

Local Development Scheme



MARCH 2021

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 be 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 Local Development Schemes published in March 2019 by South Oxfordshire District Council and in February 2020 by Vale of White Horse District Council and combines this information into a singular LDS. This is the first joint LDS that covers South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils. It provides information about the Development Plans and other Planning Policy documents the Councils plan to prepare.
- 4 Authority Monitoring Reports produced by both Councils annually, monitors and reviews the implementation of the LDS.
- 5 Whilst not a formal requirement, for ease of reference the LDS also includes information about the main supporting and procedural documents that do or will accompany the Joint Local Plan.

Background to Local Planning Documents

- 6 The development plan for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse consists of a range of documents which guide development within the districts. The statutory Development Plan is the set of DPDs and Neighbourhood Development Plans that together form the statutory basis for determining planning applications for the Councils. Key elements of the **Development Plan** are:
 - **Local Plans** – Local Plans detail the planning strategies for development within the districts. This includes strategic and non-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. These policies must be in general conformity with government guidance, in particular the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

¹ Public consultations will continue to be advertised and stakeholders notified when important documents are published for public consultation, in accordance with our published **Statements of Community Involvement** which for SODC is available here: <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/planning-and-development/local-plan-and-planning-policies/statement-of-community-involvement/> and for VOWH is available here: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/planning-and-development/local-plan-and-planning-policies/statement-of-community-involvement/>

- **Minerals and Waste Local Plans** - in areas that have County and District Councils, the County Council has the responsibility for producing Minerals and Waste Local Plans - such as is the case for Oxfordshire.
- **Oxfordshire Plan 2050** - in Oxfordshire, there is an additional development plan in preparation: the [Oxfordshire Plan 2050](#). Through the [Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal](#), the Councils have committed to preparing this plan, which is a Joint Strategic Spatial Plan (JSSP) with the other Oxfordshire authorities. This document will become part of the Development Plan following its Examination in Public and once the Councils adopt it. In November 2020, a revised timetable for the Oxfordshire Plan was published, which set out the following future milestones:

Key Milestones for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050	
Consultation on Spatial Growth Options (Regulation 18 Part II)	<i>Summer 2021</i>
Consultation on Submission (Draft) Plan (Regulation 19)	<i>Spring 2022</i>
Submission of Oxfordshire Plan 2050	<i>September 2022</i>
Examination of Plan	<i>November/December 2022</i>
Publication of the Inspectors Report	<i>February/March 2023</i>
Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Adoption (subject to examination)	<i>May/June 2023</i>

- **Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP)** are community-led plans for guiding future development and growth of a local area. Whilst they are not compulsory, once duly prepared and once they 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 Local Plan that covers their area. NDPs are prepared by qualifying bodies (parish or town councils in parished areas and neighbourhood forums in non-parished areas). They are prepared to a timescale that is set by the qualifying body, not the Councils, and therefore the timetable for their preparation is not contained within this LDS.
- 7 Although not part of the development plan, the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework is currently in development which will become an important planning document regionally:
- **Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework** - a Spatial Framework for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc – the area that spans the five counties of Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire, is currently in development led by a specialist team in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The Spatial Framework will plan for growth in the Arc area, and in order to do so will set policies on the economy, the environment, transport, infrastructure and housing. Once implemented, the Spatial Framework will have the status

of national planning and transport policy, and therefore Local Planning Authorities such as ourselves will have to have regard to the Spatial Framework when making planning decisions.

Key Milestones for Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework	
Consultation on Spatial Framework vision	<i>Summer 2021</i>
Consultation on Spatial Framework options, entitled 'Towards a Spatial Framework'	<i>Spring 2022</i>
Consultation on draft Spatial Framework and evidence base	<i>Autumn 2022</i>
Publication and implementation of Spatial Framework	<i>Shortly after the draft Spatial Framework consultation</i>

The Statutory Development Plan – South Oxfordshire

8 The current Development Plan for South Oxfordshire comprises:

Name of DPD	Date Adopted	Under Review
South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035	December 2020	Yes – the Joint Local Plan with Vale of White Horse District Council will eventually supersede this Plan
Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2031 Part 1: Core Strategy ²	September 2017	No – although Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations is currently being drafted. The timetable for the Minerals and Waste Local Plans is set by the County Council and can be obtained from their website ³
Saved policies from the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan	July 1996	Yes – this will eventually be replaced by the new Minerals and Waste Local Plan that is being prepared in two parts: Core Strategy and Site Allocations. The Core Strategy was adopted on 12 September 2017, and Part 2: Site Allocations is currently being drafted
The Baldons Neighbourhood Development Plan	October 2018	No
Benson Neighbourhood Plan	August 2018	No
Berrick Salome Neighbourhood Plan	October 2019	No
Brightwell cum Sotwell Neighbourhood Development Plan	October 2017	No
Chalgrove Neighbourhood Development Plan	December 2018	No
Chinnor Neighbourhood Plan	October 2017	Yes – the Plan has been reviewed and has been independently examined. The District Council has made the decision to progress the plan for referendum which will take place in Spring 2021
Cholsey Neighbourhood Plan	April 2019	No

² <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/minerals-and-waste-core-strategy>

³ <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-policy/minerals-and-waste-policy/new-minerals-and-waste-plan#paragraph-638>

Dorchester on Thames Neighbourhood Development Plan	April 2018	No
East Hagbourne Neighbourhood Plan	April 2019	No
Goring Neighbourhood Plan	July 2019	No
Joint Henley and Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan	April 2016	Yes – the parish council have now begun a review of the neighbourhood plan
Little Milton Neighbourhood Development Plan	December 2018	No
Long Wittenham Neighbourhood Development Plan	October 2017	Yes – the plan review is currently undergoing an independent examination. If successful at examination, it will and be put to a referendum due to the significant modifications proposed
Pyrton Neighbourhood Development Plan	April 2019	No
Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan	October 2016	Yes – the parish council have now begun a review of the neighbourhood plan
Thame Neighbourhood Plan	July 2013	Yes – the parish council have now begun a review of the neighbourhood plan
Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Plan	October 2018	No
Watlington Neighbourhood Development Plan	August 2018	Yes – the parish council have now begun a review of the neighbourhood plan
Woodcote Neighbourhood Plan	May 2014	Yes – the parish council have now begun a review of the neighbourhood plan

9 Additionally, a number of **Neighbourhood Development Plans** are currently being prepared in South Oxfordshire. The following parish or town councils have all had their neighbourhood areas approved and are currently preparing their Neighbourhood Development Plans with their communities:

- Aston Rowant
- Beckley and Stowood

- Berinsfield
- Clifton Hampden
- Crowmarsh
- Cuddesdon and Denton*
- Culham
- Ewelme*
- Eye and Dunsden
- Garsington
- Horspath
- Kidmore End
- Lewknor
- Sandford-on-Thames
- Shiplake
- Stanton St John
- Sydenham*
- Tetsworth*
- Tiddington with Albury
- Towersey
- Wallingford*
- Wheatley*
- Whitchurch-on-Thames

*These Neighbourhood Development Plans are planned to go to referendum in Spring 2021.

10 Subject to them successfully completing the formal stages, some of these plans are expected to become part of the Development Plan this year.

The Statutory Development Plan – Vale of White Horse

11 The current Development Plan for Vale of White Horse comprises:

Name of DPD	Date Adopted	Under Review
Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 1	December 2016	Yes – the Joint Local Plan with South Oxfordshire District Council will eventually supersede this Plan
Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2	October 2019	Yes – the Joint Local Plan with South Oxfordshire District Council will eventually supersede this Plan
Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2031 Part 1: Core Strategy	September 2017	No – although Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations is currently being drafted. The timetable for the Minerals and Waste Local Plans is set by the County Council and can be obtained from their website ⁴
Saved policies from the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan	July 1996	Yes – this will eventually be replaced by the new Minerals and Waste Local Plan that is being prepared in two parts: Core Strategy and Site Allocations. The Core Strategy was adopted on 12 September 2017, and Part 2: Site Allocations is currently being drafted
Drayton Neighbourhood Plan (made July 2015)	July 2015	No
Great Coxwell Neighbourhood Plan (made July 2015)	October 2020	Yes – The Parish Council undertook a minor (non-material) review and it was agreed at Council on 7 October 2020 that the revised neighbourhood plan would replace the version made in 2015. The parish council have now begun a more substantial review of the neighbourhood plan.
Longworth Neighbourhood Plan	October 2016	No
Blewbury Neighbourhood Plan	December 2016	No
Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan	December 2016	No
Radley Neighbourhood Plan	October 2018	No
Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan	July 2019	No

⁴ <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-policy/minerals-and-waste-policy/new-minerals-and-waste-plan#paragraph-638>

Uffington and Baulking Neighbourhood Plan	July 2019	No
Wootton and St Helen Without Neighbourhood Plan	December 2019	No

12 A number of **Neighbourhood Development Plans** are currently being prepared in Vale of White Horse. The following parish or town councils have all had their neighbourhood areas approved and are currently preparing their Neighbourhood Development Plans with their communities:

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

* These Neighbourhood Plans are planned to go to referendum in Spring 2021.

13 Subject to them successfully completing the formal stages, some of these plans are expected to become part of the Development Plan this year.

14 In addition to those listed above, the statutory Development Plan for both Councils will also include the following once adopted or made:

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

Programme for the Local Plan Review

- 15 South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are commencing work on a Joint Local Plan and associated documents. The following tables describe the content, coverage and timetable for the Development Plan Document, which is also illustrated in **Figure 1**, in 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.

Joint Local Plan 2041	
Role & Subject - This document will set out the overall development strategy for the period up to 2041. It will include strategic policies as well as local level policies on environment and any allocations for housing and employment with any associated infrastructure requirements.	
Coverage - District-wide (South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Districts)	
Conformity - With the National Planning Policy Framework and the Oxfordshire Plan 2050	
Replaces – SODC Local Plan 2035 and VOWH Local Plan 2031 (Parts 1 and 2)	
Timetable - Key Stages	
Local Plan preparation and engagement	March 2021-July 2022
Public Consultation on Preferred Options/Draft Plan (Regulation 18)	July/August 2022
Public Consultation on Pre-Submission (Regulation 19)	July/August 2023
Submission to Secretary of State (Regulation 22)	January 2024
Examination in Public (Regulation 24)	June 2024
Inspector's report (Regulation 25)	September 2024
Adoption (Regulation 26)	October 2024
<i>(Regulation references taken from The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012)</i>	

Figure 1: Production timetable

	2021												2022												2023												2024													
	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			
Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework						P	P	P								P	P	P			P	P	P	I	I	I																								
Oxfordshire Plan 2050						p*	p*	p*	p*							P	P	P			C		S		E	E		R																						
Joint Local Plan 2041																				C	P	P																												

Key

Preparation, analysis and/or plan/framework development	
Cabinet or Full Council review and decision	C
Public Consultation on draft plan (regulation 18)	P
Public Consultation on 'Spatial Growth Options' (regulation 18 part II)	P*
Public Consultation prior to plan submission for examination (regulation 19)	P
Public Consultation on Main Modifications to Local Plan	P
Public Consultation on the Oxford-Cambridge Arc spatial framework vision	P
Public Consultation on the spatial framework options for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc	P
Public Consultation on the draft Oxford-Cambridge Arc spatial framework and evidence base	P
Submit plan and supporting documents to the Secretary of State for independent examination	S
Examination of the plan by an independent Planning Inspector	E
Receipt of Inspector's Report	R
Formal adoption and publication of the Plan	A
Expected publication and implementation of Oxford-Cambridge-Arc spatial framework	I

Related documents supporting the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035

- 16 The current South Oxfordshire Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was adopted in 2016 and needs updating to align with the up to date Local Plan 2035. There will be a CIL Review in 2021, with consultation taking place on the draft Charging Schedule.

South Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) (adopted February 2016)	
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 – South Oxfordshire district-wide	
Conformity – The Local Plan 2035, the National Planning Policy Framework and Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended)	
Timetable – Key Stages	
Public Consultation	Summer 2021
Submission	Autumn 2021
Examination in Public	Autumn/Winter 2021
Inspector's report	Winter 2021
Adoption	Early 2022

- 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. 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. South Oxfordshire currently has a number of adopted SPDs/SPG. Some of these SPDs/SPG have now served their purpose. On publication of this LDS, SPDs/SPG comprise:

Name of SPD/SPG	Description of SPD	Date Adopted	Review Target Completion Date
Traditional Shopfront Design Guide	Provides practical advice for those involved in the design of traditional shop fronts in South Oxfordshire. It is used for assessing shop front designs when they are presented for planning or other consents.	November 1995	No review planned

South Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment SPG	A District-wide landscape assessment that sets out individual Character Areas, describing in detail their landscape and settlement character together with appropriate guidelines for landscape enhancement, planning and development.	July 2003	No review planned
Vauxhall Barracks Development Brief SPG	Informs the preparation and submission of Planning Applications on land known as Vauxhall Barracks, Didcot.	Feb 2004	No review planned
Affordable Housing SPG	Provides clear practical guidance on the delivery of affordable housing within the district.	Sept 2004	Plan to produce a district wide or potentially joint Affordable Housing SPD in the next year
Didcot Town Centre SPD	This document was adopted in May 2009 and provided planning guidance to aid the development of the Didcot Town Centre. It set out the Council's vision and strategic development principles for the expansion of the town centre. A new phase of Didcot Town Centre's Orchard Centre opened in 2018. New and updated policies for Didcot Garden Town are also included in the recently adopted South Oxfordshire Plan.	May 2009	No review planned
Section 106 Planning Obligations SPD	Provides guidance for negotiating planning obligations. Planning obligations enable a development's impact to be mitigated and are intended to make a development.	March 2016	The Council will prepare an update to the Developer Contributions SPD in tandem with an update to the CIL Charging Schedule. A draft SPD will be prepared in 2021

South Oxfordshire Design Guide SPD	Provides 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.	November 2016	Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils are currently preparing a Joint Design Guide SPD to replace the 2015 Design Guide. A draft Guide will be produced for consultation in 2021.
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Related documents supporting the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031

18 The Vale of White horse 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 2021, with consultation taking place on the draft Charging Schedule.

Vale 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 – Vale of White Horse 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	Completed (Jan-Feb 2021)
Submission	Spring 2021
Examination in Public	Summer 2021
Inspector's report	Summer/Autumn 2021
Adoption	Autumn 2021

19 Current and planned **Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)** for Vale of White Horse District Council are set out below:

Name of SPD	Description of SPD	Date Approved	Review Target Completion Date
Vale of White Horse 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	Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils are currently preparing a Joint Design Guide SPD to replace the 2015 Design Guide. A draft Guide will be produced for consultation in 2021.

Abbey Shopping Centre and Character Area	Provides a guide to detailed applications and possible future development options for the area	December 2011	No review planned
Botley Centre	Provides clear guidance on how development could come forward in this Local Service Centre.	January 2016	No review planned – development under construction
Developer Contributions SPD	Provides guidance for negotiating planning obligations. 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.	June 2017	Autumn 2021 The Council is preparing an update to the Developer Contributions SPD in tandem with an update to the CIL Charging Schedule. A draft SPD was consulted upon in early 2021.
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.	N/A	Autumn/Winter 2021
Affordable Housing SPD	This would provide clear practical guidance on the delivery of affordable housing within the district.	N/A	Plan to produce a district wide or potentially joint Affordable Housing SPD in the next year

- 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.

Statement of Community Involvement

- 21 The South Oxfordshire **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** was adopted on 15 June 2017. The Vale of White Horse **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** was adopted in September 2020.
- 22 The SCI is a code of practice that shows how and when the Councils will involve different groups, organisations and communities in the production of planning documents, including the Local Plan. It also sets out how the Councils will involve people when assessing and deciding on planning applications for development. It describes the Council's overall approach to community engagement and people's involvement in the planning process, as well as how people can become involved with planning applications.
- 23 South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils will be preparing a joint SCI. Information is provided in the table below:

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) 2021	
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 (South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils)	
Conformity - With the National Planning Policy Framework (2019)	
Timetable - Key Stages/Milestones	
Public Consultation	Summer 2021
Adoption	Autumn 2021

Monitoring and Review

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

25 As part of the monitoring process, the Councils will assess:

- whether they are meeting, or are on target to meet, the milestones set out in the LDS and, if not, what the reasons are
- what impact Local Development Documents are having on other national and locally set targets
- 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.

26 As a result of the monitoring, the Councils 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.

Alternative formats of this publication, a summary of its contents or specific sections, are available on request.

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