

Local Development Scheme



MAY 2022

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 Scheme published in March 2021 by South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council. It is a 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, monitor and review 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 **Statement of Community Involvement** which 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. The Oxfordshire Plan has its own separate LDS, and its milestones are included here in this LDS for information only, to help show the relationship with the Joint Local Plan timetable. In November 2020, a revised timetable for the Oxfordshire Plan was published. This is currently being reconsidered, and as a result we are anticipating a further change to November 2020 timetable, which sets out the following future milestones:

Key Milestones for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050	
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 under 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 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	December 2019	No
Brightwell cum Sotwell Neighbourhood Development Plan	October 2017	No
Chalgrove Neighbourhood Development Plan	December 2018	No
Chinnor Neighbourhood Plan (Made October 2017)	May 2021	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/site-allocations-document#paragraph-638>

Cholsey Neighbourhood Plan	April 2019	Yes – the parish council have now begun a review of the Neighbourhood Plan
Crowmarsh Neighbourhood Plan	October 2021	No
Cuddesdon and Denton Neighbourhood Plan	May 2021	No
Dorchester on Thames Neighbourhood Development Plan	April 2018	No
East Hagbourne Neighbourhood Plan	April 2019	No
Ewelme Neighbourhood Plan	May 2021	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 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
Sydenham Neighbourhood Plan	May 2021	No
Tetsworth Neighbourhood Plan	May 2021	No
Thame Neighbourhood Plan	July 2013	Yes – the parish council have now begun a review of the neighbourhood plan

Wallingford Neighbourhood Plan	May 2021	No
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
Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan	May 2021	No
Woodcote Neighbourhood Plan	May 2014	Yes – the plan review is currently undergoing an independent examination.

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
- Binfield Heath
- Clifton Hampden
- Culham
- Eye and Dunsden
- Garsington
- Horspath
- Kidmore End
- Lewknor
- Sandford-on-Thames
- Shiplake
- South Stoke
- Stanton St John
- Tiddington with Albury
- Towersey
- Whitchurch-on-Thames

The Statutory Development Plan – Vale of White Horse

10 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 – A Regulation 10A review for Local Plan Part 1 (LPP1) was completed in December 2021 ⁴ , evaluating LPP1’s policies for their consistency with national policy, considering current evidence and any relevant changes in local circumstances. The review shows that five years on, LPP1 (together with LPP2) continues to provide a suitable framework for development in the Vale of White Horse that is in overall conformity with government policy. 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 ⁵
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
Appleton and Eaton Neighbourhood Plan	October 2021	No
Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan	July 2019	No

⁴ <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/12/Local-Plan-Part-1-Review-Dec-2021..pdf>

⁵ <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-policy/minerals-and-waste-policy/new-minerals-and-waste-plan#paragraph-638>

Blewbury Neighbourhood Plan	December 2016	No
Chilton Neighbourhood Plan	October 2021	No
Cumnor Neighbourhood Plan	May 2021	No
Drayton Neighbourhood Plan (made July 2015)	July 2015	No
Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan	December 2016	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
North Hinksey Neighbourhood Plan	May 2021	No
Radley Neighbourhood Plan	October 2018	No
Shrivenham Neighbourhood Plan	May 2021	No
Uffington and Baulking Neighbourhood Plan	July 2019	No
West Hanney Neighbourhood Plan	October 2021	No
Wootton and St Helen Without Neighbourhood Plan	December 2019	No

11 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:

- East Challow
- East Hanney
- Shellingford
- Stanford in the Vale
- Steventon
- Sunningwell
- Sutton Courtenay
- Wantage

12 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

13 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 and any allocations such as 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 (in preparation)	
Replaces – SODC Local Plan 2035 and VOWH Local Plan 2031 (Parts 1 and 2)	
Timetable - Key Stages	
Public Consultation on Issues and Scope (Regulation 18)	May/June 2022
Public Consultation on Preferred Options (Regulation 18)	January/February 2023
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	D																								
Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework						P	P	P							P	P	P																																																							
Oxfordshire Plan 2050*						P*	P*	P*	P*						P	P	P																																																							
Joint Local Plan 2041																																																																								

*Oxfordshire Plan timetable is currently subject to review which could necessitate a further update to Joint Local Plan timetable

Key	
Preparation, analysis and/or plan/framework development	
Cabinet Member, Cabinet or Full Council review and decision	C
Public Consultation (regulation 18)	P
Public Consultation (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

14 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 is a CIL Review in progress in 2021-22, and a consultation took place on the draft Charging Schedule in early 2022.

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	February/March 2022
Submission	May/June 2022
Examination in Public	Summer 2022
Inspector’s report	Autumn 2022
Adoption	Late 2022

15 **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 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 has prepared an update to the Developer Contributions SPD in tandem with an update to the CIL Charging Schedule. This update is due for adoption in 2022.

<p>South Oxfordshire Design Guide SPD</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>November 2016</p>	<p>Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils have prepared and consulted on a Joint Design Guide SPD to replace the 2015 Design Guide, and is due for adoption in 2022.</p>
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Related documents supporting the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031

16 The Vale of White Horse CIL was adopted in 2017 and updated in November 2021 to align with our up to date Local Plan 2031.

17 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 have prepared and consulted on a Joint Design Guide SPD to replace the 2015 Design Guide, and is due for adoption in 2022.
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.	November 2021	No review planned

Dalton Barracks SPD	Sets 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. Provides 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	April 2022
Affordable Housing SPD	This would provide clear practical guidance on the delivery of affordable housing within the district.	N/A	Plan to produce a joint Affordable Housing SPD in the next year

18 **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. LDOs in the districts are as follows:

- Milton Park LDO - an LDO was adopted for Milton (Business) Park in 2012 and committed to undertaking a review every 5 years. A review of the LDO has started and is looking at extending the LDO to 2040.
- Didcot Technology Park LDO - currently in preparation.
- Harwell Campus - Vale 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.
- Didcot Garden Town - LDOs may also be produced to support Didcot Garden Town.

Statement of Community Involvement

19 A Joint **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** to cover both districts was adopted in December 2021.

20The 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.

Monitoring and Review

21 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.

22 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.

23 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 a 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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