

## **Wokingham Borough Council – Executive Meeting 27<sup>TH</sup> July 2023**

**Wokingham Borough Council’s Executive at it’s meeting last Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023, adopted the Local Development Scheme 2023 as prepared by the officers without any changes or alterations.**

As a reminder, a Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a document which sets out the work Programme for the local plans, the part of the development plan the Council prepares, and when the key opportunities for engagement will be.

Maintaining up to date Local Plans is a requirement of National Planning Policy. Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Local Planning Authorities to set out the Local Plans which are to be prepared, their scope and the timetable for preparing them in a LDS.

The now adopted LDS 2023 proposes that work will be progressed on one Local Plan – The Local Plan Update (LPU). The LPU will set out the long term strategy for managing development and provides an opportunity to refresh planning policy so that they reflect ambitions which go above and beyond current policies, such as achieving zero carbon development, greater levels of net biodiversity gain and greater levels of affordable housing. The LDS also makes reference to the intention to progress a review of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and a review of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charging schedule.

### **KEY POINTS**

- **Between 2023 and 2026 the Local Plan Update (replacing the adopted Core Strategy and Managing Development Delivery Plans, setting out the Spatial Strategy for the Borough up to 2040, showing where and how much growth can happen across the area, setting rules for managing development and what sites can be developed) will be completed and adopted; a new Statement of Community Involvement (setting out how the Planning Authority will engage in the preparation of Local Plans and when assessing planning applications) will be adopted; and a new Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule (a charge which can be levied on new development to help deliver the infrastructure needed to support growth) will be adopted.**
- **Indicative Programme for the preparation of The Local Plan Update;**
  1. **Proposed Submission Plan Publication – November 2023**
  2. **Submission – March, June 2024**
  3. **Examination Hearings (stage 1) - August 2024**
  4. **Examination Hearings (stage 2) – January 2025**
  5. **Inspector’s Post Hearing Letter – April 2025**
  6. **Modifications Consultation – July 2025**
  7. **Inspector’s Report of Examination – November 2025**
  8. **Adoption – December 2025**

**Wokingham Borough Council are committed to having “good conversations with the community and stakeholders about the content of Local Plans. It is important that these conversations have the right depth and focus, matching the scale of the issues and proposals being considered.”**