Reason for Decision
To approve the update of the council’s Local Development Scheme (LDS).

Executive Summary
The council has to prepare a Local Plan to provide a comprehensive planning framework to support the borough’s economic, environmental and social objectives. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is the project plan for the Local Plan. It sets out details and timetables about the planning documents we will prepare, including:

- The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework; and
- Oldham’s Local Plan (incorporating site allocations).

This update (‘Issue 9’) is effective from 26 July 2016 following approval by Cabinet.

Following enactment of relevant parts of the Localism Act relating to planning matters (effective from 15 January) we are no longer required to seek the Secretary of State’s approval for changes to the LDS; we only need to notify them of any changes that have been made.

Recommendations
It is recommended that the revisions to the LDS be approved and it is resolved that the LDS is to have effect from 26 July 2016.
Local Development Scheme Update

1 Background

1.1 The council has to prepare a Local Plan to provide a comprehensive planning framework that will support the borough’s economic, environmental and social objectives. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a public statement setting out the council’s project plan for preparing the Local Plan and its supporting documents.

1.2 The purpose of the LDS is to:

- Set out what planning policy documents exist and what new documents will be prepared as part of, and in support of, the Local Plan;
- Set out the timescales the public can expect for the preparation and review of these documents;
- Indicate when stakeholders and the public can get involved and influence the plan-making process;
- Enable work programmes to be set for the preparation of Local Plan documents; and
- Show how the programme for the production of documents will establish and reflect the council’s priorities and to assist the programming of other council strategies and programmes.

1.3 In accordance with Section 15(7) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011), this LDS shall have effect from 26 July 2016. The LDS will then need to be sent to the usual deposit points such as local libraries and the one-stop shop, and placed on the council’s website.

2 Current Position

2.1 Oldham’s Local Plan currently comprises a series of documents which together provide the statutory development plan for the borough and are:

- The Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (Joint DPD), adopted in November 2011;
- Proposals Map, dated April 2013;
- The Greater Manchester Joint Waste Plan, adopted in April 2012; and
2.2 In addition to the above there are a limited number of policies from the Oldham Unitary Development Plan (2006) that have been ‘saved’ and supporting documents such as:

- The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), adopted March 2016;
- Supplementary Planning Documents and Planning Position Papers; and
- Oldham’s Monitoring Reports.

2.3 Following adoption of the Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Development Plan Document (Joint DPD) in November 2011 it was the council’s intention to prepare a separate Site Allocations DPD to sit alongside the adopted Joint DPD. Since this time, however, Greater Manchester authorities are now committed to preparing the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF). The GMSF will focus primarily on:

- Housing and employment land requirements for Greater Manchester and the ten districts;
- The infrastructure requirements to deliver this; and
- The environmental capacity of GM to accommodate this in the most sustainable manner.

2.4 The GMSF is currently being progressed as a Joint Plan of all ten GM authorities with preparation led by AGMA. In 2017 it will become a Plan of the Mayor requiring unanimous approval of the Cabinet of 10 Leaders.

2.5 The GMSF will form part of our Local Plan, sitting above the existing Joint DPD. It is likely to have significant implications for the future housing and economic growth of the borough. As such, it is now proposed to incorporate site allocations as part of a wider review of the Local Plan which will reflect the GMSF.

2.6 Section 6 of the LDS therefore includes profiles for both the GMSF and Oldham’s Local Plan, setting out a broad timetable for the preparation of each. It is anticipated that the review of the Local Plan will be twin-tracked with the preparation of the GMSF where possible. The GMSF is scheduled for adoption in January 2019 and it is hoped that adoption of Oldham’s revised Local Plan will follow in late 2019 / early 2020 so as to avoid a policy vacuum. The timetables for both the GMSF and the Local Plan review are shown in Table 1. This illustrates how the review of the Local Plan twin-tracks preparation of the GMSF.
Table 1 - Timetables for GMSF and Local Plan review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GMSF Stage</th>
<th>GMSF</th>
<th>Local Plan Review Stage</th>
<th>Local Plan Review Stage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Options / GM-wide Call for Sites</td>
<td>November 2015 to January 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Plan</td>
<td>October to November 2016</td>
<td>Options Consultation</td>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication of Plan*</td>
<td>June 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Submission*</td>
<td>November 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Examination in Public*</td>
<td>February to April 2018</td>
<td>Draft Plan</td>
<td>Spring 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adoption</td>
<td>January 2019</td>
<td>Publication of Plan</td>
<td>Spring 2019</td>
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<td>Submission</td>
<td>Summer 2019</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Examination</td>
<td>Autumn 2019</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Adoption</td>
<td>Late 2019/early 2020</td>
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</table>

2.7 The council has also received an application from Saddleworth Parish Council for the designation of the Saddleworth Parish Council boundary as a neighbourhood planning area. This is being processed as appropriate and updates will be provided through future revisions to the LDS.

2.8 The LDS also includes a risk assessment for completion of the review of the Local Plan. The main risks identified include:

- Programme slippage;
- Staff and financial resources; and
- Ensuring ‘soundness’ of the documents and the need to complete the necessary evidence base.

3 Options/Alternatives

3.1 Option 1 – To update the LDS.
(Advantages – updating the LDS means that people will have certainty over the timetable for preparing our planning documents; National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) on Local Plans states that the LDS must be kept up to date.)
(Disadvantages – there are no disadvantages to updating the LDS.)
Option 2 – Not to update the LDS.
(Advantages – there are no advantages in not updating the LDS.)
(Disadvantages – not approving the LDS means that people will have less
certainty and confidence in our planning documents coming forward; not updating
the LDS means the Council will not be in line with Government guidance.)

4 Preferred Option

4.1 Option 1 above is the Preferred Option.

5 Consultation

5.1 The Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives has been consulted
and a report on the update to the LDS has been taken to DMT, EMT and
Leadership before going on to Cabinet.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 The council will have to make copies of the LDS available at all libraries and public
deposit points. Printing costs will be kept to a minimum and are estimated at
approximately £50. We will need to notify people about the LDS update, but that
will be combined with a general update letter in due course. Costs will be met from
Strategic Planning and Information’s revenue budget.

6.2 Input into the preparation of the GMSF and reviewing our Local Plan will have
financial implications. In particular there will be a need to review and update much
of our evidence base as this was last carried out to inform preparation of the Joint
DPD and may be out of date. In order to maintain the challenging timescales
identified for the GMSF, districts have also been asked to second one full-time
equivalent member of staff each to work at New Economy to assist in the
preparation of the spatial framework. Clarification is currently being sought on the
exact requirements before the secondment is agreed.

Revenue Implications

6.3 Updating the LDS doesn’t present the Council with any significant financial
implications. There will be marginal publication costs as detailed in paragraph 6.1,
which will be met from existing resources from the Strategic Planning & Information
element of the Development Control & Planning cost centre 23700.

6.4 A review of the Local Plan and in particular the implementation of GMSF will likely
incur cost implications. Once these plans have progressed, supplementary reports
will be submitted outlining what affect this will have on the Council and its
resources.
Capital Implications

6.5 There are no capital implications as a result of this proposal.

Danny Jackson (Accountant)

Legal Services Comments

7.1 In accordance with S15(8) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) the Council must revise their local development scheme at such time as they consider appropriate. Under the Council's Local Development Framework Scheme of Delegation, revisions to the Local Development Scheme are the responsibility of the Cabinet. (A Evans)

Co-operative Agenda

8.1 The Local Plan follows the values of the Cooperative Agenda. The LDS, which is the project plan for the Local Plan, is being prepared in an open manner following the democratic processes of local government. The LDS allows people to see how / when they can get involved in the plan-making process. The planning process follows the values of the Cooperative Agenda through its consultation of local residents and communities and its open and democratic processes.

Human Resources Comments

9.1 N/A

Risk Assessments

10.1 None (Mark Stenson)

IT Implications

11.1 None

Property Implications

12.1 No comments provided

Procurement Implications

13.1 None

Environmental and Health & Safety Implications
The Local Plan will be the new land use plan and will have beneficial environmental impacts, but the LDS as the project plan has no implications.

**Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

The Local Plan is an important element of achieving community cohesion and addressing crime, but the LDS as the project plan has no implications.

**Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

No, an Equality Impact Assessment will be prepared for the Local Plan however it is not required for the LDS as it is a project plan.

**Key Decision**

Yes

**Key Decision Reference**

HPT-06-15

**Background Papers**

The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:

- Local Development Scheme
  
  Records held in Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives Directorate, Level 3, Civic Centre, Oldham
  Officer Name: Elizabeth Dryden-Stuart
  Contact No: 1672

**Appendices**

Local Development Scheme 2016