week consultation with the Regulation 19 respondents. The Inspector also asked the Council to provide their response to the WMS.
- 1.35 This consultation ran from 9th January to 24th January 2024. The Council submitted a response to the Consultation as did 5 other interested parties (two individuals and three responses from the development industry).
- 1.36 The Inspector considered the representations and issued his Report to the Council on 9th April 2024.
- 1.37 A report was taken to the Council meeting on 15th May 2024 seeking permission to adopt the DPD. The DPD was unanimously adopted and the final DPD was published on the website.
- 1.38 ***Net Zero Carbon Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)***
- 1.39 It was agreed during the examination of the Net Zero Carbon DPD that the Council would 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.
- 1.40 The purpose of the guidance was to aid the implementation of the policies and seek to minimise the potential for confusion or challenge. It would also assist officers in the Development Management Team with the assessment of documentation required to support planning applications resulting from the adoption of the DPD and 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.
- 1.41 The SPD was produced and was subject to a public consultation for six weeks between 18th October and 29th November 2023. A total of 26 responses were received during the consultation process.

- 1.42 A consultation statement was prepared, and necessary changes were made to the SPD. A report was taken to the Council on 15th May 2024 seeking permission to formally adopt the SPD. The SPD was unanimously adopted, and the final SPD was published on the website.
- 1.43 A training session was provided to development management, policy, planning/enforcement, and historic environment colleagues to raise their awareness of the contents of the SPD. The session was attended by 31 colleagues including senior managers and two members of Senior Leadership Team. Further training and information events were delivered for Councillors and applicants/agents.
- 1.44 ***Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) DPD***
- 1.45 The progress of 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 made it very difficult to have a reliable evidence base on which to prepare a PBSA DPD and on which its soundness would depend.
- 1.46 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.
- 1.47 Officers have started collating data to help inform the issues to be grappled with, including data relating to relevant planning applications and appeals. The consultation was identified for Quarter 3 of 2024. However, a Senior Planning Officer leaving the Team in May 2024 meant that the team had to prioritise their workload which led to the delay in starting work on producing this DPD. Officers are open to exploring the possibility of producing an SPD rather than a DPD, if that would sufficiently address matters that the document seeks to cover.
- 1.48 ***University of Warwick Masterplan Framework SPD***
- 1.49 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 were out of date or in need of updating and there was 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 agreed with the University that the preparation and adoption of a 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.

- 1.50 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. Officers provided comprehensive feedback on drafts of the SPD and a report was subsequently taken to Cabinet in March 2024 to seek approval to undertake a public consultation on the SPD.
- 1.51 The SPD was subject to a six-week consultation between 24th May and 5th July 2024. Various responses were received which were analysed by the officers and necessary amendments made to the document. The SPD was approved at Warwick District's Cabinet on 17th October but could not be adopted until it was approved at Coventry's full Council meeting on 3rd December. Therefore, the SPD was adopted on 3rd December.
- 1.52 The revised adopted SPD is available on the Council's website along with necessary information and other related documents.
- 1.53 ***Old Town (Royal Leamington Spa) Regeneration SPD***
- 1.54 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 further regeneration in the surrounding area of the Old Town, a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was proposed covering Althorpe Street, Court Street and Wise Street area.
- 1.55 Architects were appointed by the Council to progress with the work. Good progress was made on the document. However, following the change in administration at the Council, the production of the SPD was 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.
- 1.56 It was agreed after discussions with senior management and politicians that instead of producing an SPD at this time, a Framework to support the regeneration of the wider area may provide a flexible basis for bringing forward proposals. Having a framework document consisting of a high-level vision and targeted regeneration will deliver property led regeneration in the area. References to an SPD for the Old Town area have therefore been removed from the revised LDS.
- 1.57 If at some point in future it is considered that there needs to be an SPD for the area it will be brought forward as a new item in the LDS.
- 1.58 ***Parking Standards SPD***
- 1.59 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.

- 1.60 A joint report for the Parking Standards SPD and Residential Design Guide SPD was taken to the 10th July 2024 Cabinet seeking approval to consult on the changes to the SPD's. The Cabinet approved the report unanimously.
- 1.61 Due to work pressures and resource issues, it was not possible to undertake a targeted consultation for these SPDs in 2024. However, officers will undertake a consultation early this year.
- 1.62 ***Residential Design Guide SPD***
- 1.63 An update to the Residential Design Guide SPD is proposed to provide greater clarity and remove ambiguity relating to 45 Degree Guideline measurements. 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.
- 1.64 A joint report for Parking Standards SPD and Residential Design Guide SPD was taken to 10th July 2024 Cabinet seeking approval to consult on the changes to the SPDs. The Cabinet approved the report unanimously.
- 1.65 As with the Parking Standards SPD, due to work pressures and resource issues, it was not possible to undertake a targeted consultation for this SPD in 2024. However, officers are now considering of undertaking a consultation early this year.
- 1.66 ***Canalside DPD***
- 1.67 Consultation was undertaken on the Canalside DPD between 9th November and 21st December 2020.
- 1.68 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.
- 1.69 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.
- 1.70 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 the time that has elapsed since the consultation on it was undertaken.
- 1.71 It is likely that further consultation will be required if the Council wants to proceed to adoption.
- 1.72 Whilst the Planning Policy Team wishes to move this document forward, in light of the priority of progressing other documents within the LDS, most notably the

Local Plan review, 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 it 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 Planning 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 LDS, 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. Whilst this would be desirable to increase capacity and resilience within the team, this has not been pursued given the associated financial costs to the Council.
- 2.3 The preparation and maintenance of an LDS is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and not publishing an updated LDS is not an option.

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 an LDS is a statutory requirement. All documents identified within the LDS have been, or will be, prepared, produced and adopted in accordance with all relevant legislative and constitutional requirements.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. The LDS will be funded through the existing resources and the Local Plan budget. A separate report on this agenda (General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget 2025/26 - Ref 1,479) makes provision for additional funding to deliver the South Warwickshire Local Plan.
- 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 and the relevance of each to this report is

considered below.

- 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. The Council has recently adopted an Equality Impact Initial Screening Template which is required to be completed for all Cabinet Reports. This report is accompanied by the completed Equality Impact Initial Screening document.

8 Data Protection

- 8.1 There are no data protection implications associated with the production of the documents in the LDS. As a part of the consultation process, we do hold

personal data of residents and stakeholders. The data is held in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) legislation.

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 an LDS is a statutory requirement. Therefore, failure to update the LDS could see Warwick District fall short of meeting its statutory requirements.
- 10.2 In December 2024 the Deputy Prime Minister also asked that all local planning authorities produce an updated LDS within 12 weeks of the publication of the updated NPPF (published on 12th December 2024), i.e. by no later than 6th March 2025. It is therefore important that the LDS is updated as per this Government instruction.
- 10.3 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 Act.
- 10.4 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, staff sickness and the challenging market to be able to recruit replacements with the necessary experience.

11 Consultation

- 11.1 The production of an LDS 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:

None.

Supporting documents:

Initial Screening for Equality Impact