

South Oxfordshire District Council Local Development Scheme

August 2018



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What is the Local Development Scheme?

1. A Local Development Scheme (LDS) is required to be prepared by South Oxfordshire District Council (the Council) under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).
2. The LDS must specify (among other matters) the documents which, when prepared, will comprise the Development Plan for the area. It must be made available publicly and kept up-to-date. It is important that local communities and interested parties can keep track of progress.
3. The LDS sets out the timetable to produce Development Plan Documents (DPDs) which comprise the Development Plan, including the Local Plan, and sets out the key production and public consultation stages of DPDs. 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.
4. The LDS does not contain the timetable for emerging Neighbourhood Plans in the District, although these will form part of the development plan. This is because Neighbourhood Plans are not prepared by this Council, but instead by the relevant town and parish councils.
5. This LDS replaces the previous LDS published in February 2017.
6. This LDS provides information about the preparation of the **South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2033** and related documents which will replace the Local Plan 2011 (adopted in 2006) and the Core Strategy (adopted in 2012).
7. Further documents will be added to the LDS programme as the need for them becomes apparent and resources allow.
8. The Authority Monitoring Report produced by the Council will review the implementation of the LDS.

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.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/community-invo>

Development Plan Documents

9. **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 2012.
- A **local plan** sets out local planning policies and identifies how land is used, determining what will be built where. Adopted local plans provide the framework for development across England. The preparation of a local plan is a statutory requirement. A Local Plan may be a single document or a suite of Development Plan Documents (which can cover specific policy matters or specific geographical areas).
 - Through the [Oxfordshire Growth Deal](#), the Council has committed to preparing a **Joint Strategic Spatial Plan (JSSP)** with the other authorities in Oxfordshire. This document will be part of the development plan for South Oxfordshire once it has passed an examination in public and the Council has adopted the plan. The JSSP will have its own Local Development Scheme which add detail to the following milestones.
 - Early 2019 – Regulation 18 published for formal consultation
 - 30 October 2019 - Draft JSSP published for formal consultation
 - 31 March 2020 - Submission of JSSP
 - 31 March 2021 JSSP Adoption (subject to examination)
 - In areas that have County and District Councils, such as South Oxfordshire, the County Council has the responsibility for producing **Minerals and Waste Local Plans**. For South Oxfordshire this responsibility falls to Oxfordshire County Council.
 - **Neighbourhood Plans** (NDP) 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. Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with the Local Plan. They are prepared in a timescale that is set by the parish councils, not the Council, and therefore the timetable for their preparation is not contained within this LDS.
 - **Supplementary Planning Documents** (SPD) are not part of the statutory Development Plan but provide additional guidance on matters covered by Development Plan Documents.

Existing Development Plan Documents

10. The statutory development plan is the set of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) that together form the statutory basis for determining planning applications in South Oxfordshire.
11. On publication of this LDS, the statutory development plan for the Council comprises:

Name of Existing DPD/NDP	Date Adopted or Made
District Council documents	
South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011	Adopted 20 January 2006 with policies “saved” in November 2008 and several policies either deleted or replaced in December 2012
South Oxfordshire Core Strategy (2027)	December 2012
Oxfordshire County Council documents	
Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (1996)	Adopted July 1996 with policies “saved” 25 September 2007
Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy	12 September 2017
Neighbourhood Plans	
Thame Neighbourhood Plan	18 July 2013
Woodcote Neighbourhood Plan 2013-2027	15 May 2014
Joint Henley and Harpsden Neighbourhood Development Plan	14 April 2016
Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan	13 October 2016
Brightwell cum Sotwell Neighbourhood Development Plan	12 October 2017
Chinnor Neighbourhood Development Plan	12 October 2017
Long Wittenham Neighbourhood Development Plan	12 October 2017
Dorchester on Thames Neighbourhood Development Plan	19 April 2018

Future Development Plan Documents

12. The Council is working on a review of its Local Plan and associated Development Plan Documents.
13. In addition to those listed in the table above, the statutory development plan for the Council will also include:
 - South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2033
 - Oxfordshire Joint Strategic Spatial Plan
 - Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Part 2
 - Any other “made” (adopted) Neighbourhood Plans
 - Didcot Garden Town Development Plan Document (prepared jointly with Vale).
14. Further information on the status of Neighbourhood Plans is available below and on our website:
<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/neighbourhood-plans>

Development Plan Documents Timetable

15. South Oxfordshire District Council is working on a review of its Local Plan and associated documents.
16. Following the announcement of Didcot Garden Town, the work undertaken on the Science Vale Area Action Plan will provide the basis for a Garden Town DPD. The council has worked with Vale of White Horse District Council to ensure that policies and relevant text align or complement each other.
17. The following tables set out the content, coverage and timetable for these documents, (the timetable is also illustrated in Figure 1 below).

Local Plan 2033	
Role & Subject	This document will set out the overall development strategy for the period from 2011 to 2033. It will include strategic policies as well as locations for strategic housing and employment sites.
Coverage	District-wide
Conformity	With the National Planning Policy Framework
Replaces	Local Plan 2011 and Core Strategy
Timetable – Key Stages	
Public Consultation on Scope & Issues (Regulation 18)	June 2014
Public Consultation on Refined Options (Regulation 18)	Feb 2015
First Public Consultation on Preferred Options (Regulation 18)	June 2016
Second Public Consultation on Preferred Options (Regulation 18)	March 2017
Public Consultation on Pre-Submission (Regulation 19)	October 2017
Second Public Consultation on Pre-Submission (Regulation 19)	January 2019
Submission to Secretary of State (Regulation 22)	March 2019
Examination in Public (Regulation 24)	March 2019 – September 2019
Inspector's report (Regulation 25)	September 2019
Adoption (Regulation 26)	November 2019
<i>(Regulation references taken from The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012)</i>	

Development Plan Documents Timetable

Joint Didcot Garden Town DPD	
Role & Subject	This document will set out the key policies to implement the vision and objectives of the Didcot Garden Town delivery document
Coverage	Didcot Garden Town area – cross boundary with Vale of White Horse
Conformity	With the National Planning Policy Framework, and strategic policies within South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2033 and Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 (Parts 1 and 2)
Replaces	N/A
Timetable – Key Stages	
Public Consultation on Preferred Options/Draft Plan (Regulation 18)	April/May 2019
Public Consultation on Pre-Submission (Regulation 19)	Feb/March 2020
Submission to Secretary of State (Regulation 22)	July 2020
Examination in Public (Regulation 24)	November 2020
Inspector's report (Regulation 25)	March 2021
Adoption (Regulation 26)	June 2021
<i>(Regulation references taken from The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012)</i>	

[illegible]

(Regulation references taken from The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012)

Development Plan Documents Prepared by Others

18. At the time of writing a number of **Neighbourhood Plans** are being prepared in South Oxfordshire. The following parish or town councils have all had their areas approved and are preparing their Neighbourhood Plans, or a replacement Neighbourhood Plan with their communities:

- Aston Rowant
- Beckley and Stowood
- Benson*
- Berinsfield
- Berrick Salome
- Chalgrove
- Cholsey
- Clifton Hampden
- Cuddesdon and Denton
- Crowmarsh
- East Hagbourne
- Ewelme
- Garsington
- Goring-on-Thames
- Horspath
- Kidmore End
- Lewknor
- Little Milton
- Pyrton
- Sandford-on-Thames
- Shiplake
- Sonning Common
- Stanton St John
- Sydenham
- The Baldons (Marsh Baldon and Toot Baldon)
- Tetworth
- Tiddington with Albury
- Thame
- Towersey
- Wallingford
- Warborough and Shillingford
- Watlington*
- Wheatley
- Whitchurch-on-Thames
- Woodcote

*These plans have passed referendum and we expect them to be made shortly.

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19. A number of other parishes and communities are also beginning the process of creating Neighbourhood Plans.
 20. The District Council can only set a timetable for DPDs it is preparing itself (or jointly with another Local Authority). As it is parish councils or neighbourhood forums that will decide to produce Neighbourhood Plans it is not appropriate for this LDS to specify when, or for where, they will be produced. The timetable for preparing a Neighbourhood Plan is set by and can be obtained from the relevant town or parish council or Neighbourhood Plan group.
 21. Oxfordshire County Council is working towards the **Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2031 Part 2** -Minerals Sites and Waste Site Allocations Document .The Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Core Strategy 2031 (Part 1) has been adopted. The timetable for the Minerals and Waste Local Plans is set by the County Council. The timetable for the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy 2031 is available here:
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/minerals-and-waste-core-strategy>

Other Documents that Support the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2033

Existing Documents

22. The Council adopted a **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** on 15 June 2017. The SCI sets out how we will engage with our communities who can influence new planning policy documents and the ways to comment upon planning applications for development.
23. The Council adopted a **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule** on 18 February 2016 which took effect on 1 April 2016. This followed two rounds of public consultations and examination by an independent Planning Inspector. In line with the adoption of the CIL, on 1 April 2016 the Council adopted a Section 106 Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document which sets out the Council's approach towards seeking planning obligations when the Community Infrastructure Levy has come into effect.
24. **Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)** (and their predecessors, Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)) complement or expand upon local plan policies, for example describing in more detail how an allocated site should be developed. Whilst SPDs are not part of the statutory development plan they are an important consideration in determining planning applications. 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.
25. Local planning authorities are required to prepare and publish an **Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)** on the progress of their development plans. It is anticipated that the Council will produce a AMR every 12 months and that this will be made available to the public on the Council's website. The AMR is not subject to public consultation. The 2016/17 AMR was published in September 2017.
26. The Council 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	Date Adopted
Traditional Shopfront Design Guide	November 1995
The Chilterns Buildings Design Guide SPG	Dec 2000
South Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment SPG	July 2003
Vauxhall Barracks Development Brief SPG	Feb 2004
Affordable Housing SPG	Sept 2004
Didcot Town Centre SPD	May 2009
Oxford Brookes University Wheatley Masterplan SPD	Dec 2012
Section 106 Planning Obligations SPD	March 2016
South Oxfordshire Design Guide SPD	November 2016

Future Documents

27. The Council is working on an **Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document** with the Vale of White Horse District Council. The timetable for this document will be set out in the next version of the Local Development Scheme.
28. South Oxfordshire is working with the other Oxfordshire districts to produce a **Joint Spatial Plan** which will cover the whole county and set a high level planning framework for all local plan documents in the future. The timetable for this document will be set out in the next version of the Local Development Scheme
29. The District Council will also prepare a **Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Culham Science Centre** and adjacent land. This SPD will set out comprehensive development framework for this site in accordance with the emerging Local Plan. The SPD will be a material consideration in assessing future planning applications for the site and will provide more detailed guidance ensuring the successful comprehensive development of this strategic site.
30. The Council is working on a review of the **Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule** in line with its review of the Local Plan. CIL charging schedules are not formally part of the relevant Plan, but charging schedules and relevant plans should inform and be generally consistent with each other. The process for preparing a CIL Charging Schedule is similar to that which applies to the Local Plan. Guidance on the CIL is available on the Planning Practice Guidance website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/community-infrastructure-levy>.

CIL Review	
Role & Subject	This document will set out the Council's charging schedule which the Council will levy on the net increase in gross internal floorspace area arising from development to fund local infrastructure required to support development in the area. The charging schedule sets out the rates of CIL which will apply in the district. This will involve consultation and independent examination. The published rate(s) within the charging schedule will enable liable parties to calculate their expected CIL liability.
Coverage	South Oxfordshire District area in full
Conformity	With the National Planning Policy Framework and Local Plan policies and the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended)
Replaces	CIL Charging Schedule Adopted February 2016
Timetable – Key Stages	
Public Consultation - Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule (Regulation 15)	January 2019
Public Consultation - Draft Charging Schedule (Regulation 16)	April-May 2019
Submission (Regulation 19)	July-Aug 2019
Examination	Sept-Oct 2019
Inspector's Report	Nov-Dec 2019
Adoption	Jan 2020
<i>(Regulation references taken from Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010)</i>	

Changes from the previous Local Development Scheme

31. Changes to the LDS, since the last version was published in February 2017, have been made to enable the Council to plan for the preparation of the emerging Local Plan 2033. This new timetable includes an additional Regulation 19 consultation to reflect a decision made by the Council to pause the submission of the Local Plan whilst a review of all sites capable of forming a strategic allocation was undertaken.
32. The Council now plans to produce a **Didcot Garden Town DPD**. Details of the policies for the use, protection and/or development of land and allocation of land for development in and around Didcot are contained within the Local Plan 2033.
33. The CIL Charging Schedule was adopted by the Council in February 2016. In line with the preparation of the Local Plan 2033 the 2016 CIL Charging Schedule is also being reviewed.

Alternative formats of this publication are available on request.

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