

Local Development Scheme



DECEMBER 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 May 2022 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.
- **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.

The Statutory Development Plan – South Oxfordshire

7 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 | Yes - Statutory pre-submission consultation on the draft plan ended on 20 June 2022. The NDP review |

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>

| | | |
|---|----------------|--|
| | | was submitted 7 October 2022 |
| Berrick Salome Neighbourhood Plan | December 2019 | No |
| Brightwell cum Sotwell Neighbourhood Development Plan | October 2017 | Yes – NDP review was submitted on 22 November 2022 |
| Chalgrove Neighbourhood Development Plan | December 2018 | Yes – Plan review preparation stage |
| Chinnor Neighbourhood Plan (First Made October 2017) | May 2021 | No |
| Cholsey Neighbourhood Plan (First Made April 2019) | October 2022 | No |
| 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 | Yes – Plan review preparation stage |
| Ewelme Neighbourhood Plan | May 2021 | No |
| Goring Neighbourhood Plan | July 2019 | No |
| Joint Henley and Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan (First Made April 2016) | December 2022 | No |
| Kidmore End Neighbourhood Plan | September 2022 | No |
| Little Milton Neighbourhood Development Plan | December 2018 | No |
| Long Wittenham Neighbourhood Development Plan (First Made October 2017) | September 2022 | No |
| Pyrton Neighbourhood Development Plan | April 2019 | No |
| Shiplake Neighbourhood Plan | September 2022 | No |

| | | |
|---|--------------|---|
| Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan | October 2016 | Yes – examination concluded. The Council is expected to decide if the plan should progress to referendum within 5 weeks from publication of the examiner's report |
| Sydenham Neighbourhood Plan | May 2021 | No |
| Tetsworth Neighbourhood Plan | May 2021 | No |
| Thame Neighbourhood Plan | July 2013 | Yes – Plan review preparation stage |
| 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 | Yes – The NDP Review was submitted 21 November 2022 |
| Woodcote Neighbourhood Plan (First made May 2014) | October 2022 | No |

8 Additionally, a number of **Neighbourhood Development Plans** are currently being prepared in South Oxfordshire. The following parish or town councils 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
- Lewknor
- Sandford-on-Thames (preparation paused)
- South Stoke
- Stanton St John
- Tiddington with Albury
- Towersey
- Whitchurch-on-Thames (preparation paused)

The Statutory Development Plan – Vale of White Horse

9 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 with 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 | July 2015 | No |
| Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan | December 2016 | No |
| Great Coxwell Neighbourhood Plan (First Made July 2015) | October 2020 | No |
| 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 |

10 A number of **Neighbourhood Development Plans** are currently being prepared in Vale of White Horse. The following parish or town councils are currently preparing their Neighbourhood Development Plans with their communities:

- Abingdon
- East Challow
- East Hanney
- Marcham
- Shellingford
- Stanford in the Vale
- Steventon
- Sunningwell (preparation paused)
- Sutton Courtenay
- Wantage

- 11 In addition to those listed above, the statutory Development Plan for both Councils will also include the following once adopted or made:
- Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations
 - Any other “made” (adopted) Neighbourhood Development Plans.

Programme for the Local Plan Review

- 12 South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have commenced work on a Joint Local Plan and associated documents. The following table describes the content, coverage and timetable for the Joint Local Plan, which is also illustrated in **Figure 1**. 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 and requirements 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 | |
| Replaces – SODC Local Plan 2035 and VOWH Local Plan 2031 (Parts 1 and 2) (unless any policies are saved) | |
| Timetable - Key Stages | |
| Public Consultation on Issues and Scope (Regulation 18) | May/June 2022 (Complete) |
| Public Consultation on Preferred Options (Regulation 18) | August/ September 2023 |
| Public Consultation on Pre-Submission (Regulation 19) | July/August 2024 |
| Submission to Secretary of State (Regulation 22) | January 2025 |
| Examination in Public (Regulation 24) | May 2025 |
| Inspector's report (Regulation 25) | August 2025 |
| Adoption (Regulation 26) | September 2025 |
| <i>Regulation references taken from The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Timings and requirements post submission to the Secretary of State are determined by the appointed Inspector.</i> | |

Figure 1: Production timetable

| | 2023 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2024 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2025 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | 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 | |
| Joint Local Plan 2041 | | | | | | | C | P | P | | | | | | | | | C | P | P | | | | | S | | | | | E | | | R | A | | | |

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

Related documents supporting the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035

- 13 The South Oxfordshire **Community Infrastructure Levy** (CIL) was adopted in 2016 and then updated in December 2022 to align with the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035.
- 14 Current and planned **Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)** and Conservation Area Character Appraisals for South Oxfordshire District Council are set out below:

| Name of SPD/SPG | Description of SPD | Date Adopted | Review Target Completion Date |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------|--|
| Joint Design Guide SPD | The design guide is intended to assist landowners, developers, applicants, agents, designers and planners through all stages of the design and planning process to achieve high quality and sustainable development. | June 2022 | 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 acceptable when it would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms. | November 2022 | No review planned |
| 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 |
| Affordable Housing SPG | Provides clear practical guidance on the delivery of affordable housing within the district. | September 2004 | Production has started on a joint Affordable Housing Guidance Paper, due to be published in 2023 |

| | | | |
|--|--|----------------|-------------------|
| Vauxhall Barracks Development Brief SPG | Informs the preparation and submission of Planning Applications on land known as Vauxhall Barracks, Didcot. | February 2004 | 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 |
| Henley-on-Thames Conservation Area Character Appraisal | Conservation area character appraisals help residents and us to understand the history of an area and why it is special. They help shape future developments and planning policies, as well as giving residents an idea of what enhancements could be made | September 2022 | No review planned |
| Pyrton Conservation Area Character Appraisal | Conservation area character appraisals help residents and us to understand the history of an area and why it is special. They help shape future developments and planning policies, as well as giving residents an idea of what enhancements could be made | December 2018 | No review planned |
| Wallingford Conservation Area Character Appraisal | Conservation area character appraisals help residents and us to understand the history of an area and why it is special. They help shape future developments and planning policies, as well as giving residents an idea of what enhancements could be made | April 2018 | No review planned |
| Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Conservation Area Character Appraisal | Conservation area character appraisals help residents and us to understand the history of an area and why it is special. They help shape future developments and planning policies, as well as giving residents an idea of what enhancements could be made | February 2006 | No review planned |
| Thame Conservation Area Character Appraisal | Conservation area character appraisals help residents and us to understand the history of an area and why it is special. They | February 2006 | No review planned |

| | | | |
|---|--|---------------|-------------------|
| | help shape future developments and planning policies, as well as giving residents an idea of what enhancements could be made | | |
| West Hagbourne Conservation Area Character Appraisal | Conservation area character appraisals help residents and us to understand the history of an area and why it is special. They help shape future developments and planning policies, as well as giving residents an idea of what enhancements could be made | February 2006 | No review planned |
| Great Haseley Conservation Area Character Appraisal | Conservation area character appraisals help residents and us to understand the history of an area and why it is special. They help shape future developments and planning policies, as well as giving residents an idea of what enhancements could be made | January 2005 | No review planned |
| Aston Tirrold/ Upthorpe Conservation Area Character Appraisal | Conservation area character appraisals help residents and us to understand the history of an area and why it is special. They help shape future developments and planning policies, as well as giving residents an idea of what enhancements could be made | January 2005 | No review planned |

15 There is a list of emerging Conservation Area Character Appraisals programmed including:

- Aston Rowant and Kingston Blount
- Cuxham
- Dorchester on Thames and Overy
- Goring
- Preston Crowmarsh
- Watlington
- Whitchurch on Thames

Related documents supporting the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031

- 16 The Vale of White Horse **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** was adopted in 2017 and updated in November 2021 to align with the Vale Local Plan 2031.
- 17 Current and planned **Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)** and Conservation Area Character Appraisals for Vale of White Horse District Council are set out below:

| Name of SPD | Description of SPD | Date Approved | Review Target Completion Date |
|--|---|---------------|--|
| Joint Design Guide SPD | The design guide is intended to assist landowners, developers, applicants, agents, designers and planners through all stages of the design and planning process to achieve high quality and sustainable development. | June 2022 | 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. | April 2022 | No review planned |
| 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 |
| Botley Centre | Provides clear guidance on how development could come forward in this Local Service Centre. | January 2016 | No review planned – development under construction |
| 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 |

| Name of SPD | Description of SPD | Date Approved | Review Target Completion Date |
|---|--|----------------|--|
| Bourton Conservation Area Character Appraisal | Conservation area character appraisals help residents and us to understand the history of an area and why it is special. They help shape future developments and planning policies, as well as giving residents an idea of what enhancements could be made | January 2011 | No review planned |
| Cumnor Conservation Area Character Appraisal | Conservation area character appraisals help residents and us to understand the history of an area and why it is special. They help shape future developments and planning policies, as well as giving residents an idea of what enhancements could be made | January 2011 | No review planned |
| Great Coxwell Conservation Area Character Appraisal | Conservation area character appraisals help residents and us to understand the history of an area and why it is special. They help shape future developments and planning policies, as well as giving residents an idea of what enhancements could be made | September 2022 | No review planned |
| Milton Conservation Area Character Appraisal | Conservation area character appraisals help residents and us to understand the history of an area and why it is special. They help shape future developments and planning policies, as well as giving residents an idea of what enhancements could be made | December 2016 | No review planned |
| Affordable Housing SPD | This would provide clear practical guidance on the delivery of affordable housing within the district. | N/A | Production has started on a joint Affordable Housing Guidance Paper, due to be published in 2023 |

18 There is a list of emerging Conservation Area Character Appraisals programmed including:

- Abingdon Albert Park
- Blewbury
- Drayton
- Harwell
- Stanford in the Vale
- Steventon

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 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. Consultation was undertaken recently that closed in October 2022, and the Council is aiming to progress for adoption in early 2023.
- 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 but this has not commenced.
- Didcot Garden Town - LDOs may also be produced to support Didcot Garden Town but none have commenced.

Statement of Community Involvement

- 20 A Joint **Statement of Community Involvement** (SCI) to cover both districts was adopted in December 2021, and a minor update published in November 2022.
- 21 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.

Monitoring and Review

- 22 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.
- 23 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.
- 24 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.

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