

**ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE & COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
10 JANUARY 2012**

**BRACKNELL FOREST BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
Director of Environment, Culture & Communities**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Local Development Framework (LDF) sets out policies and proposals for the development and use of land in an area taking account of social and environmental factors. It comprises Local Development Documents (LDDs), which include Development Plan Documents (DPDs), that are part of the statutory development plan and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which provide further interpretation of the implementation of policies set out in a DPD. These documents form the primary basis for the Council's decisions on applications for planning permission. The LDF also includes the Statement of Community Involvement, the Local Development Scheme (LDS) and the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).
- 1.2 Since the system was introduced through the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act in 2004, significant progress has been made on producing a Bracknell Forest Borough LDF. This report summarises the position, and provides an update following an earlier report (18th October 2011), including an update on the Localism Act, and progress on the Site Allocations Development Plan Document (SADPD).

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Panel notes the documents that currently form part of the Bracknell Forest Borough LDF and the stage reached in the preparation of other documents that will eventually form part of the Bracknell Forest Borough LDF on adoption.**

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 To invite the Panel to note the documents that currently form part of the Bracknell Forest Borough LDF and the stage reached in the preparation of other documents that will eventually form part of the Bracknell Forest Borough LDF on adoption.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Documents that have been finalised

- 5.1 The Bracknell Forest LDF is a portfolio of documents. There is one main adopted document with development plan status; the Core Strategy. This sets out the overarching strategy for the area, including the level of housing growth.

- 5.2 Apart from the Core Strategy, a number of other LDDs have been produced for Bracknell Forest, including SPDs, the Annual Monitoring Report which reviews progress in implementing policies each year and the Statement of Community Involvement which specifies how stakeholders and communities can be involved in the process of producing planning documents. A list of the Council's adopted documents is at Appendix 1.

Documents that are under preparation or planned

- 5.3 The Local Development Scheme is a three-year project plan, which sets out time scales for the preparation of planning documents. The current Scheme for Bracknell Forest came into effect on 8 August 2011 and therefore covers the period to 7th August 2014. A review of progress on the work programme and any issues arising is set out in the Annual Monitoring Report.
- 5.4 The two key development plan documents proposed for preparation within the three year period are the Site Allocations DPD and commencement of the Core Strategy Review. As Members will be aware, the Site Allocations DPD Draft Submission was approved for submission to the Secretary of State by Council on 30th November. This now means that a consultation on the Draft Submission will take place during January-February 2012, with submission in the summer leading to Public Examination in the latter part of 2012.
- 5.5 As set out in the October 2011 report, it is also proposed to commence a review of the Core Strategy in March 2012. This will require a full assessment of the Borough's development needs for a period to at least 2031 and to allocate sites to meet those needs. This will need to be carried out within the context of the National Planning Policy Framework which is currently being produced by the Government.
- 5.6 The Local Development Scheme has information on a number of Supplementary Planning Documents that are currently under preparation. These include a guidance document for the major development at Warfield. Details of these documents, including estimated dates for adoption are included in Appendix 1.

The Localism Act

- 5.7 The Localism Bill received Royal Assent on 15 November 2011, and is now an Act. As referred to in the October LDF report, a number of changes are being made to the planning system which could have an impact on the current work programme. At this stage, it is not clear when all the provisions within the Act will come into effect, although many are proposed to be effective from April 2012. The changes include:
- Abolishing regional policy (the South East Plan).
 - A new duty to co-operate. Neighbouring local authorities, or groups of authorities, must work together on planning issues in the interests of all their residents. This might include working together on strategic infrastructure or environmental issues such as flooding and public transport networks.
 - Neighbourhood Planning. This allows local communities to shape and influence where they live, work or run a business, by having a say about where new development should go. Neighbourhood Plans need to conform with strategic national and local planning policies, and should reflect and support these policies. They cannot be used to block the building of new homes and

businesses, particularly if a Local Authority has identified that there is a need for growth. However, the plans can help to influence the type, design, location and mix of new development.

5.8 However, many requirements will remain although in a slightly amended form. These include:

- Retention of Local Development Frameworks although the Development Plan Documents are likely to be in the form of a Local Plan.
- The draft National Planning Policy Framework suggests that Supplementary Planning Documents will only be justified where they help bring forward sustainable development at an accelerated rate and do not add financial burdens to development.
- The duty to monitor the implementation of planning policies remains (particularly the delivery of new homes), but the monitoring report is to be prepared for local people in the interests of local transparency and accountability. It is intended to remove the need to submit it to the Secretary of State.

6. ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS / EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT / STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES / CONSULTATION

6.1 Not applicable.

Background Papers

Bracknell Forest Borough Local Development Scheme: August 2011

Contact for Further Information

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APPENDIX 1

Local Development Framework Update

ADOPTED DOCUMENTS

Development Plan Documents

Core Strategy DPD

- A high level document containing the Council's long-term aspirations for the Borough, and policies to guide and manage development in Bracknell Forest until 2026.
- Adopted - February 2008.
- www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/corestrategy

Bracknell Forest Borough Proposals Map

- Shows Core Strategy designations and Saved Policies from the Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan. It will be updated to show the areas of policies and proposed development sites in the Site Allocations Development Plan Document (see below) following its adoption.
- Adopted April 2010
- www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/proposalsmap

Supplementary Planning Documents

Designing for Accessibility SPD

- Provides guidance on making development accessible, including for disabled and other less mobile people.
- Adopted at the 20 June 2006 Executive meeting.
- www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/designaccess

Parking Standards SPD

- Contains guidance on parking requirements for residential and other forms of development.
- Adopted at the 24 July 2007 Executive meeting.
- www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/parking

Limiting the Impact of Development SPD

- Explains how the Council will secure funding for measures (including infrastructure like roads, schools and open space) needed to mitigate the impact of new development.
- Adopted at the 24 July 2007 Executive meeting.
- www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/lid

Sustainable Resource Management SPD

- Provides guidance on renewable energy, climate change, efficiency and sustainable construction in relation to Core Strategy policies.
- Adopted at the 21 October 2008 Executive meeting.
- www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/srm

Amen Corner SPD

- Provides guidance for applications for a comprehensive mixed use development of the Amen Corner South Core Strategy site.
- Adopted at the 16 March 2010 Executive meeting.
- www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/amencorner

Character Area Assessments SPD

- Defines the character of specific areas in the Borough and interprets Core Strategy policy.
- Adopted at the 16 March 2010 Executive meeting.
- www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/characterareas

Streetscene SPD

- Contains design guidance for streets and other public spaces in residential developments
- Consultation of the Draft SPD undertaken in May 2010
- Adoption at the 29 March 2011 Executive meeting.
- www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/streetscene

DOCUMENTS UNDER PRODUCTION

Development Plan Documents

Site Allocations DPD

- Will implement the adopted Core Strategy. It will identify sites for future housing development, ensure that appropriate infrastructure is identified and delivered alongside new development and will also revise some designations shown on the Proposals Map.
- Options consultation took place in February-April 2010
- Preferred Options consultation took place November 2010-January 2011
- Council resolution for publication: 30 November 2011
- Consultation period on Draft Submission Document – Jan/Feb 2012
- Submission – Summer 2012
- Examination – Autumn 2012
- Adoption – Feb/March 2013
- www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sadpd

Core Strategy Review

- To provide the opportunity to review the long term vision and strategy for the Borough and produce a comprehensive set of policies in respect of, not only, the delivery of housing, employment, retail and Bracknell town centre, but also, the environment, recreation and transport
- Commencement March 2012
- Publication May/June 2013
- Submission March 2014
- Adoption January/February 2015

Proposals Map

- The adopted Proposals Map is based on saved policies in the Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan and will be updated to incorporate changes resulting from the adoption of any subsequent Development Plan Documents.

Supplementary Planning Documents

Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy SPD

- Explains how negative impacts of residential development on a special protection area for rare birds will be avoided and mitigated.
- Consultation on Draft SPD underway until 24 October 2011
- Adoption due February 2012
- www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/SPA

Warfield SPD

- It will provide guidance for planning applications for a comprehensive mixed use development of the Warfield site (formerly known as land North of Whitegrove and Quelm Park). The site is identified for development in the adopted Core Strategy.
- Consultation on the Draft SPD December 2010
- Further targeted consultation on a detailed concept plan during November 2011
- Adoption due early 2012
- www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/warfield