

**NFNPA 499/16**

## **NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

### **AUTHORITY MEETING – 24 MARCH 2016**

## **NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY REVISED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

**Report by:** David Illsley, Policy Manager

### **SUMMARY**

The National Park Authority is required to produce a Local Development Scheme (LDS) by the *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004* (as amended), and to keep this Scheme under review. The LDS sets out the timetable for reviewing the Local Plan and will be made publically available on the Authority's website.

The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) makes clear the Government's preference for each local planning authority to prepare a single Local Plan for its area. The updated LDS (Annex 1) therefore sets out the timetable for the review and adoption of the revised Local Plan for the National Park by mid-2018. Approval is sought for the proposed timetable.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Authority endorses the revised Local Development Scheme (in Annex 1) and brings it into immediate effect (from 24 March 2016)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. All local planning authorities are required by the *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004* (as amended by the *Localism Act 2011*) to prepare a Local Development Scheme (LDS) setting out the timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan for their area. The LDS must be made publically available to allow local communities and other interested parties to keep track of progress.
2. The first LDS prepared by the National Park Authority was adopted in February 2007 and subsequently updated in December 2009 and March 2011. The LDS is required to specify the timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan and the geographical area to which the document is to relate.

### **RECENT CHANGES IN NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY**

3. The requirement to produce a LDS originated in 2004 at the same time as the introduction of Local Development Frameworks, whereby the statutory 'development plan' for an area could comprise a number of separate documents and would usually be supported by a range of Supplementary Planning Documents. The publication of the National Planning Policy Framework in 2012 marked a change in emphasis, with the Framework (and supporting guidance) confirming the Government's stated preference for each local planning authority to return to preparing a single Local Plan for its area. While additional plans can still be produced, there should be a clear justification for doing so.

4. In addition to the return of a single Local Plan for an area highlighted in the National Planning Policy Framework, changes introduced by the *Localism Act 2011* also removed the requirement for the LDS to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for approval.
5. As a result of these amendments, the revised LDS presented in Annex 1 is a more succinct document than the previous versions of the Scheme and focuses solely on the timetable for the review of the Authority's Local Plan. Other documents such as Neighbourhood Plans may still be prepared, but as these would be initiated by local communities the timetable for their production is therefore outside the scope of the National Park Authority's LDS which sets out the timetable for our own Local Plan.
6. The importance of having an up-to-date LDS is highlighted in the current Government technical consultation on the implementation of planning changes (February 2016). This sets out the Government's commitment to publish league tables on local authorities' progress on their Local Plans. The Government is proposing to use published LDSs to establish when planning authorities intend to publish, submit and adopt their new or reviewed Local Plans, with the first set of data being published in June 2016.
7. In addition, the Examination into the Local Plan also assesses whether the Plan meets the relevant legal and procedural requirements. This includes ensuring that the Local Plan timetable is set out in the LDS and that the key stages have been followed. It is therefore important that the Authority has an up-to-date LDS in place prior to the submission of its revised Local Plan for Examination in 2017.

## **PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR THE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW**

8. The Government's National Planning Practice Guidance online resource confirms that to be effective, Local Plans need to be kept up-to-date and that most Plans are likely to require updating in whole or in part every five years.
9. The Authority's first set of planning policies for the whole of the National Park were adopted in December 2010 through the Core Strategy & Development Management Policies DPD. This document provides a clear framework for planning within the National Park and will continue to form a key part of the statutory 'development plan' for the area until it is replaced by the revised Local Plan.
10. The review of the local planning policies for the National Park commenced in Autumn 2015 with the publication of a consultation document inviting comments on the scope of the Local Plan and the main planning issues to be addressed. Following this initial consultation, members will be aware from the recent briefing sessions of the on-going work in reviewing the Local Plan. The revised LDS in Annex 1 sets out the proposed timetable for the remaining stages in the Plan-preparation process leading to the adoption of the revised Local Plan in 2018 following independent examination.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Authority endorses the revised Local Development Scheme (in Annex 1) and brings it into immediate effect (from 24 March 2016)**

### **Contact:**

**David Illsley, Policy Manager**  
[david.illsley@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:david.illsley@newforestnpa.gov.uk)  
**01590 646672**

**Papers:** **NFNPA 499/16: Cover Paper**  
**Annex 1: New Forest National Park Authority Revised**  
**Local Development Scheme 2016**

**Equality Impact Assessment:** **The Authority's revised Local Plan will be subject to**  
**its own Equalities Impact Assessment in due course.**