

# Annex A

## VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2012 – 2016

#### What is the Local Development Scheme?

1. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a procedural document. Its primary purposes are to set out how the local planning authority is going to plan for development in its area and to provide information to help ensure that local communities, businesses, developers, service and infrastructure providers, and other interested organisations know when they will be able to participate<sup>1</sup>. For the council, it is also a basis for project and budget management.
2. This local development scheme provides information about the preparation of the **Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2029** and related documents over the four year period 2012-2016. The Local Plan 2029 will progressively replace the Local Plan 2011 (adopted in 2006).

#### Keeping the LDS up to date

3. Planning legislation and regulations<sup>2</sup> require that the Local Plan must be prepared in accordance with the published LDS, that the LDS is kept up-to-date, and that Local Plan preparation progress against the LDS timetable must be monitored and published.
4. We will monitor and document progress at least annually in our annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs). If there are significant revisions between AMRs then we will update the LDS if and when necessary.

#### LDS contents

5. The LDS is required to set out the subject and geographical area that each component Development Plan Document (DPD) will cover and the timetable for their preparation and revision.
6. The Vale LDS formally comprises two district-wide DPD, the Vale Local Plan 2029 Parts One and Two.
7. Whilst not a formal requirement, for ease of reference our LDS also includes information about all the supporting and procedural documents that do or will accompany the Local Plan.

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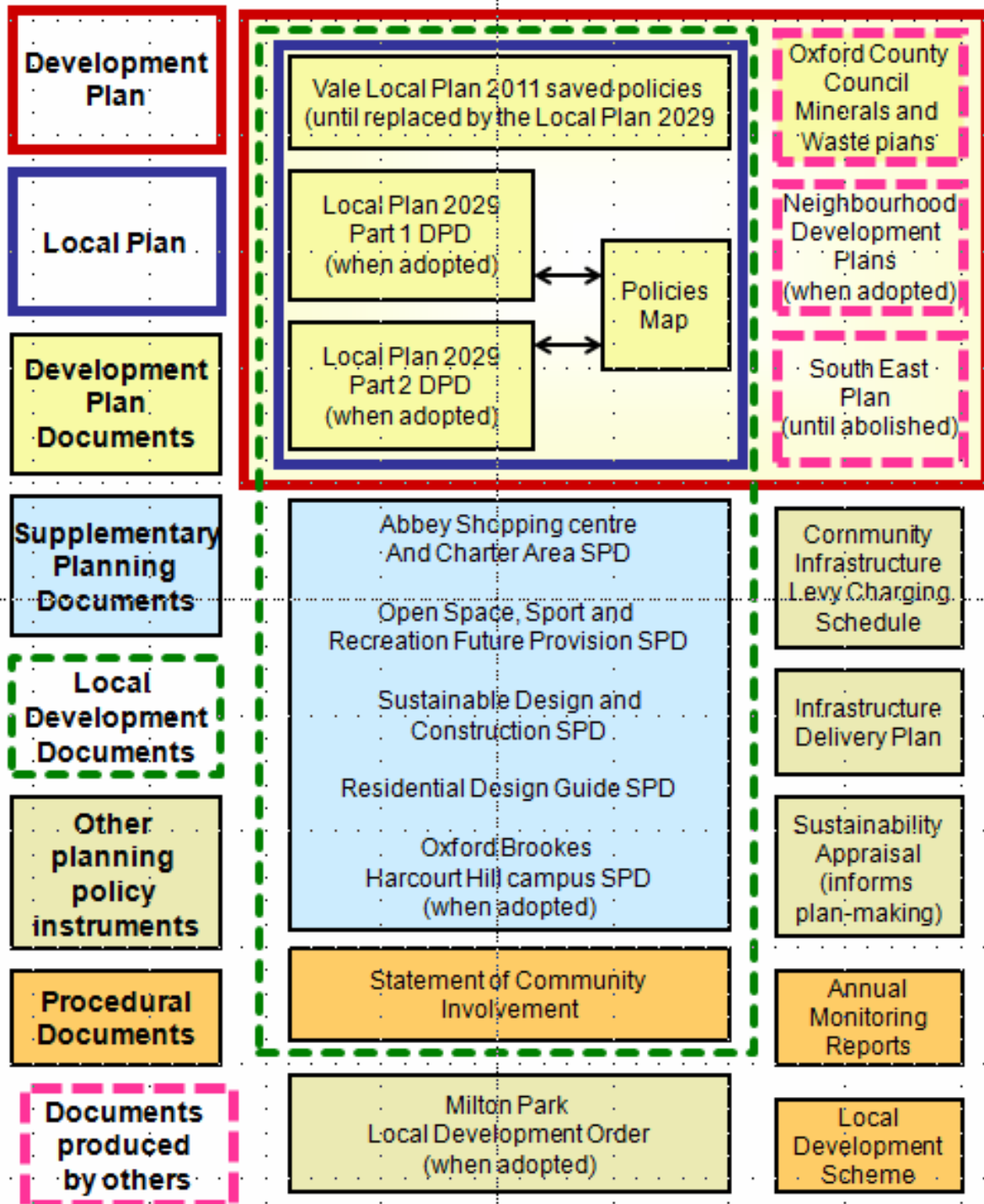
<sup>1</sup> Public consultations will continue to be advertised and stakeholders notified when important documents are published for public consultation, in accordance with our published Statement of Community Involvement.

<sup>2</sup> Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended by section 180 of the Planning Act 2008 and section 111 (7) of the Localism Act, plus the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

## Planning policy documents: definitions and relationships

8. There are various types of planning policy documents, described below. Figure 1 shows how these various documents relate to each other to make up the Vale of White Horse planning framework.

Figure 1: Vale of White Horse planning framework



## Development Plan Documents

9. **Development Plan Documents**, DPD, are planning strategies that contain policies for the use, protection and / or development of land, usually including the allocation of land for development. These must be in general conformity with government guidance, in particular the **National Planning Policy Framework**.
10. Types of DPD include
  - **Local Plans** for a council area (also for more than one council area if working together). Preparation of a local plan is compulsory. A local plan may be a single document, or several documents with some covering more specific areas or policy matters (for example Area Action Plans). Within 2-tier areas county councils have responsibility for producing Minerals and Waste Local Plans.
  - **Neighbourhood Plans**. In parished areas these are prepared by a town or parish council or councils, and elsewhere by neighbourhood forums. They must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the local plan.

## The Development Plan and the Local Plan

11. The **Local Plan** is made up of all the DPDs that are prepared by or for the district council<sup>3</sup> including any Area Action Plans or other site or issue specific DPDs.
12. The **Development Plan** for any given council area is all the DPDs that relate to that area. The Development Plan forms part of the statutory basis for determining planning applications. The Development Plan includes
  - the Local Plan
  - any Neighbourhood Plans
  - County Council Minerals and Waste Local Plans (in two-tier areas covered by both district and county councils)
  - Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS). The Localism Act 2011 signals that regional plans will be abolished. For the time being they still form part of the Development Plan. Until the RSS is revoked, local plans should generally conform to the RSS, unless RSS policies are superseded by the National Planning Policy Framework.

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<sup>3</sup> Planning regulations also refer to Local Development Documents. The term refers to both DPDs that form part of the local plan and SPDs. Note also that the term 'local plan' largely supersedes 'local development framework' but is not exactly equivalent. The LDF comprised all LDDs (local DPDs and SPDs), and the accompanying procedural documents.

## Supporting documents

13. **Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)** (and their predecessors, supplementary planning guidance) expand upon existing Local Plan policies, for example describing in more detail how an allocated site should be developed. SPD cannot allocate new sites for development nor contain new policies for the use or development of land, and they must not conflict with the adopted Development Plan.
14. **Local Development Orders (LDO)** are policy instruments that extend [permitted development](#) rights for certain forms of development that the local authority considers to be suitable, either in general or limited to defined areas. LDOs are intended to simplify development. Development that conforms to an LDO would not require planning permission.
15. The **Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule (CIL)** sets out a schedule of charges on new development to help fund the provision of essential infrastructure, community benefits and services. Preparation of a CIL is optional.
16. The local plan is informed by a range of technical evidence base studies and reports listed and available to download from our website<sup>4</sup>.
17. The **Infrastructure Delivery Plan** is prepared alongside the local plan, to identify essential supporting infrastructure and services, how they will be delivered and by whom. It forms a key part of the evidence base.
18. The **Sustainability Appraisal Report** is prepared alongside the local plan (and for other DPD and SPD) and documents the process of the sustainability assessment of emerging options and policies to ensure the plan as a whole reflects a balance of sustainable development objectives (social, environmental and economic factors). It forms a key part of the evidence base.

## Procedural documents

19. The various policy-making documents above are accompanied by **procedural documents** that describe how the council will go about plan-making including
  - this **Local Development Scheme (LDS)** is a high level work programme for how the local planning authority is going to plan for development in its area
  - **Annual Monitoring Reports (AMR)** produced retrospectively for each financial year to 31 March. It includes an assessment of whether the milestones identified in the LDS for preparing documents have been met, and if not how they should be updated. It also monitors progress against

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/core-strateg-6>

policy delivery targets in the local plan including progress against achieving our **five year housing land supply**

- the **Statement of Community Involvement** (SCI) sets out how the community will be involved in the preparation of the local plan, any SPD and in decision-making on planning applications.

### **The current and future Vale of White Horse Development Plan**

20. In 2012 the Vale of White Horse development plan comprises

- the South East Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy), approved by the Secretary of State in May 2009. The current government has announced its intention to revoke this.
- the **saved policies**<sup>5</sup> of the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011 (adopted 2006) prepared by the District Council. The saved policies remain in force where they are consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework, set out in an assessment published separately<sup>6</sup>.
- the saved policies of the adopted Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (1996) prepared by Oxfordshire County Council. In due course this will be replaced by the emerging Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy 2030 and subsequent Minerals Sites and Waste Sites DPDs

21. The Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2029 is the primary focus of this local development scheme, as the key document in the development plan for the district.

22. By the end of 2016 the Vale of White Horse development plan will comprise the following (and assuming revocation of the South East Plan takes place and the county council adopt a replacement Minerals and Waste DPDs)

- Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2029 Part One: Strategic policies and sites
- Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2029 Part Two: Detailed policies and local sites.
- any Neighbourhood Plans adopted in the district. Neighbourhood Plans are underway in Faringdon and Drayton
- the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy 2030 and accompanying Minerals Sites and Waste Sites DPDs.

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<sup>5</sup> When the South East Plan was published the council applied to the Secretary of State to continue to use policies in the Local Plan 2011 that were consistent with the South East Plan. The policies agreed for continued use are known as 'saved' policies.

<sup>6</sup> .LINK

23. The saved policies of the Local Plan 2011 will be progressively replaced by the Local Plan 2029 Parts 1 and 2. As the Local Plan Part 2 is progressed, any currently adopted SPD that are superseded or no longer relevant will be withdrawn.
24. In the period 2012-2016 the following will also be produced
- A supplementary planning document for the master-planning of Oxford Brookes Harcourt Hill Campus
  - A Local Development Order for Milton Park
  - Annual Monitoring Reports. These will include any recommendations to update the Local Development Scheme, and will also update the district five year housing land supply position.
  - It is our current intention to prepare a Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule to support the Local Plan 2029. The timetable for this work is to be confirmed.
25. Other planning policy documents under consideration may be added to the local development scheme when it is next reviewed.

### Timetables for the Production of Development Plan Documents and supporting documents

26. The key milestones for preparing the Local Plan 2029 Parts 1 and 2 and supporting documents are shown in figures 2 and 3 below.

Figure 2: Production timetables for development plan documents

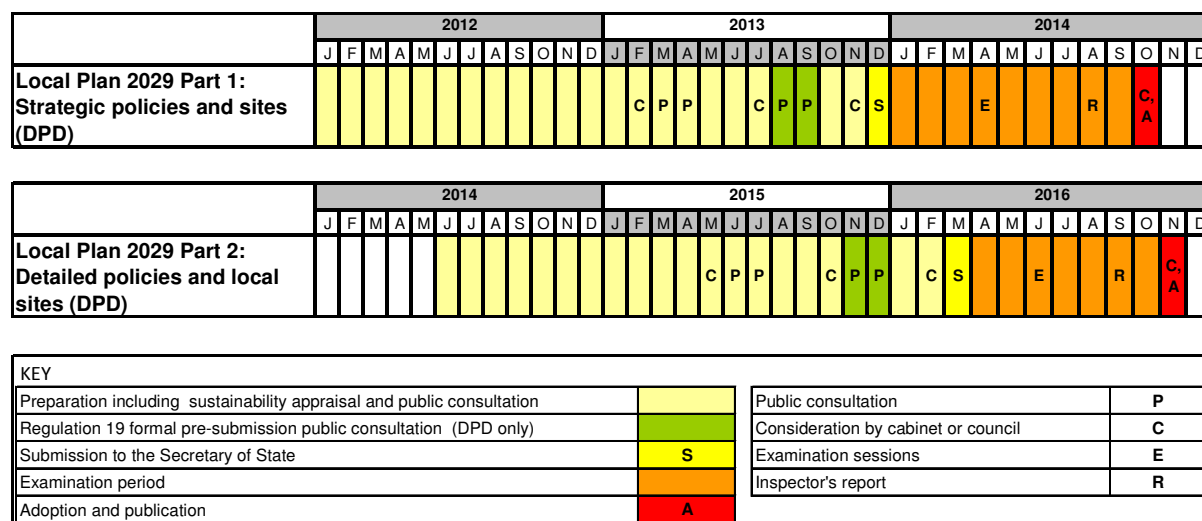


Figure 3: Production timetables for supporting documents

To be prepared in parallel with the Local Plan Part 1	2012												2013												2014											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Infrastructure Delivery Plan																																				
Oxford Brookes Harcourt Hill Campus SPD																																				
Milton Park Local Development Order																																				
Annual Monitoring Reports including Five Year Housing Land Supply Statements and LDS review																																				

**Profiles of the Local Plan 2029 Development Plan Documents**

**LOCAL PLAN 2029 PART 1**

Role and subject	Sets out the vision, objectives and spatial strategy for meeting development requirements to 2029. Sets out strategic policies and identifies major development locations including strategic housing sites and employment locations
Coverage	District-wide
Status	Development Plan document
Conformity	With the National Planning Policy Framework and the South East Plan (until revoked)

Key Milestones

Consultation on draft Pre-submission public consultation Submission to Secretary of State Hearing sessions Inspector’s report published Adoption	<b>Estimated Dates</b> February-April 2013 September 2013 December 2013 April 2014 June 2011 October 2014
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**LOCAL PLAN 2029 PART 2**

Role and subject	Sets out detailed development management policies and allocates small to medium size sites, to complement the Local Plan Part 1 in meeting development requirements to 2029
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Coverage	District-wide. Where an area is covered by an adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan, Local Plan Part 2 policies will only apply if the matter is not covered by a policy in the adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan
Status	Development Plan document
Conformity	With the National Planning Policy Framework, the Local Plan Part 1 and the South East Plan if still extant

27. The timetable for the Local Plan 2029 Part 2 is indicative and will be updated in future revisions to the LDS. It will depend on progress with the Local Plan Part 1, and the extent to which local planning matters are instead covered by neighbourhood development plans or local development orders.

#### Key Milestones

	<b>Estimated Dates</b>
Consultation on draft	June-July 2015
Pre-submission public consultation	November-December 2015
Submission to Secretary of State	March 2016
Hearing sessions	June 2016
Inspector's report published	September 2016
Adoption	November 2016

#### **Arrangements for the production of the Local Plan 2029 Parts 1 and 2**

Organisation lead	Strategic Director and Head of Planning
Political management	Cabinet and the Local Plan Programme Board
Internal resources	Planning Policy team with input from the Development Management team, Design and Environment team, environmental health, housing, leisure, economic development, community planning, community strategy and legal teams
External resources	Consultants to assist in providing evidence base e.g. for employment land review, shopping, leisure, housing market assessments, sustainability appraisal
Stakeholder resources	Local strategic partnership and town and parish council liaison groups to provide key link to community planning. Representatives of stakeholder groups to attend meetings and focus groups  Particular input required from County Council (on transport, education and other infrastructure and service requirements) and other technical consultees (eg



Community and stakeholder involvement	Environment Agency, Thames Water)  Two stages of public engagement before draft submission document published as set out above and in accordance with the SCI and regulations.
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## Risks

28. The following main risks to the progress and timetable of the Local Plan 2029 have been identified.
29. **Risk 1: Competing priorities / demands on staff time.** For example, supporting neighbourhood plans, assisting development management and other corporate projects. This risk is assessed as highly likely, and its impact could be critical. Other work demands have significant potential to delay the local plan work, especially neighbourhood planning. This can be managed by limiting, removing or reallocating other work, or mitigated by adding resource to help cover it. Additional staff are being recruited.
30. **Risk 2: A future council decision is taken to review the Local Plan direction or its adoption.** For example, if the evidence base would lead to planning policies or site allocations that would not align with the corporate objectives or expectations or aspirations of the council or its communities. This risk is assessed relatively unlikely but potentially severe. Reviewing the Local Plan and / or revisiting the evidence base at a late stage could lead to a delay of three to six months. Major changes do not appear likely at this stage but, for example, there is not a strong consensus with local communities about proposed development in some areas. This risk can be managed by dialogue and liaison between officers and cabinet, councillors, local councils and communities, to help ensure that issues, evidence and options are clearly explained before key decisions have to be made. Officers will advise cabinet and Council so they can take decisions that are based on evidence, are informed by the views of local communities and are in accordance with their plan-making responsibilities as set out in the relevant legislation, regulations and national policy.
31. **Risk 3: Legal challenge to the plan.** This risk is assessed relatively unlikely but potentially severe. Any changes of direction in the preparation of the plan must be clearly and robustly explained and be firmly rooted in the evidence base and sustainability appraisal, national policy or duty to co-operate. Any change can give rise to a risk of legal challenge. This is similar to risk 2 and can be managed by workshops and dialogue. The sustainability appraisal process itself is a common source of legal challenge, and we are managing this risk by outsourcing the work to provide assessment and challenge from experts who are independent of the rest of the process.

## Changes from the previous local development scheme

32. The 2009 LDS focused on production of a Core Strategy DPD, on which work had started in 2007 with a schedule for adoption by August 2011. This was not achieved. This was to be complemented by the Managing Development Document DPD, focusing on more detailed sites and policies. This was scheduled to commence in April 2011 for adoption by August 2013.
33. The Local Plan 2029 Part 1 and Part 2 DPDs respectively supersede and update this work, and follow a change of political control in May 2011 and publication of the National Planning Policy Framework in March 2012.
34. The 2009 Local Development Scheme (key milestones update) indicated that an Area Action Plan for Didcot would be prepared for adoption by December 2012. It was to be led by South Oxfordshire District Council, but progressed as a joint DPD as coverage of land in Harwell parish was envisaged. Vale-based planning matters can now be addressed by the emerging Local Plan 2029. Any South Oxfordshire planning matters can be addressed by supplementary planning documents to their recently approved Core Strategy. Therefore a joint DPD is no longer considered necessary.