



**Vale
of White Horse**
District Council

February 2018

Local Development Scheme 2018 – 2020



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 participate¹.
- 3 This LDS covers the period from 2018 to 2020, and updates the previous LDS published in September 2016 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 in a timescale that is set by the parish councils, not Vale of White Horse District Council.

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>

The Vale of White Horse District Statutory Development Plan

- 6 The statutory development plan is the set of DPDs and Neighbourhood Plans that together form the statutory basis for determining planning applications for Vale of White Horse District Council.
- 7 On publication of this LDS in February 2018 the Development Plan for the Vale of White Horse District Council comprises
 - the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 1 (adopted December 2016)
 - the saved policies of the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011, insofar as they are consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework²
 - the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2031 Part 1: Core Strategy³
 - the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan
 - the Great Coxwell Neighbourhood Plan
 - the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan
 - the Longworth Neighbourhood Plan; and
 - the Blewbury Neighbourhood Plan.
- 8 By the end of 2018 the statutory development plan will also comprise
 - the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2; and
 - any other “made” (adopted) Neighbourhood Development Plans.

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

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

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.

Local Plan 2031 Part 1: Strategic Policies and Sites (adopted December 2016)	
Role and Subject – This document sets out the overall development strategy for the period to 2031. It includes strategic policies as well as locations for strategic housing and employment sites. It provides the policy context for Neighbourhood Plans. An adopted Policies Map sits alongside the Local Plan Part 1 Strategic Policies and Sites.	
Coverage – District wide	
Conformity – With the National Planning Policy Framework	
Timetable - Key Stages	
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
Adoption	December 2016

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) (adopted September 2017)	
Role and Subject – 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.	
Coverage – District wide	
Conformity – The Local Plan 2031, the National Planning Policy Framework and Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended)	
Timetable - Key Stages	
Public Consultation on draft charging schedule	February 2015
Submission to Secretary of State	April 2015
Consultation on modifications	December 2016
Examination	April 2017
Examiner's report	May 2017
Adopted	September 2017
Implementation of CIL	November 2017

- 10 In parallel to the Vale Local Plan the council has worked 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 concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation⁴ in September 2016 which agreed the apportionment of unmet housing need for Oxford
- 11 Delivery of the agreed quantum of Oxford's unmet housing need to be addressed within the Vale of White Horse District will be considered in accordance with Core Policy 2 of the adopted Local Plan 2031 Part 1. On this basis, any sites required for housing – to meet the agreed quantum of Oxford's unmet housing need that is to be addressed within the Vale of White Horse – will be allocated within the Local Plan 2031 Part 2 (see below).

Local Plan 2031 Part 2: Detailed Policies and Additional Sites	
Role and Subject – To set out strategic policies and locations for strategic housing for the agreed quantum of Oxford's unmet housing need to be addressed within the Vale of White Horse District. 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 additional development sites for housing and other uses.	
Coverage – District-wide	
Conformity – With the National Planning Policy Framework	
Timetable - Key Stages	
Countywide agreement of unmet need apportionment	Autumn 2016
Public Consultation on Preferred Approach (regulation 18)	March 2017
Statutory Public Consultation (Regulation 19)	October 2017
Submission to Secretary of State	February 2018
Examination	Summer 2018
Estimated date for Adoption and final publication	December 2018

- 12 The Government announced that Didcot would become a Garden Town in December 2015. Garden Towns are locally-led and ambitious proposals for new communities that work as self-sustaining places and should have high quality and good design embedded from the outset.
- 13 The designation of Didcot and the neighbouring parishes in the Vale of White Horse as a Garden Town is an exciting opportunity. Both South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils are working closely together and in

⁴https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s34710/OGB_SEP2616R04%20%20Appendix%20Two%20Memorandum%20of%20Cooperation.pdf

partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and other key stakeholders to develop a joined-up vision and delivery strategy for the area.

- 14 To support the successful implementation of the Garden Town initiative, seven high level principles have been developed and these are set out within the Local Plan Part 2. These principles have been included within a separate “delivery plan” document that was adopted by both South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils in October 2017⁵. To assist the delivery, further details (for example in respect of design) will also be set out in a separate Development Plan Document (DPD) for the Didcot Garden Town area. This document will be prepared jointly with South Oxfordshire District Council and working in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and other key stakeholders.

Didcot Garden Town DPD	
Role and Subject – To set out detailed policies to guide the delivery of the Didcot Garden Town initiative and help to facilitate a comprehensive and joined up approach to planning for Didcot across two district council areas.	
Coverage – Didcot Garden Town Masterplan Area	
Conformity – With the National Planning Policy Framework	
Indicative Timetable - Key Stages	
Engagement with key stakeholders to inform plan preparation	Ongoing
Public Consultation on Preferred Approach (Regulation 18)	April 2019
Statutory Public Consultation (Regulation 19) (6 weeks) prior to submission of the local plan for examination	Feb 2020
Submission to Secretary of State	July 2020
Examination	Autumn / Winter 2020
Estimated date for Adoption and final publication	Summer 2021

⁵ <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/business/support-business/supporting-our-town-centres/didcot/didcot-garden-town-0>

Figure 1: Production timetable for development plan documents

	2018												2019												2020												2021																																																			
	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	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D																																								
Vale Local Plan 2031: Part 2	S				E	E		R			C	A																																																																												
Didcot Garden Town DPD														C	P	P											C	P	P						S																			E																																		

Key	
Preparation, analysis and/or plan development	
Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Full Council review and decision	
Public Consultation on 'Preferred Options' draft plan (regulation 18)	
Public Consultation prior to plan submission for examination (regulation 19)	
Submit plan and supporting documents to the Secretary of State for independent examination (regulation 22)	
Examination of the plan by an independent Planning Inspector	
Receipt of Inspector's Report	
Formal adoption and publication of the Plan	

Development Plan Documents prepared by others

Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs)

- 15 In 2018, a number of **Neighbourhood Plans** are being prepared in the Vale of White Horse. The parish or town councils in Appleton with Eaton, Ashbury, Chilton, Cumnor, East Challow, East Hanney, North Hinksey, Radley, Shrivenham, Stanford in the Vale, Steventon, Sunningwell, Sutton Courtenay, Uffington with Baulking, Wantage, West Hanney and Wooton & St Helen Without have all had their neighbourhood areas approved and are currently preparing their Neighbourhood Development Plans with their communities. Subject to them successfully completing the formal stages, some of these plans are expected to become part of the Development Plan this year. Five plans have been 'made' thus far and form part of the development plan, these are; Blewbury Faringdon, Longworth, Drayton and Great Coxwell.
- 16 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.
- 17 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 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 website⁶.

Other documents that support the Vale of White Horse local plan

- 18 **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.
- 19 A **Design Guide SPD** 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.

⁶ 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>

- 20 A **Botley Centre SPD** was adopted in January 2016 providing guidance on how development could come forward in this Local Service Centre.
- 21 A **Section 106 SPD** provides 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. The S106 SPD was adopted in June 2017 and complements our CIL.
- 22 The District Council are preparing SPDs for **Harwell Campus and Dalton Barracks**. These SPDs will set out comprehensive development framework for both these sites in accordance with the Local Plan 2031 Part 2. The SPDs will be a material consideration in assessing future planning applications for both the sites. They will provide more detailed guidance ensuring the successful comprehensive development of Harwell Campus and Dalton Barracks.
- 23 The **Harwell Campus SPD** will ensure both housing, at the Innovation Village, and the employment development are brought forward comprehensively delivering the work-live-play community required to elevate the campus to a world class campus. The SPD will be prepared through working with the Campus Partnership and key stakeholders including the AONB Management Board and Oxfordshire County Council. 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, in particular at the Innovation Village.
- 24 The **Dalton Barracks SPD** will ensure the site is planned for comprehensively delivering a highly sustainable settlement following Garden Village Principles to achieve exemplar design. The SPD will be prepared through working with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and key stakeholders including Natural England and Oxfordshire County Council. It will set out a strong vision for a new mixed use settlement that is highly accessible incorporating sustainable transport initiatives and is sensitive to Cothill Fen Special Area of Conservation through provision of a Country Park. 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.

25 The District Council are intending to start preparing an **Affordable Housing SPD** in the next year.

26 The **Statement of Community Involvement** (SCI) was adopted in December 2016. This replaced the existing SCI that was adopted in December 2009. The updated SCI is a code of practice that shows how and when the Council will involve different groups, organisations and communities in the production of planning documents, including the Local Plan. It also sets out how the Council will involve people when assessing and deciding on planning applications for development. The 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.

27 **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. An LDO for Didcot Technology Park is in preparation for adoption in early 2018.

28 A **Delivering Infrastructure Strategy**⁷ has been published to summarise how the Council intends to secure the infrastructure identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The strategy sets 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.

29 The emerging local plan is informed by a range of **technical evidence base studies** available to download from our website⁸. 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; and

⁷ <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/delivering-infrastructure>

⁸ <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/LPP2>

- 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

These include large print, Braille, audio, email,
easy read and alternative languages

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