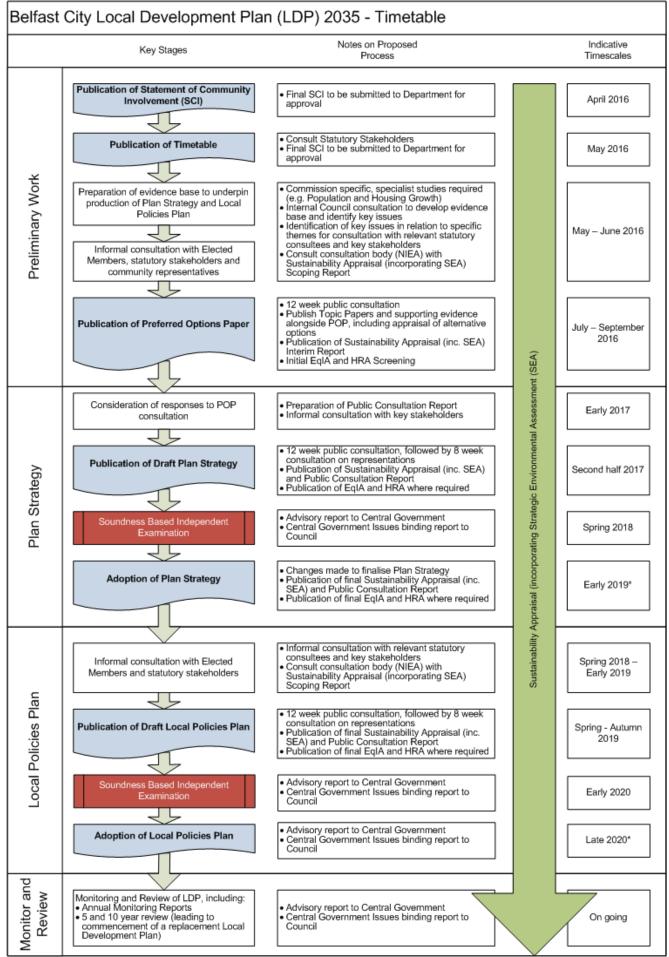


Subject:	Belfast Local Development Plan - Timetable Update
Date:	14 March 2017
Reporting Officer:	Keith Sutherland, Development Plans and Policy Manager
Contact Officer:	Mark Whittaker, Senior Planning Officer

Is this report restricted?	Yes No	Х
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes X No	

4.0	Durmana of Danast as Cummans of Main Isaura
1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To update the Members on progress with the new Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP) and to review the timetable for the adoption of the LDP.
1.2	The City Council published its agreed timetable for the preparation and adoption of the new Belfast LDP in June 2016. A summary of the timetable is attached at Appendix 1. The Council has recently published the LDP Preferred Options Paper (POP) for consultation and consideration is being given to the next stages of the LDP process.
1.3	The LDP timetable must be kept under review and this report highlights progress to date.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	It is recommended that the Committee notes the terms of this report and the progress to date in preparing the new LDP.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Work on the LDP commenced through the publication of a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and Timetable in June 2016. These are the first stages in the LDP process and both are statutory requirements under the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. The Council also published its Preferred Options Paper (POP) in January 2017, which is another required stage in the LDP process.
3.2	The LDP timetable (see Appendix 1) covers the entire plan-making process, which takes approximately four years. The timetable was agreed with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in accordance with planning legislation. This also requires the timetable to be kept under review.
3.3	The published timetable programmed the publication of POP for public consultation from September to November 2016. However, there was a slight delay in preparing the POP and it was finalised and published for consultation from January to April 2017. This

	represents an overall delay of just under five months to the published timetable.
3.4	The published timetable programmed the period for consideration of POP consultation responses during "early 2017". This will now start in late April 2017, following the closing of the current public consultation stage on 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2017.
3.5	Additional staff resources are now in place to assist with taking the plan preparation forward, which will help to reduce the slippage in the projected timescale for the preparation of the POP. It is envisaged that, subject to the volume of responses and nature of matters raised, the consultation report will be prepared for consideration by the Committee in May 2017.
3.6	The next key milestone in the LDP process is the publication of the Draft Plan Strategy. The published timetable programmes the publication of the Draft Plan Strategy for the "second half of 2017". It is anticipated that, having regard to the detailed work involved in the preparation of the POP, the Draft Plan Strategy could be published for consultation within this broad timeframe.
3.7	The Draft Plan Strategy is likely to be published in accordance with the published timetable, but the delay could have implications for the subsequent stages and require a formal review of the timetable. In view of this, whilst there is no need to review or revise the LDP timetable at this time, the proposal is to engage with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and other key stakeholders to explore the implications for the formal process.
3.8	It is considered that there is potential for the next stages of the LDP process, following the publication of the Draft Plan Strategy, to require an adjustment to the current timetable. This could be required for a number of reasons, including delays at the Planning Appeals Commission's independent examination or consideration by the Dfl on the soundness of the plan documents. However, it is not possible, with any degree of certainty at this stage, to detail the timetable beyond the publication of the Draft Plan Strategy. The proposal is therefore to ensure that the timetable is kept under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Committee for consideration.
	Finance and Resource Implications There are no resource implications associated with this report.
	Asset and Other Implications None noted.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications  There are no relevant equality or good relations implications attached to this report.
4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 – Agreed LDP Summary Timetable



<sup>\*</sup> May require a longer period depending on changes required following Independent Examination