



**Vale  
of White Horse**  
District Council

March 2015

# Local Development Scheme 2015 – 2018



# VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2015–2018

## What is the Local Development Scheme?

- 1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out and timetables the local plans that the council will prepare to plan for development in its area. Its main purpose is to 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>. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) requires local planning authorities to prepare, maintain and publish a LDS.
- 2 This local development scheme provides information about the preparation of the **Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031** and related documents over the four year period 2015-2018. The Local Plan 2031 will progressively replace the Local Plan 2011 (adopted in 2006).
- 3 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 Local Plan 2031.

## Statutory Development Plans and Development Plan Documents

- 4 The statutory development plan is the set of local plans and/or Development Plan Documents that together form the statutory basis for determining whether or not planning permission should be granted.
- 5 Development Plan Documents (DPDs) are planning strategies that contain policies for the use and protection 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.

Development Plan Documents include:

- **Local Plans** for a council area (or for more than one council area if working together). Preparation of a local plan is a statutory requirement. A Local Plan may be a single document or a suite of documents with some covering specific policy matters or specific geographical areas (for example **Area Action Plans**, AAP). In areas that have County and District Councils, the County Council has the responsibility for producing Minerals and Waste Local Plans.

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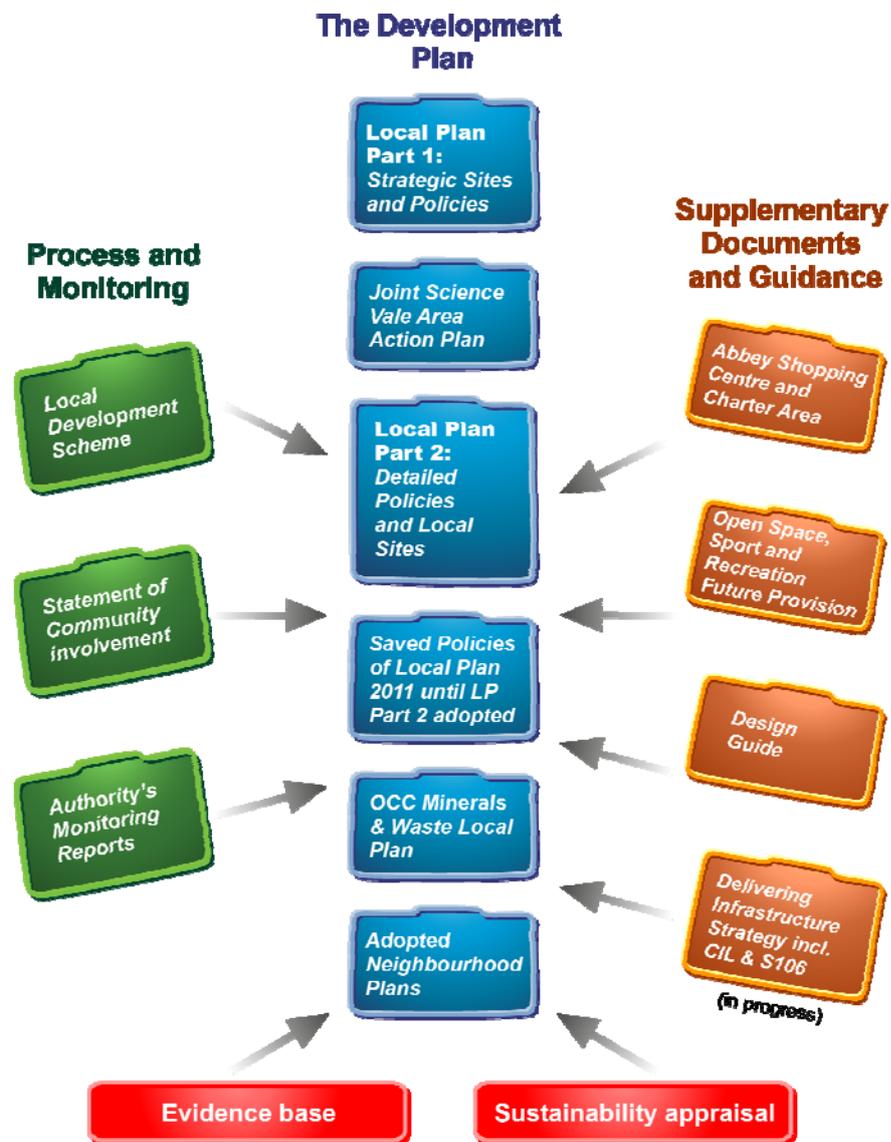
<sup>1</sup> Public consultations will continue to be advertised and stakeholders notified when important documents are published for public consultation, in accordance with our published [Statement of Community Involvement](#).

- **Neighbourhood Plans.** These are not compulsory. However, when duly prepared they are a statutory document that forms part of the development plan. 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 adopted local plan, and should have regard to any emerging local plans/DPDs that are relevant. They are prepared in a timescale that is set by the Parish Councils.

The Vale of White Horse District Council Statutory Development Plan

6 Figure 1 below shows how the various documents that collectively make up the Vale of White Horse planning framework relate to each other.

Figure 1: the Vale of White Horse planning framework



- 7 On publication of this LDS in March 2015 the Development Plan for the Vale of White Horse District Council comprises
- the saved policies of the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011, insofar as they are consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework<sup>2</sup>
  - the saved policies of the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan<sup>3</sup> (1996).
- 8 By the end of 2018 the statutory development plan will comprise
- the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Parts 1 and 2
  - the Science Vale Area Action Plan
  - the replacement Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2030, and
  - any adopted Neighbourhood Development Plans.

### Timetable for the Vale of White Horse local plan

- 9 The District Council can set a timetable only for development plan documents it is preparing itself (or jointly with another Local Authority). Neighbourhood Development Plan timetables are set by the Parish Councils, the timetables for the Minerals and Waste Local Plans are set by the County Council.
- 10 The Vale of the White Horse District Council is working on a review of its Local Plan and associated documents, some of which are to be jointly undertaken with South Oxfordshire District Council. The following tables describe the content, coverage and timetable for these development plan documents, which is also illustrated in figure 2 below.

<b>Local Plan 2031 Part 1: Strategic Policies and Sites</b>	
<b>Role and Subject</b> – This emerging document will set out the overall development strategy for the period to 2031. It will include strategic policies as well as locations for strategic housing and employment sites. It will provide the policy context for Neighbourhood Plans and the Science Vale Area Action Plan. A revised Policies Map will be submitted with the Local Plan Part 1 Strategic Policies and Sites.	
<b>Coverage</b> – District wide	
<b>Conformity</b> – With the National Planning Policy Framework	
<b>Timetable - Key Stages</b>	
Statutory Public Consultation (Regulation 19) (6 weeks) prior to submission of the local plan for examination	Nov / Dec 2014
Submission to Secretary of State	March 2015
Estimated date for Examination	June- July 2015
Estimated date for Adoption	November 2015
<b>Science Vale Area Action Plan</b>	
<b>Role and Subject</b> – This document will set out how strategic housing and employment allocations identified in both Local Plans in the Science Vale area will	

<sup>2</sup> Consistency assessment available at: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/node/10175>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/minerals-and-waste-policy>

be delivered and implemented together with key infrastructure, services and facilities.	
<b>Coverage</b> – Harwell Oxford Campus, Milton Park, Culham Science Centre, Didcot Wantage, Grove and surrounding areas.	
<b>Conformity</b> – With the National Planning Policy Framework and the Local Plan Part 1, and with the South Oxfordshire Core Strategy	
<b>Timetable - Key Stages</b>	
Public Consultation on Scope & Issues (regulation 18)	Feb/April 2015
Public Consultation on Preferred Approach (regulation 18)	Nov-Dec 2015
Statutory Public Consultation (Regulation 19) (6 weeks) prior to submission of the local plan for examination	May/June 2016
Submission to Secretary of State	October 2016
Estimated Examination	January 2017
Estimated date for Adoption	May 2017

- 11 In parallel to the Vale Local Plan the council is working cooperatively with other Oxfordshire councils to confirm the extent to which Oxford City is unable to accommodate its own housing need, and identify how best the unmet need should be distributed amongst the Oxfordshire districts to seek to ensure the full needs of the housing market area are addressed. This process is expected to identify an apportionment (but not specific locations) late in 2015.
- 12 Should that apportionment require further development to be accommodated in this district Policy CP2 of the emerging Local Plan 2031 Part 1 would apply. The council would consider whether the current Local Plan 2031 spatial strategy remained appropriate. If so the council would either
- undertake a focused partial review of the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 or
  - allocate appropriate housing sites and set out any necessary supporting policies in a subsequent Development Plan Document (which might be contained within the Local Plan Part 2, the Science Vale Area Action Plan, or a new DPD).
- 13 If it was concluded that the current Local Plan 2031 spatial strategy was no longer appropriate the council would undertake a full local plan review.
- 14 For illustrative purposes the timetable based on a partial review of the Local Plan 2031 is provided below. This affects when work could start on the Local Plan Part 2. When the outcomes of the Local Plan Part 1 examination and Oxfordshire unmet need distribution are known the most appropriate way forward will be confirmed and this Local Development Scheme updated if necessary.

**Illustrative timetable for the early partial review of the Local Plan 2031 Part 1: Strategic Policies and Sites, if required to help address the unmet housing need of Oxford City**

**Role and Subject** – This document would if necessary update the overall development strategy for the period to 2031, fully or selectively as required depending the scale of unmet need to be accommodated in this district. It may include new strategic housing sites(s) and may include updates to strategic policies, infrastructure requirements and other parts of the Local Plan 2031 Part 1. It could provide updated policy context for Neighbourhood Plans and the Science Vale Area Action Plan. A revised Policies Map would be submitted as appropriate.

**Coverage** – To be confirmed and subject to apportionment of Oxfordshire unmet need

**Conformity** – With the National Planning Policy Framework

<b>Indicative Timetable - Key Stages</b>	
Ongoing Countywide working to agree the level of unmet need and how it should be distributed between districts in the HMA	To Autumn /winter 2015
Formal commencement (subject to progress of Local Plan 2031 Part 1 at examination)	Sept 2015
Public Consultation on Scope & Issues (regulation 18)	Nov / Dec 2015
Public Consultation on Preferred Approach (regulation 18)	May-June 2016
Statutory Public Consultation (Regulation 19) (6 weeks) prior to submission of the local plan for examination	Nov / Dec 2016
Submission to Secretary of State	April 2017
Examination	July 2017
Estimated date for Adoption and final publication	December 2017

**Local Plan 2031 Part 2: Detailed policies and local sites**

**Role and Subject** – To set out detailed development management policies to complement the Local Plan Part 1 and replace the saved policies of the Local Plan 2011, and will allocate smaller development sites for housing and other uses

**Coverage** – District-wide but wherever possible it will be complementary to adopted and emerging Neighbourhood Plans

**Conformity** – With the National Planning Policy Framework and the Local Plan 2031 Part 1

<b>Timetable - Key Stages</b>	
Public Consultation on Scope & Issues (regulation 18)	May June 2016
Public Consultation on Preferred Approach (regulation 18)	Nov / Dec 2016
Statutory Public Consultation (Regulation 19) (6 weeks) prior to submission of the local plan for examination	May-June 2017
Submission to Secretary of State	October 2017
Estimated Examination	January 2018
Estimated date for Adoption	June 2018



## Development Plan Documents prepared by others

### Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs)

15 As at March 2015 14 NDPs are being prepared in the Vale of White Horse. A number of other parishes are also considering preparation of an NDP but have not formally commenced the process. Timetables can be obtained from the relevant town or parish council.

- Great Coxwell and Drayton Neighbourhood Development Plans were supported at referendum in March 2015. Faringdon is likely to follow later in 2015
- The following parishes are also preparing Neighbourhood Development Plans: Blewbury, Stanford in the Vale, Charney Basset, Longworth, North Hinksey, Radley, East Hanney, West Hanney, Uffington with Baulking and Woolstone and Wantage Town Council. Shrivenham and Little Coxwell are proceeding to area designation.

### Minerals and Waste Local Plans

16 Oxfordshire County Council is working towards the **Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy** 2030 and subsequent Minerals Sites and Waste Sites DPDs. Timetables can be obtained from the county council.  
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/new-minerals-and-waste-plan>

### Other documents that support the Vale of White Horse local plan

17 **Supplementary Planning Documents** (SPD) (and their predecessors, supplementary planning guidance) complement or expand upon local plan policies, for example describing in more detail how an allocated site should be developed. A 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.

18 A **Design Guide** (Supplementary Planning Document) was adopted in March 2015 to provide practical, clear and coherent design guidance based on best practice urban design values and urban design principles. In the context of the significant growth planned for, the guide will help to ensure that we attain high quality and inclusive design for all developments, including individual buildings, public and private spaces

19 **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. An LDO was adopted for Milton (Business) Park in 2012.

20 A **Delivering Infrastructure Strategy** has been published to summarise how the Council intends to secure the infrastructure identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The strategy will set out how we will use CIL, s106, s278 and other funding sources to deliver the infrastructure and facilities necessary to enable the development our local plan promotes to be sustainably accommodated. <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/delivering-infrastructure>

21 The emerging local plan is informed by a range of **technical evidence base studies** available to download from our website<sup>4</sup>. Two key parts of the evidence base are

- the **Infrastructure Delivery Plan** prepared alongside the local plan to identify essential supporting infrastructure and services, how they will be delivered and by whom
- the **Sustainability Appraisal Report** prepared alongside the local plan (and for other DPD and SPD) to document how the sustainability assessment assessed options to inform the development of the local plan strategy, policies and site allocations. This is to ensure the plan as a whole reflects a balance of sustainable development objectives (social, environmental and economic factors).

### Emerging supporting documents

22 The council is preparing two key supporting documents alongside the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 to support the draft Local Plan 2031: Part 1 local plan including at examination

- a **Community Infrastructure Levy** CIL to raise funding towards the infrastructure required to support growth. The Draft Charging Schedule was published for consultation in February 2015
- a s106 supplementary planning document will be prepared in 2015-2016 to provide guidance on the circumstances under which the council will use planning obligations, in due course alongside the Community Infrastructure Levy.

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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>

## **Changes from the previous local development scheme**

- 23 The previous LDS published earlier this year envisaged local plan submission in February rather than March 2015.
- 24 We have updated the Science Vale Area Action Plan timetable to reflect progress to date and to update the next steps accordingly.
- 25 For information we also indicate when we anticipate partially reviewing the emerging Local Plan Part I to address any unmet need from Oxford city that needs to be in accordance with draft Policy CP2, if and as required.
- 26 Work on the Local Plan Part 2 is shown deferred for eight months so that the Local Plan Part 1 can be updated to address the outcome of work to confirm the unmet need from Oxford city and apportion it between the Oxfordshire districts.

## APPENDIX 1

A brief description of the role, coverage and relevant planning documents relating to the Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 SPD are set out below along with a timetable, figure 3 on the following page.

<b>Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)</b>
<b>Role and Subject</b> – a proposed new charge which the council will levy on the net increase in gross internal floorspace area arising from development to fund local infrastructure required to support development in the area. The charging schedule sets out the rates of CIL which will apply in the district. This will involve consultation and independent examination. The published rate(s) within the charging schedule will enable liable parties to calculate their expected CIL liability.
<b>Coverage</b> – District wide
<b>Conformity</b> – The Local Plan 2031, the National Planning Policy Framework and Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended)

<b>S106 Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)</b>
<b>Role and Subject</b> – the document sets out the council's policy for securing planning obligations from new development that requires planning permission. The SPD explains the circumstances under which the council will collect S106 to mitigate the impacts of a development and explain the relationship between the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and s106 Planning Obligations.
<b>Coverage</b> – District wide
<b>Conformity</b> – The Local Plan 2031, the National Planning Policy Framework, and Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended)



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