

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Reporting Officer: Head of Democratic Services

SUMMARY

1. Cabinet on 15 January 2026 are being asked to consider for recommendation to Council, a revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) here:
[London Borough of Hillingdon - Agenda for CABINET on Thursday, 15th January, 2026, 7.00 pm](#)

The proposed scheme is attached as an appendix.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That, subject to the approval of Cabinet on 15 January 2026:

- a) the revised Local Development Scheme be adopted with effect from 22 January 2026.
- b) authority be delegated to the Director of Planning and Sustainable Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing & Growth to make minor and technical updates within the Local Development Scheme, if necessary.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

2. The LDS is a project plan to produce the Local Plan and other planning policy documents. It sets out the documents that the Council intends to produce and the timescale for their production. To be considered legally compliant in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Council's Local Plan documents should be in general conformity with the LDS. This means that they should be listed in the LDS and prepared in accordance with the timescales set out in the document.
3. The current Local Development Scheme was adopted by Full Council on Thursday 27 February 2025. Under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) the Council is required to publish an up-to-date LDS setting out the timetable to produce Local Plan documents.
4. The revised LDS includes a new Local Plan Programme. The delivery of a sound plan in accordance with the current programme is considered undeliverable due to changes to the planning policy context which are beyond the council's control. Consequently, this report proposes a revised programme that shifts the main stages of production and consultation for the Local Plan into 2026 and beyond.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. There are no direct financial implications from the Cabinet recommendations. However, it is anticipated that all costs incurred from adopting the Local Development Scheme will be covered through secured government grant funding, remaining earmarked reserves and the current consultants' budget. The grants received carry no published repayment conditions, and the MHCLG has confirmed that this funding is intended to support the timely progression of Local Plans and Green Belt reviews.

6. Corporate Finance have also reviewed the Cabinet report and concur with the Financial Implications set within it, noting that there are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations within it.
7. Furthermore, it is noted any future impacts arriving from adopting the Local Development Scheme will be met from government grant funding, existing approved budgets and the remaining balance of the Local Plan earmarked reserve, with this being monitored through the regular monthly monitoring cycle and as part of the wider MTFS.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8. Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (PCPA 2004) (as amended) sets out every Local Planning Authority (LPA) must prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS).
9. The LDS plays a vital role in informing the local community and stakeholders about the status of an LPA's planning policy documents; therefore, LPAs must make available to the public the up-to-date version of the LDS, and the Planning Practice Guidance advocates for publication of the LDS on the LPA's website.
10. In preparing and adopting the LDS, it is no longer necessary to submit this document to the Secretary of State or Mayor of London, and in order to effect the LDS, LPAs must 'resolve' that the LDS is to have effect from a specific date.

BACKGROUND PAPERS: Nil