

Our Plan: South Hams – Progress Monitoring and Our Plan 16/17

Report to: **Executive**

Date: **10 March 2016**

Title: **Our Plan: South Hams – Progress Monitoring and Our Plan 16/17**

Portfolio Area: **Customer First**

Wards Affected: **All**

Relevant Scrutiny Committee: **O&S**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: **NA**
(e.g. referral on of recommendation or implementation of substantive decision)

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Recommendations:

That Executive notes progress in relation to Our Plan: South Hams

1. Executive summary

1.1. *Our Plan: South Hams* will be the single strategic plan that sets out the vision, objectives and activities of South Hams District Council. It brings together all strategies and plans and sets out a comprehensive story of what the council wants to achieve through two blended and inter-related elements

- The corporate plan establishing the Councils vision, objectives, priorities, actions and delivery approaches and
- The Local Plan establishing land use planning policies and allocations

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1.2. The overarching corporate plan role was reviewed at Overview and Scrutiny with a recommendation to Council that this element be re-issued for the start of the 2016/17 financial year as a means of clarifying Council vision, objectives, priorities and delivery. This element has been the subject of a Member workshop earlier in the year and will be presented back to O&S, Executive and Council in coming months for consideration (O&S minute 53/15 refers)

1.3 The Local Plan element of *Our Plan: South Hams* was considered in reports to the Councils of 5th November 2015 and 10th December 2015 (minutes 38/15 and 46/15 refer).

1.4 These reports recognised the need to take account of a wide range of local and national issues impacting on local planning. This led to members agreeing to a refreshed Joint Local Plan approach based around a collaboration agreement within the Housing Market Area incorporating West Devon, Plymouth and relevant parts of Dartmoor National Park.

1.5 This included a specific recommendation that regular monitoring reports be submitted to Executive. Progress is reported in this item.

2. Background

2.1 *Our Plan : South Hams* serves an important function as both the Corporate Plan and the Local Plan (establishing land use policies and development allocations). Members have agreed refreshed approaches to both elements and these are reported on in the outcomes section below.

3. Outcomes/outputs

3.1 Progress against the agreed recommendations is as follows.

O&S minute 53/15.

3.2 Overview and Scrutiny, and subsequently Council, agreed the following overarching recommendation.

That Our Plan: South Hams be issued for the start of the 2016/17 Financial Year as a document that:

- 1. recognises Our Plan: South Hams as the single comprehensive Council Plan;*
- 2. restates the Council's Corporate Vision and Objectives;*
- 3. establishes the common basis for the Council's Financial Plan, Asset Management Plan, Local Plan and all other Plans and Strategies;*
- 4. establishes long-term and short-term priorities for delivery including a delivery plan commencing in 2016/17;*
- 5. establishes mechanisms for delivery;*
- 6. establishes engagement, monitoring and review*

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7. *provides context for subsequent incorporation of the Local Plan element currently subject to separate preparation*

Work on reviewing the existing 2015/16 activity plan and the related work streams set out above are underway with presentation to members anticipated to be

- Overview and Scrutiny. 17th March
- Executive. 7th April
- Council (for ratification). 21st May

3.3 To support this work a Members workshop was held at Woolwell on January 15th. Members reviewed current Council objectives and looked at future actions. The objectives were prioritised as follows.

- High Priority. Economy and Homes
- Medium. Infrastructure, Communities, Wellbeing, Environment
- Low. Resources and Heritage

3.4 Further details will be reported to Overview and Scrutiny

Council minutes 38/15 and 46/15

3.5 These minutes established the refreshed approach to a Local Plan based on a Duty to co-operate and, following discussions with neighbouring LPAs, to move to the principle of a Joint Local Plan.

3.6 The recommendations included a range of actions and these, along with progress, are summarised in the table below.

No	Issue	Progress
38(1)	That Option 2 for progression of South Hams Our Plan (as set out at section 4 of the Executive report) be pursued recognising that this will need a plan period to 2032 or 2033 or alignment with neighbouring authorities	This established Duty to cooperate basis on which subsequent discussions have taken place. Period for Local Plan to be confirmed. Potential timescale targeted submission for autumn/winter.
38(2)	That a detailed Duty to Co-operate protocol, or similar agreement, be established with neighbouring planning authorities within the Housing Market Area. This would address joint approaches.	Draft agreement prepared but in abeyance whilst work advances on draft Joint Local Plan Collaboration Agreement. There will still be need for a distinct DtC statement for the examination.
38(3)	That the Local Development Scheme be reviewed and reissued	To be confirmed in light of new Joint Local Plan approach.

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38(4)	That further evidence work (joint or specific) be procured as required	Combined schedule of evidence held by LPAs completed. Gaps identified and further work commissioned including combined Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment and Gypsy and Traveller studies. Other work progressing as previously
38(5)	That the response to the Our Plan Topic Papers public consultations be published	Publication imminent..
38(6)	That the remaining Strategic Housing Land Availability assessment work be published and options for additional sites be explored;	Publication to be amalgamated with additional Strategic Land Assessment work that has been undertaken to identify further sites (submissions closed 22 nd Feb).
38(7)	That a budget provision for 2016/17 of £75,000 be made for Our Plan examination anticipated to be met from the <i>Planning Policy and Major Development Reserve</i> .	In place
38(8)	That guidance for Neighbourhood Plan Groups be issued to inform their work as it relates to Our Plan	Neighbourhood Plan Newsletter issued Jan 2016. Continued assistance to NP groups and appointment of focussed Neighbourhood Plans Case Manager.
38(9)	That a refreshed Our Plan Engagement Strategy be issued	To be confirmed alongside refreshed Local Development Scheme
38(10)	That regular updates be provided to the Strategic Planning Working Group	January SPWG considered policy matters and early March due to consider evidence provision.
38(11)	That further monitoring reports be submitted to the Executive every three months and the Council as and when required making specific proposals for future consultation, consideration and submission of Our Plan	Noted
38(12)	That those specific details to be agreed under recommendations 2,3,6,8 and 9 be delegated to the Lead Specialist – Place and Strategy in consultation with the Chairman of the Strategic Planning Working Group and the Leader of Council;	Noted. Neighbourhood Plan advice issued whilst other matters await conclusion.
38(13)	That 'Our Plan' be re-named 'Our Plan: South Hams';	Noted

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38(14)	That a specific Duty to Co-operate arrangement be put in place with neighbouring authorities in immediately adjacent Housing Market Areas	Overarching DtC Protocol already in place. Further meeting undertaken with Torbay BC with a view to establishing specific local arrangement.
46(1)	That the principle of a Joint Local Plan within the Housing Market Area be agreed subject to appropriate arrangements being put in place with neighbouring planning authorities	Being pursued. PCC and WDBC both agreed to principle of Joint Local Plan within the Housing Market Area on 16 th Feb.
46(2)	That a detailed Collaboration Agreement establishing the operation of the Joint Local Plan be developed with neighbouring planning authorities (and any other relevant organisations);	Draft Collaboration Agreement in preparation. As drafted will establish SHDC, WDBC, PCC as primary parties with key roles for DNPA and DCC.
46(3)	That the Collaboration Agreement include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following matters:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic Context; - Objectives and Priorities; - Joint Spatial Framework; - Governance and working arrangements; - Local Development Scheme and timescales; - Evidence; - Infrastructure; - Policies; - Allocations; - Engagement and Consultation; - Resources and Staffing; - Examination; - Assessments; and - Monitoring and Review; 	Being incorporated and details being developed. Staff already working collaboratively on joint evidence and policy development. Governance arrangements to propose Joint Local Plan Member Steering Group with representation from the three LPAs. This to be an advisory and not decision making Group.
46(4)	That a further report be submitted to Council setting out the detailed policy and allocation proposals that are to be subject to consultation, consideration and submission within the Joint Local Plan element of Our Plan: South Hams;	Noted. Timetable to be confirmed.

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46(5)	That those contents which are to be agreed under recommendations (46) 1, 2 and 3 be delegated to the Lead Specialist – Place and Strategy, in consultation with the Chairman of the Strategic Planning Working Group	Noted
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3.7 Whilst seeking to progress the Local Plan element of *Our Plan: South Hams* there continue to be a range of emerging government initiatives that will have marked impacts on the form and content of the Local Plan. These include the following (mostly within four current and recent consultations sitting alongside the emerging Housing and Planning Bill). The impact of these will need to be considered carefully and rapidly as the Joint local Plan emerges.

- Expert Panel on Local Plans expected to make significant recommendations on the form of Local Plans. Due February.
- Starter Homes and removal of in perpetuity use proposals
- Brownfield Land and Registers proposals
- Custom and Self Build and small site registers proposals
- Planning Permission in Principle proposals
- Local Plan form and timing proposals (separate to Expert Panel)
- Neighbourhood Planning responsibility proposals
- Permitted Development Right amendments and further consultation on planning regulations in Rural Areas
- Emerging guidance on Housing Mix and Economic Development leading to new Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessments (HEDNA).

3.8 As has been noted in previous reports the government's exhortations for speed do need to be tempered by continued refinements to policies that may have distinct impacts in rural areas.

4. Proposed Way Forward

4.1 It is proposed that work continue as planned noting the importance of establishing both the corporate priorities & activity plan as well as progressing rapidly on the Joint Local Plan work.

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5. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance		See previous O&S, Executive and Council reports O&S 53/15 Council 38/15 and 46/15
Financial		This report recognises allocation of £75,000 already agreed.
Risk		See previous Executive and Council reports
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		Our Plan: South Hams will need to be subject to Equality Impact assessment.
Safeguarding		None directly arising from this report
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		None directly arising from this report
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		Our Plan: South Hams will need to be subject to Health Impact Assessment
Other implications		None directly arising from this report

Supporting Information

Appendices: None

Approval and clearance of report

Process checklist	Completed
Portfolio Holder briefed	Yes
SLT Rep briefed	Yes
Relevant Exec Director sign off (draft)	Yes
Data protection issues considered	Yes
If exempt information, public (part 1) report also drafted. (Committee/Scrutiny)	No