



**Local  
Development  
Scheme  
2016 – 2018**

## 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 for the production of Development Plan Documents (DPDs), including key production and public consultation stages. 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 will be able to participate<sup>1</sup>.
- 3 This LDS covers the period from 2016 to 2018, and updates the previous LDS published in March 2015 by Vale of White Horse District Council. It provides information about the **Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031** and related documents. The Local Plan 2031 will progressively replace the Local Plan 2011 (adopted in 2006).
- 4 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.

## Development Plan Documents

- 5 Development Plan Documents (DPDs) 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.
  - **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 (which can cover specific policy matters or specific geographical areas, for example **Supplementary Planning Documents** and **the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule**). In areas that have County and District Councils, the County Council has the responsibility for producing Minerals and Waste Local Plans.
  - **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 such as ours, these are prepared by a town or parish council or councils. They must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the local plan and are prepared

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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** which is available here: <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/community-invo>

in a timescale that is set by the parish councils, not Vale of White Horse District Council.

## **The Vale of White Horse District Statutory Development Plan**

- 6 The statutory development plan is the set of DPDs that together form the statutory basis for determining planning applications for Vale of White Horse District Council.
- 7 On publication of this LDS in January 2016 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)
  - the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan; and
  - the Great Coxwell Neighbourhood Plan
- 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 replacement Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2031
  - the Drayton and Great Coxwell Neighbourhood Plans; and
  - any other “made” (adopted) Neighbourhood Development Plans.

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<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>

## Timetable for the Vale of White Horse local plan

- 9 The Vale of the White Horse District Council is working on a review of its Local Plan and associated documents. The following tables describe the content, coverage and timetable for these development plan documents, which is also illustrated in figure 1 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 Didcot Garden Town. 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
Examination (stage 1)	September 2015
Examination (stage 2)	February 2016
Estimated date for Adoption	Oct 2016

<b>Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)</b>	
<b>Role and Subject</b> – This document sets out the charging rates for new developments in the Vale of White Horse District Council. The money can be used to fund a wide variety of infrastructure that is needed as a result of the new development. The council is awaiting further clarification about the timing of the CIL examination from the Planning Inspectorate.	
<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>Timetable - Key Stages</b>	
Public Consultation on draft charging schedule	Feb. 2015
Submission to Secretary of State	April 2015
Examination	Autumn 2016
Examiner's report	Winter 2016
Estimated Date for Adoption	Winter 2016
Implementation of CIL	Early 2017

- 10 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) in 2016.

- 11 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:
- 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 or a new DPD), or
  - Undertake a focused partial review of the Local Plan 2031 Part 1
- 12 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.

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.

In addition, following the announcement of Didcot Garden Town, the current work undertaken on the Science Vale Area Action Plan will provide the basis for either a section in the Local Plan Part 2 or a separate DPD. The council will work with South Oxfordshire District Council to ensure that policies and relevant text align or complement each other.

<b>Local Plan 2031: Part 2</b>
<p><b>Role and Subject</b> – To set out strategic policies and locations for strategic housing for the Vale’s proportion of Oxford’s housing need unable to be met within the City boundaries.</p> <p>This document will also contain policies for the part of Didcot Garden Town that lies within the Vale of White Horse District Council and detailed development management policies to complement the Local Plan Part 1, replacing the saved policies of the Local Plan 2011, and allocating smaller development sites for housing and other uses.</p> <p>This document would, if necessary, update the overall development strategy for the period to 2031, fully or selectively as required depending on the scale of unmet need to be accommodated in this district and changes to national planning policy. 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. A revised Policies Map would be submitted as appropriate.</p> <p><b>Coverage</b> – District-wide</p> <p><b>Conformity</b> – With the National Planning Policy Framework</p> <p><b>Indicative Timetable - Key Stages</b></p>

<b>Ongoing</b> Countywide working to agree the level of unmet need and how it should be distributed between districts in the HMA	To Autumn /winter 2016
Public Consultation on Scope & Issues (regulation 18)	Sept 2016
Public Consultation on Preferred Approach (regulation 18)	Mar/Apr 2017
Statutory Public Consultation (Regulation 19) (6 weeks) prior to submission of the local plan for examination	Sep/Oct 2017
Submission to Secretary of State	February 2018
Examination	May 2018
Estimated date for Adoption and final publication	December 2018

**Figure 1: Production timetable for development plan documents**

	2015				2016					2017					2018					2019												
	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	J	F	M	A
<b>Vale Local Plan 2031: Part 1</b>	E					E	E																									
<b>Vale Local Plan 2031: Part 2</b>													C	P	P																	

<b>KEY</b>	
Preparation, analysis and/or plan development	
Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Full Council review and decision	<b>C</b>
Public Consultation on Scope, Issues and Options (regulation 18)	<b>P</b>
Public Consultation on 'Preferred Options' draft plan (regulation 18)	<b>P</b>
Public Consultation prior to plan submission for examination (regulation 19)(statutory 6 weeks)	<b>P</b>
Submit plan and supporting documents to the Secretary of State for independent examination (regulation 22)	<b>S</b>
Examination of the plan by an independent Planning Inspector	<b>E</b>
Receipt of Inspector's Report	<b>R</b>
Formal adoption and publication of the Plan	<b>A</b>

## Development Plan Documents prepared by others

### Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs)

- 13 In the period of 2015 -'16 a number of **Neighbourhood Plans** are being prepared in the Vale of White Horse District Council. The parish or town councils in Blewbury, East Hanney, Faringdon, Longworth, North Hinksey, Radley, Shrivenham, Stanford in the Vale, Steventon, Uffington with Baulking and Woolstone, Wantage and West Hanney have all had their areas approved and are preparing their Neighbourhood Development Plans with their communities. A number of other parishes and communities are also beginning the process of creating neighbourhood plans.
- 14 The District Council can **only** set a timetable for development plan documents it is preparing itself (or jointly with another Local Authority). The timetable for preparing a Neighbourhood Plan is set by and can be obtained from the relevant town or parish council.
- 15 Oxfordshire County Council is working towards the **Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy 2031** and a subsequent Minerals Sites and Waste Sites DPDs. The timetable for the **Minerals and Waste Local Plans** is set by the County Council and can be obtained from their website<sup>4</sup>.

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

- 16 **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.
- 17 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.
- 18 A **Botley Centre Supplementary Planning Document** to be adopted in January 2016 will provide guidance on how development could come forward in this Local Service Centre.

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<sup>4</sup> The timetable for the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy 2030 is available here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/new-minerals-and-waste-plan>

19 A **Section 106** Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will provide guidance for negotiating planning obligations also known as Section 106 agreements. These are legal agreements made between a developer, landowners and the local planning authority. Planning obligations enable a development's impact to be mitigated and are intended to make a development acceptable when it would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms. We are intending to produce a S106 SPD that will complement our CIL.

20 Working with South Oxfordshire District Council we will also update our **Statement of Community Involvement** to enhance the way we communicate with our citizens and customers. The timetable is set out below.

<b>Joint Statement of Community Involvement</b>	
<b>Role and Subject</b> – This document will set how both Councils ( Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire) consult with their communities on the preparation of planning documents and the determination of planning applications.	
<b>Coverage</b> – District wide	
<b>Timetable - Key Stages</b>	
Public Consultation on Revised Document	June 2016
Adoption by Cabinet Member	September 2016

21 **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.

22 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>

23 The emerging local plan is informed by a range of **technical evidence base studies** available to download from our website<sup>5</sup>. Two key parts of the evidence base are:

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/core-strateg-6>

- 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 documents) to show 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).

Alternative formats of this publication  
are available on request

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email, easy read and alternative languages

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