



BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL



PLAN IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING REPORT 2017-18

Summary	1
Progress on local development documents	1
Local development documents adopted in the monitoring period 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018	2
Bedford's development	3
Neighbourhood planning	3
Duty to cooperate	4
Appendix	5

Summary

This monitoring report is one of a series that monitors various aspects of planning performance throughout the borough. The monitoring reports cover: housing, employment, heritage, major projects, environmental quality and open space, social and community, transport and traffic, infrastructure, and plan implementation. Monitoring reports are available to view at www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/planning_town_and_country/planning_policy_its_purpose/monitoring.aspx

The purpose of this report is to set out the progress being made on local development documents that the council is producing. The timetable for the production of local development documents is set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS), which is updated periodically. The first LDS came into effect in April 2005, with updates being made in September 2007, December 2009, September 2011, October 2012, October 2013, July 2015, March 2016, December 2017 and May 2018. The LDS is regularly monitored to ensure that it reflects the range and programme of work undertaken by the planning service. All versions of the LDS can be viewed at: www.bedford.gov.uk/LDS

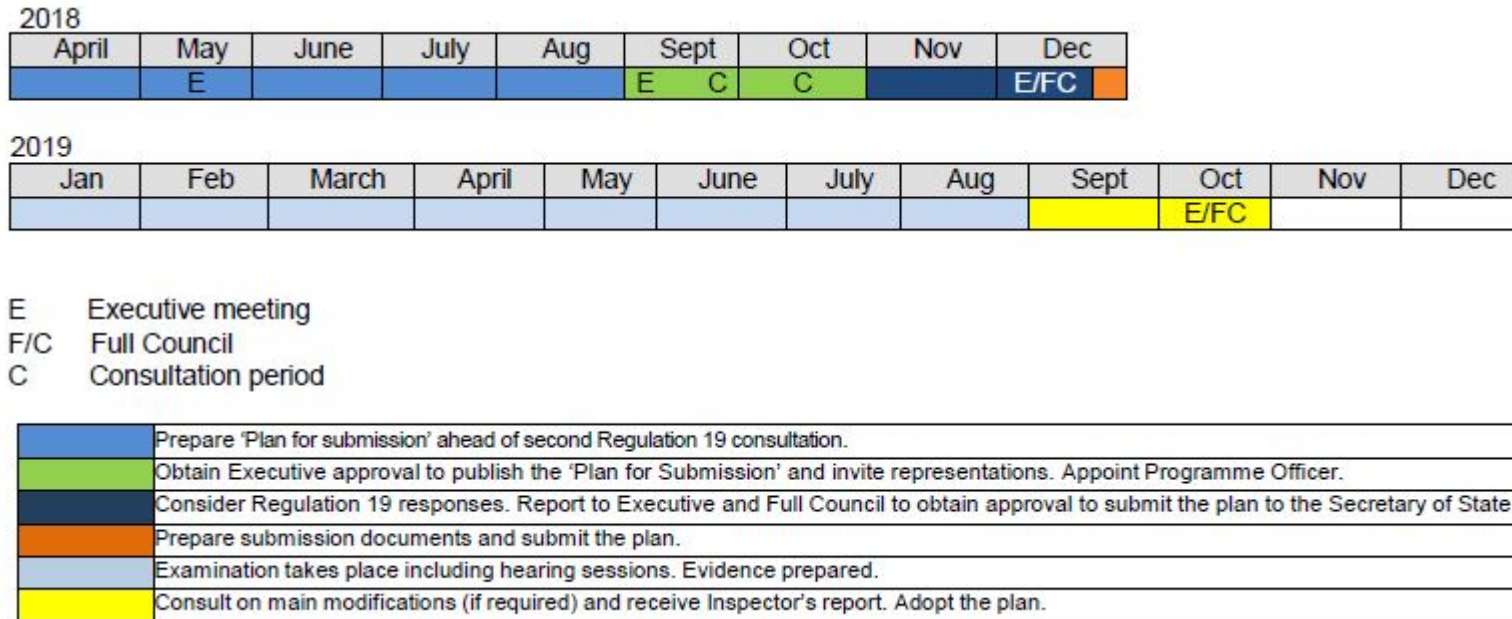
Progress on local development documents

Local Plan 2030

The purpose of the local plan is to plan for the borough's growth needs. In accordance with the timetables set out in the relevant versions of the LDS, work on the plan began in 2014 with an issues and options consultation, together with a call for the submission of potential development sites for consideration. Further consultations were held in 2015 and 2017. The end date of the plan changed as work progressed from 2032 to 2035. A formal (Regulation 19) consultation on the 'Plan for Submission' took place from 22nd January to 29th March 2018.

However, as a result of information received during the consultation, it became apparent that it would not be possible to deliver a key allocation of the plan: a new garden village. This was because the allocation relied upon agreement between the garden village promoter and the operator of the adjacent raceway. The response from the operator of the raceway confirmed that it had not been possible to reach such an agreement. The effect of this was that it would not be possible to continue with the inclusion of the site within the 'Plan for Submission'. As a result, the council decided that the plan as drafted could not be submitted for examination, that submission of the plan for formal examination would be deferred until alternative options had been considered and a second period of publication under Regulation 19 had taken place.

As a result, a revised LDS was published in May 2018, just outside of the monitoring period. This shows that the council intends to publish an amended 'Plan for Submission' in September 2018 which will be subject to a second Regulation 19 consultation. The following chart shows the key milestones for the Local Plan 2030, as set out in the most recent LDS. More information about the plan's timetable can be found on the council's website: www.bedford.gov.uk/LDS



Local development documents adopted in the monitoring period 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018

The Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) supplementary planning document was adopted by the Council's Executive on 13th February 2018 following a five week public consultation period that ended on 22nd December 2017.

Bedford's development plan

Currently Bedford's development plan is made up of several different documents adopted at different times. Those documents are:

- Bedford Local Plan, 2002 (saved policies)
- Bedfordshire & Luton Minerals and Waste Local Plan, 2005.
- Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan, 2008
- Bedford Town Centre Area Action Plan, 2008
- Allocations and Designations Local Plan, 2013
- Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Strategic Sites and Policies, 2014

The Local Plan 2030, once adopted, will form part of the development plan, replacing many of the policies in these documents, although some will be saved where they are still relevant.

Neighbourhood planning

Under the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 a parish council (or other organisation which is capable of being designated as a neighbourhood forum) may submit to the local planning authority an area application for the purposes of producing a neighbourhood plan or neighbourhood development order. Neighbourhood plans allow the designated body to produce planning policies at the neighbourhood level. Neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic planning policies of the adopted development plan for the area and relevant national policy. During the monitoring period to 31st March 2018 neighbourhood area applications were submitted by Riseley Parish Council, Sharnbrook Parish Council and Turvey Parish Council. Details of previously designated neighbourhood areas can be found at:

www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/planning_town_and_country/planning_policy_its_purpose/neighbourhood_planning/neighbourhood_areas.aspx

During the monitoring period to 31st March 2018 no neighbourhood plans or neighbourhood development orders were submitted for examination or were formally 'made' (adopted). Further information on the role of neighbourhood planning can be found at:

www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/planning_town_and_country/planning_policy_its_purpose/neighbourhood_planning.aspx

Duty to co-operate

As part of the process of preparing a local plan, the council has a statutory duty to cooperate with other authorities and agencies where strategic and cross boundary issues are identified. The duty to cooperate is an important part of the plan-making process and is assessed as part of the examination of the local plan. During the monitoring period to 31st March 2018 the council cooperated with strategic partners identifying what actions, if any, were necessary in relation to any of the strategic issues listed below which were relevant to them.

1. Overall scale of new housing provision
2. Overall scale of new employment provision
3. New development adjacent to the boundaries of other authorities
4. Impact on the highway network
5. East-West Rail
6. Midland Mainline rail electrification
7. Travellers
8. Green infrastructure
9. Town centres
10. Other infrastructure (including social and community)

Appendix 1 provides the evidence of the cooperation which has been undertaken with neighbouring local planning authorities and statutory duty to cooperate bodies in relation to the strategic issues and the outcomes of that cooperation.

Duty to co-operate evidence

Authority / organisation	Strategic issues bodies are involved in	Outcome
Central Bedfordshire Council	Overall scale of new housing provision, overall scale of new employment provision, new development adjacent to boundaries with other authorities, green infrastructure, impact on the highway network.	Housing market area (HMA) geography is agreed and the objectively assessed need for the borough is agreed. Joint arrangements are in place for the determination of planning matters at Wixams. Both councils are working with the Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterways Trust and the Forest of Marston Vale to deliver green infrastructure. Agreement to jointly prepare a design guide for the Marston Vale. The two councils recognise that there may be need to liaise about future development opportunities relating to the A1 including at Tempsford.
Luton Borough Council	Overall scale of new housing provision, overall scale of new employment provision.	HMA geography is agreed and the objectively assessed need for the borough is agreed. Outputs and approach to employment land is agreed.
Huntingdonshire District Council	Overall scale of new housing provision, overall scale of new employment provision, new development adjacent to boundaries with other authorities.	It is agreed that the boundaries of the two authorities form the best fit boundary for the respective HMAs and therefore no cross boundary issues arise in relation to HMAs. Both councils expect to meet their objectively assessed housing and employment needs within their administrative boundaries so no cross boundary issues arise. The January 2018 Regulation 19 plan contained a policy setting out the approach to the determination of applications at Wyboston Lakes which was drafted following discussions between the two local planning authorities.
Milton Keynes Council and South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership	Overall scale of new housing provision, overall scale of new employment provision, green infrastructure, other infrastructure.	HMA geography is agreed and the objectively assessed need for the borough is agreed. There are no concerns about employment provision. SEMLEP is preparing an Oxford to

(SEMLEP)		Cambridge wide industrial strategy and energy strategy for the area in which member councils will be involved.
Northamptonshire County Council, North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, Wellingborough Borough Council and East Northamptonshire Council	Overall scale of new housing provision, overall scale of new employment provision, new development adjacent to boundaries with other authorities, impact on the highway network.	The HMA geography is agreed and the Northamptonshire authorities have no concerns about OAN or employment provision. The January 2018 Regulation 19 plan contained a proposal for a garden village near to Sharnbrook and Bedford and the Northamptonshire authorities agreed to work towards a statement of common ground on cross boundary issues (including highway issues). The garden village proposal is however, not now being progressed.
Greater London Authority (GLA), Mayor of London and Transport for London	Overall scale of new housing provision.	Involvement in the wider south east officer working group to engage with the GLA led to the publication of a London Plan. London is planning to meet the majority of its own needs for housing and employment and has not identified a specific need for any wider south east authority to accommodate any of London's growth. Transport for London confirmed that it had no comments to make.
Clinical Commissioning groups and National Health Service Commissioning Board	Other infrastructure.	Joint working on health care provision is reflected in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
The Environment Agency	Green infrastructure, other infrastructure.	The council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment has been agreed with the Environment Agency.
Highways England	Impact on the highway network.	The borough-wide highway model has been validated and agreed.
Historic England	Impact on heritage assets.	Commented on the plan for submission but no strategic issues raised.
Natural England	Impact on the natural environment.	Commented on the plan for submission but no strategic issues raised. Natural England is a member of the Bedfordshire Local Nature Partnership.

Civil Aviation Authority	Impact on aviation.	Consulted on draft local plan for submission but no response received and it is assumed that it has no strategic issues to raise.
Homes England	Opportunities for new housing provision. Other infrastructure.	Ongoing work in the context of the One Public Estate board and Housing Infrastructure Fund.
Office of Rail Regulation / Network Rail	Impact on the rail network and in particular, East-West Rail and Midland Mainline rail electrification.	Ongoing joint working to facilitate the implementation of the East West Rail western section and planning for the central section.
Bedfordshire Local Nature Partnership	Impact on the natural environment and green infrastructure.	Joint working as part of the partnership on issues including natural capital in the Oxford to Cambridge corridor.

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