

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024</b>
<b>Heading:</b>	<b>ASHFIELD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME</b>
<b>Executive Lead Member:</b>	<b>CLLR MATT RELF – EXECUTIVE LEAD MEMBER FOR GROWTH, REGENERATION AND LOCAL PLANNING</b>
<b>Ward/s:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Subject to Call-In:</b>	<b>YES</b>

### **Purpose of Report**

To reaffirm commitment to the revised Ashfield Local Development Scheme (Appendix 1) which sets out the Council's programme for the production of the Ashfield Local Plan (2023 – 2040).

### **Recommendation(s)**

**Recommended to Cabinet that it reaffirms commitment to the Revised Ashfield Local Development Scheme, as set out at Appendix 1, and to the delivery of the LDS timetable as previously approved by Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023.**

### **Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

To adhere to approved LDS timetable and the legal requirement to maintain an up-to-date Local Development Scheme under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

There is no alternative option as legislation requires the Council (as the local planning authority) to revise the Local Development Scheme at such time as they consider appropriate.

### **Detailed Information**

The Council is required to produce a Local Development Scheme (LDS) that provides a programme for the production of the planning policy document (development plan document) that forms the

Ashfield Local Plan. It is a procedural document which sets out how the Council is going to plan for development in its area and provides information to help ensure that local communities, businesses, developers, service, and infrastructure providers can keep track of progress on the Local Plan. For the Council, it provides a basis for project and budget management of the Local Plan. The current Local Development Scheme was approved by Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

On 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023, the Council received a letter from the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in which he used his powers in section 15 (8)(b) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to direct the Council to revise their Local Development Scheme within 12 weeks of the publication of the revised NPPF.

The Council responded to the letter on 08 January 2024 (see attached Appendix 2)

The Council already has in place a timetable for developing a new Local Plan within the Local Development Scheme and is currently undertaking a Regulation 19 consultation. The LDS was approved by Cabinet, The Council is on programme, having met all LDS targets to date.

The draft Local Plan sets out a positive vision for the future of the district. If approved, the plan will facilitate economic growth and housing in the most sustainable and deliverable manner that is possible. The timetable is ambitious, and it been constructively challenged by Council's Local Plan Development Committee to ensure it has been streamlined for the earliest delivery date.

Officers have tried to programme realistically in respect of the examination process and the capacity of the Planning Inspectorate. The Council is on track to submit the draft Local Plan to the Secretary of State in May 2024. Achievement of the remaining dates in the LDS will be subject to Planning Inspectorate resources.

The development of a new Local Plan has not hampered the Council's ability to drive economic growth and build new homes. Since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019, 2,324 new homes have been approved, which is above the Council's annual housing target of 445. In the last five years, the Council has have also approved more than 32 hectares of new employment land which will create over 5,200 new jobs for the district and wider Nottinghamshire region.

New policies have been developed to shape and guide development in the district. In the last few years, the Council has adopted masterplans for our three principal town centres of Hucknall, Sutton and Kirkby; supplementary planning documents including for retail to residential conversion; planning guidance on climate change, biodiversity, and nature conservation; and designated new conservation areas.

Forward Planning officers continue to liaise with officers from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Planning Inspectorate, welcoming their input into the timetable post-submission to ensure there are no delays from the Planning Inspectorate in taking the plan through public examination.

## **Implications**

### **Corporate Plan:**

Planning, and the Local Plan has a cross cutting role to play in helping to meet and deliver the priorities identified in the Corporate Plan. In particular, the Local Plan has a key responsibility in delivering the outcomes around the supply of appropriate and affordable homes, improving town centres, facilitating economic growth especially around transport hubs, and improving parks and green spaces.

## **Legal:**

Local Planning Authorities are required under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS) which is updated when considered appropriate. Section 15(7) of the Act states that 'To bring the scheme into effect, the local planning authority must resolve that the scheme is to have effect and, in the resolution, specify the date from which the scheme is to have effect.'

**Finance:** There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this report

<b>Budget Area</b>	<b>Implication</b>
General Fund – Revenue Budget	None.
General Fund – Capital Programme	None.
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None.
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None.

## **Risk:**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Legislation requires that an LDS be produced to set out the timetable for the production of the Local Plan. The Examination in Public will consider legal compliance which includes having an up-to-date LDS.	Reaffirm commitment to the approved LDS as set out in Appendix1 of this report.

**Human Resources:** There are no direct HR implications contained within this report.

**Environmental/Sustainability:** There are no environmental / sustainability implications for the LDS. A Sustainability Appraisal has been produced for the Local Plan.

**Equalities:** There are no equalities implications for the LDS, an equalities impact assessment will be produced for the Local Plan.

**Other Implications:** None

## **Reason(s) for Urgency**

None

## **Reason(s) for Exemption**

None

## **Background Papers**

Appendix 1: Local Plan Local Development Scheme August 2023

Appendix 2: Ashfield District Council response letter to the Secretary of State 08 January 2024

## **Report Author and Contact Officer**

**Christine Sarris**  
**Assistant Director Planning**  
[christine.sarris@ashfield.gov.uk](mailto:christine.sarris@ashfield.gov.uk)  
**(01623) 457375**

## **Sponsoring Executive Director**

**JOHN BENNETT**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - PLACE**  
[john.bennett@ashfield.gov.uk](mailto:john.bennett@ashfield.gov.uk)  
**01623 457230**