

 FULL COUNCIL 25th JANUARY 2011		Agenda Item No.
Title	Update on Local Plan Timetable	
For further information about this report please contact	Dave Barber	
Service Area	Development Policy Manager	
Wards of the District directly affected	All	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	25 th January 2012	
Background Papers		

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	Yes
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No

Officer/Councillor Approval		
With regard to officer approval all reports <i>must</i> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Relevant Director	1/3/12	Bill Hunt
Chief Executive	1/3/12	Chris Elliott
CMT	1/3/12	
Section 151 Officer		N/A
Legal		
Finance		N/A
Portfolio Holder(s)	1/3/12	Cllr Les Caborn
Consultation Undertaken		
Please insert details of any consultation undertaken with regard to this report.		
Consultation has been undertaken with Group Leaders		
Final Decision?	Yes	

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report updates members on the Local Plan timetable though to the approval of the Council's Preferred Options for consultation. The report provides some further detail on how members will be involved as work towards Preferred Options evolves and puts forward some minor changes to the timetable agreed at Council on 25th January 2012. The report does not propose any change to the date on which Preferred Options will be considered by Council.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the Local Plan timetable set out in Appendix 1 be approved
- 2.2 That the Council delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer and Corporate Management Team, in consultation with Group Leaders and the Deputy Leader, to confirm the approval process and timetable for Preferred Options following the receipt of legal advice.

3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Recommendation 2.1: On 25th January 2012, Council agreed a revised Local Plan timetable which included the process to involve members in bringing forward proposals for Preferred Options to Council on 21st May 2012. Appendix 1 updates members on that timetable and specifically:
- Provides further details of the timing, attendance and content of some of the key meetings;
 - Proposes some minor changes to the timing of some of the meetings. This takes account of the need to ensure proposals are soundly based at the same time as providing members with the opportunity to discuss the emerging Preferred Options. The most significant change in this is the removal of a series of meetings which had been planned for w/c 12th March as this is proving to be too early in the process to have substantive and evidenced discussions on site options (for instance there will be no information about transport or other infrastructure requirements at that point). Instead of these meetings, it is proposed to hold some process-focused briefing sessions for all Members, run by the Planning Advisory Service, during w/c 19th March. Briefings and discussions with Group Leaders, Executive and all members will then follow in April once the report from the County Council's current work on transport modelling is received;
 - Includes provision for formal Executive and Scrutiny meetings in May following the receipt of legal advice about the approval process (see para 3.2 below).
- 3.2 Recommendation 2.2: Legal advice has indicated that responsibility for agreeing Preferred Options rests with the Executive. The executive therefore also need to consider the Preferred Options. This means it will be necessary to schedule an Executive meeting and Scrutiny Committee meetings in May. The exact timing of these meetings is subject to

further legal advice which has not yet been received. It is therefore proposed that the process and timetabling for approval should be delegated to CMT in consultation with Group Leaders and the Deputy Leader. Once this is resolved, all members will be informed of the dates.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Recommendation 2.1: it is theoretically possible to retain the timetable agreed by Council on 25th January. However, it is likely that this would result in fruitless meetings during March as the information required will not be available until April.
- 4.2 Recommendation 2.2: the position regarding legal advice means there are few alternative options other than bring a further report on the approval process to Council in April. However, this is likely to be too late in the process and is a cumbersome means of resolving a matter of detail.

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 There are no direct budgetary implications of this report.

6. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 In ensuring the Local Plan is developed swiftly and is based on sound evidence, this report supports the Council's strategic approach set out in Fit for the Future, the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Strategy agreed at Council on 1st December 2011.