

Cover to this document has VoWHDC and logo

What is the Local Development Scheme?

- 1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) requires local planning authorities to prepare, maintain and publish a Local Development Scheme (LDS).
- 2 The LDS sets out the timetable to produce the Development Plan Documents (DPDs), including key production and public consultation stages. It must be made available publicly and kept up to date. This enables the community, businesses, developers, service and infrastructure providers and other interested organisations to know which DPDs are to be prepared for the area and when they are able to participate in their preparation¹.
- 3 This LDS updates the previous Scheme published in February 2018. It provides information about the future Local Plan and other planning policy documents.
- 4 The Authority Monitoring Report produced by the Council monitors and reviews the implementation of the LDS.
- 5 Whilst not a formal requirement, for ease of reference our LDS also includes information about the main supporting and procedural documents that do or will accompany the adopted Local Plan and a new Local Plan.

Background to Local Planning Documents

- 6 All documents which comprise or support the delivery of the Local Plan are Local Development Plan Documents. These consist of:
 - **Development Plan Documents (DPDs)** – These detail the planning strategies for development within the district. This includes strategic policies to address the district's priorities for the development and use of land in its area, usually including the allocation of land for development, such as housing or employment and open spaces. DPDs can also include non-strategic policies which are in force at a particular time. These policies must be in general conformity with government guidance, in particular the National Planning Policy Framework.

In areas such as ours, that have County and District Councils, the County Council has the responsibility for producing Minerals and Waste Local Plans.

In Oxfordshire we are working towards a strategic plan for the County, which is also a DPD. Through the [Oxfordshire Growth Deal](#), the Council has

¹ 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** which is available here: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/statement-community-involvement>

committed to preparing a Joint Strategic Spatial Plan (JSSP) – the **Oxfordshire Plan 2050** with the other Oxfordshire planning authorities. This document will become part of the Council’s development plan following its Examination and adoption by the Council. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050’s proposed timetable² is set out in a separate LDS and currently indicates the following (likely to further change due to the General Election):

- November/December 2019 – Further engagement following first public consultation
 - June/July 2020 - Second stage of public consultation (Regulation 18 Part 2)
 - November/December 2020 - Public consultation on draft plan
 - March 2021 - Final Oxfordshire Plan 2050 submission
 - June-September 2021 - Plan examination period
 - December 2021 - Inspector’s report expected
 - March 2022 - Plan adopted
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- **Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP)** – These are community-led plans for guiding future development and growth of a local area. Whilst they are not compulsory, once duly prepared and legally come into force, they become a statutory document that form part of the development plan. NDPs must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in any adopted Local Plan that covers their area.

In parished areas, such as ours, NDPs are prepared by town or parish councils. They are prepared to a timescale that is set by the parish or town councils, not the Council. Thus, the timetable for their preparation is not contained within this LDS.

The Statutory Development Plan

7 The statutory development plan is the set of DPDs and Neighbourhood Plans that together form the basis for determining planning applications by the Council.

8 The current Development Plan for the Council comprises:

- Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 1 (adopted December 2016)
- Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2 (adopted October 2019)
- Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2031 Part 1: Core Strategy³
- Drayton Neighbourhood Plan (made July 2015)
- Great Coxwell Neighbourhood Plan (made July 2015)
- Longworth Neighbourhood Plan (made October 2016)
- Blewbury Neighbourhood Plan (made December 2016)
- Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan (made December 2016)
- Radley Neighbourhood Plan (made October 2018)

² <https://oxfordshireplan.org/timeline/>

³ <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/minerals-and-waste-core-strategy>

- Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan (made July 2019) and
- Uffington and Baulking Neighbourhood Plan (made July 2019)
- Wootton and St Helen Without Neighbourhood Plan (made December 2019)

9 In addition to those listed above, the statutory development plan for the Council will also include:

- Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Part 2
- Oxfordshire Plan 2050
- Any other “made” (adopted) Neighbourhood Plans.

Programme of Planning Policy Work

10 The Council is commencing work on its next Local Plan and associated documents. The following table describe the content, coverage and timetable for this development plan document, which is also illustrated in **Figure 1** as context with other planning policy work. Further documents will be added to the LDS programme as the need for them becomes apparent and resources allow.

11 It is considered prudent for the Council to commence work on the future Local Plan promptly. This will ensure:

- the Council produces a Local Plan that is up to date with the requirements of national policy
- we maintain a strong housing supply position and a plan-led approach to development across the district
- the Council is able to respond to any changing circumstances (such as an amended housing requirement; or in response to any significant infrastructure projects) quickly
- it will include strategic and non-strategic policies for the district recognizing changing priorities for the Council
- it will achieve synergy with preparation of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, allowing the Council to inform the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 whilst also ensuring the Local Plan can align with it.

Local Plan 2041	
Role & Subject - This document will set out the overall development strategy from 2021-2041. It will include strategic and non-strategic policies as well as locations for strategic housing and employment sites. It will include a new proposals map.	
Coverage - District-wide	
Conformity - With the National Planning Policy Framework (2019)	
Timetable - Key Stages/Milestones	
Public Consultation on Preferred Options/Draft Plan (Regulation 18)	April 2021

Public Consultation on Pre-Submission (Regulation 19)	April 2022
Submission to Secretary of State (Regulation 22)	Oct 2022
Examination in Public (Regulation 24)	Mar 2023
Inspector's report (Regulation 25)	June 2023
Adoption (Regulation 26)	July 2023
<i>(Regulation references taken from The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012)</i>	

Development Plan Documents prepared by others

Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs)

12 A number of **Neighbourhood Plans** are being prepared by towns and parishes in the district. The following parish or town councils have all had their neighbourhood areas approved and are currently preparing, with their communities, a Neighbourhood Development Plan:

- Appleton with Eaton
- Chilton
- Cumnor
- East Challow
- East Hanney
- North Hinksey
- Shrivenham
- Stanford in the Vale
- Steventon
- Sunningwell
- Sutton Courtenay
- Wantage
- West Hanney

13 The timetable for preparing a Neighbourhood Plan is set by and can be obtained from the relevant town or parish council.

14 Oxfordshire County Council is preparing the new **Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan** to provide up to date minerals and waste planning policies and proposals for the period to 2031, replacing the existing Minerals and Waste Local Plan which was adopted in 1996. The new Minerals and Waste Local Plan is in two Parts. **Part 1: Core Strategy** was adopted in September 2017, and work is ongoing on **Part 2: Site Allocations**. The timetable for the Minerals and Waste Local Plans is set by the County Council and can be obtained from their website⁴.

⁴ The timetable for the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan is available here:
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/new-minerals-and-waste-local-plan>

Related documents supporting the Local Plan 2031

15 Our current CIL was adopted in 2017 and needs updating to align with our up to date Local Plan 2031. There will be a CIL Review in 2020, with consultation taking place on the draft Charging Schedule.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) (adopted September 2017)	
Role and Subject – This document will detail the types of development required to pay the Council a levy based on a cost per square metre of development. Collected funds will contribute to appropriate infrastructure to support new development.	
Coverage – District-wide	
Conformity – The Local Plan 2031, the National Planning Policy Framework (2019) and Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended)	
Timetable – Key Stages	
Public Consultation	Spring/Summer 2020
Examination in Public	Summer/Autumn 2020
Inspector’s report	Late Autumn 2020
Adoption	Winter 2020

16 **Supplementary Planning Documents** (SPDs) complement or expand upon local plan policies. An 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. Our current SPDs are set out below;

Name of SPD	Description of SPD	Date Approved	Review target completion date
Design Guide	Provides practical, clear and coherent design guidance based on best practice urban design values and urban design principles and will provide guidance to help with Climate Change.	March 2015	Winter 2020
Botley Centre	Provides clear guidance on how development could come forward in this Local Service Centre	January 2016	No review – development under construction
Section 106	Provides guidance for negotiating planning obligations. Planning obligations enable a development’s impact to be mitigated and are intended to make a development	June 2017	Winter 2020

	acceptable when it would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms.		
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17 We are currently looking to start work on the following SPDs;

Name of SPD	Description of SPD	Work Commencement Date	Target completion date
Harwell Campus	It will set out a vision for the Campus, ensuring development is fully integrated and reflects its location in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and its location within Didcot Garden Town's wider area of influence. It will provide further detail on how development will need to consider the landscape, ecology, light pollution, transport, historic environment, contamination, facilities capacity and how exemplar design will be achieved on the campus.	Winter 2019	Winter 2020
Dalton Barracks	It will set out a strong vision for a new mixed-use development that is highly accessible, incorporating sustainable transport initiatives and being sensitive to Cothill Fen Special Area of Conservation through provision of parkland. It will provide further detail on how development will need to consider the landscape, ecology, pollution, transport, historic environment, facilities capacity, phasing of development and how Garden Village Principles will be delivered to achieve the exemplar design.	Winter 2019	Summer 2020
Grove	All new development in Grove will be guided by a comprehensive development framework for the settlement, including north-west of Grove, that will be published as the Grove SPD .	Spring 2020	Spring 2021
Affordable Housing	It will provide clear practical guidance on the delivery of affordable housing within the district.	Spring 2020	Spring 2021

18 The **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** was adopted in December 2016. The SCI explains how and when the Council will involve local communities, groups, businesses and other interested parties in preparing planning policies, documents, including the Local Plan and also sets out how the Council will involve people when assessing and determining planning applications. The current SCI document comprises three parts:

Part 1 – Getting Involved in Shaping our Future	This sets out the Council’s overall approach to community engagement and involvement in the planning process.
Part 2 – Getting Involved in the Preparation of the Local Plan and Planning Policy	This provides information on how to get involved with and influence the Council as it prepares its Local Plan and other planning policy documents.
Part 3 – Getting Involved in Planning Applications	This provides information on how to become involved with planning applications.

19 The SCI is being reviewed to ensure that it remains current and a revised version will be consulted on early 2020.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) 2020	
Role & Subject - This document will set out the ways in which local residents, businesses, organisations and statutory consultees can be involved in our planning processes. This covers both the preparation and production of planning policy documents and how the community will be involved in decisions relating to planning applications.	
Coverage - District-wide	
Conformity - With the National Planning Policy Framework (2019)	
Timetable - Key Stages/Milestones	
Public Consultation	January 2020
Adoption	March 2020

20 **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 the process for development. Development that conforms to an LDO would not require planning permission. An LDO was adopted for Milton (Business) Park in 2012 and committed to undertaking a review every 5 years. As part of preparing the next local plan, a review of the LDO will be undertaken. Local Plan 2031 Part 2 proposes that an LDO for Harwell Campus will be prepared to facilitate the effective and accelerated planning of proposals coming

forward on the campus. LDO's may also be produced to support Didcot Garden Town. An LDO for Didcot Technology Park is currently in preparation.

Monitoring and Review

21 The Council is required to monitor annually how effective its policies and proposals are. An Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) will be published by the Council each year to inform LDS reviews and will be made public.

22 As part of the monitoring process, the Council will assess:

- whether it is meeting, or is on target to meet, the milestones set out in the LDS and, if not, what the reasons are
- whether any policies need to be reviewed, or replaced to meet sustainable development objectives
- what action needs to be taken if policies need to be replaced.

23 As a result of the monitoring, the Council will consider what changes, if any, need to be made. If changes are appropriate, these will be brought forward through the review of the LDS.