

South Oxfordshire District Council Local Development Scheme

1 February 2017



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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 publically 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 for the production of 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. This LDS replaces the previous LDS published in January 2016.
5. 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).
6. Further documents will be added to the LDS programme as the need for them becomes apparent and resources allow.
7. 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

8. **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).
 - 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** 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

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

Name of Existing DPD	Date Adopted
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 Minerals and Waste Local Plan (1996)	Adopted July 1996 with policies "saved" 25 September 2007
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

Future Development Plan Documents

11. The Council is working on a review of its Local Plan and associated Development Plan Documents.
12. By the end of 2018 the statutory development plan for The Council will comprise:
 - South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2033
 - Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan
 - Joint Henley and Harpsden Neighbourhood Development Plan
 - Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan
 - Thame Neighbourhood Plan
 - Woodcote Neighbourhood Plan 2013-2027
 - Any other “made” (adopted) Neighbourhood Plans.
13. 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 Prepared by Others

15. 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 with their communities:
- Aston Rowant
 - Beckley and Stowood
 - Benson
 - Brightwell-cum-Sotwell
 - Chalgrove
 - Chinnor
 - Cholsey
 - Clifton Hampden
 - Dorchester
 - East Hagbourne
 - Goring-on-Thames
 - Horspath
 - Little Milton
 - Long Wittenham
 - Pyrton
 - Sandford-on-Thames
 - The Baldons (Marsh Baldon and Toot Baldon)
 - Tetsworth
 - Tiddington with Albury
 - Towersey
 - Wallingford
 - Warborough and Shillingford
 - Watlington
 - Wheatley
 - Whitchurch-on-Thames
16. A number of other parishes and communities are also beginning the process of creating Neighbourhood Plans.
17. 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.
18. Oxfordshire County Council is working towards the **Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2031** comprised of Core Strategy (Part 1) and a subsequent Minerals Sites and Waste Site Allocations Document (Part 2). 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

19. The Council adopted a **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** on 6 July 2006. 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. At the time of publication of this LDS the council is consulting on a replacement SCI 2017.
20. 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.
21. **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.
22. 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
Fair Mile Hospital, Cholsey, Development Brief SPG	Feb 2003 (now complete)
South Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment SPG	July 2003
Vauxhall Barracks Development Brief SPG	Feb 2004
Affordable Housing SPG	Sept 2004
Chinnor Cement Works Planning Brief SPG	Sept 2004 (now complete)
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

23. 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>. The Section 106 Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document will be reviewed in line with the CIL review.
24. The Government in December 2015 awarded Didcot 'Garden Town Status'. A team of planning and infrastructure experts have been appointed by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils to develop plans for Didcot Garden Town. Work previously undertaken on the Science Vale Area Action Plan will provide the basis for the delivery of the Garden Town initiative and the timetable for this will be provided in the review of the LDS once available.
25. We are currently updating our **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** to set out the way we communicate with our businesses and communities on the preparation of planning documents and the determination of planning applications. A consultation on the draft SCI took place in January 2017 with expected adoption in March 2017.
26. 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 2017 AMR will be published in summer 2017.

Changes from the previous Local Development Scheme

27. Changes to the LDS, since the last version was published in January 2016, have been made to enable The Council to plan for the preparation of the emerging Local Plan 2033.
28. The previous stages of consultation of the emerging Local Plan were based on a plan that ran between 2011 to 2031 and 2011 to 2032 (the plan period). We are required to ensure that once the plan is adopted we have at least 15 years of the plan period remaining. Our work programme indicates that the plan is likely to be adopted in 2018 and therefore it must run to 2033.
29. The Council previously planned to produce a South Oxfordshire Development Management Policies DPD. The Council has decided to incorporate Development Management policies within the Local Plan 2033. Therefore a separate Development Management Policies DPD is no longer required.
30. The Council previously planned 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 will be contained within the Local Plan 2033.
31. 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.
32. The Design Guide SPD was adopted by the Council November 2016.
33. A Section 106 Planning Obligations SPD was adopted by the Council in March 2016.
34. The Council's SCI is no longer being prepared jointly with Vale of White Horse District Council as the Vale of White Horse now have their own SCI. The Council is currently consulting on a SCI 2017.

Alternative formats of this publication are available on request.

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

Please contact Planning Policy on 01235 42200 (Text phone users add 18001 before you dial) or email planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk



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