

# South Oxfordshire District Council

# LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

MARCH 2019



## 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 preparation<sup>1</sup>.
- 3 This LDS updates the previous Local Development Scheme published in August 2018 by South Oxfordshire District Council. It provides information about the Local Plan and other Planning Policy documents.
- 4 The Authority Monitoring Report produced by the Council monitors and reviews the implementation of the LDS.
- 5 Whilst not a formal requirement, for ease of reference our LDS also includes information about the main supporting and procedural documents that do or will accompany the Local Plan.

## Background to Local Planning Documents

- 6 All documents which comprise or support the delivery of the Local Plan are Local Development Plan Documents. These consist of:
  - **Development Plan Documents (DPDs)** detail the planning strategies for development within the district. This includes 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. DPDs can also include non-strategic policies which are in force at a particular time. These policies must be in general conformity with government guidance, in particular the National Planning Policy Framework. 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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/our-development-plan/community-involvement>

must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in any Local Plan that covers their area.

In Parished areas, such as ours, these are prepared by town or parish councils. They are prepared to a timescale that is set by the parish or town councils, not the Council, and therefore the timetable for their preparation is not contained within this LDS.

- Through the [Oxfordshire Growth Deal](#), the Council has committed to preparing a Joint Strategic Spatial Plan (JSSP) – the **Oxfordshire Plan 2050** with the other Oxfordshire authorities. This document will become part of South Oxfordshire’s development plan following its Examination in Public and once the Council adopts it. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050’s own Local Development Scheme<sup>2</sup> adds detail to the following milestones:
  - August 2019 - Regulation 18 Part II published for formal consultation
  - November 2019 - Regulation 19 published for formal consultation
  - March 2020 - Submission of JSSP
  - March 2021 - JSSP Adoption (subject to examination).

## South Oxfordshire District Statutory Development Plan

7 The statutory development plan is the set of DPDs and Neighbourhood Plans that together form the statutory basis for determining planning applications for the Councils.

8 The current Development Plan for the Council comprises:

- 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 2031 Part 1: Core Strategy<sup>3</sup>
- Thame Neighbourhood Plan
- Benson Neighbourhood Plan
- The Baldons Neighbourhood Plan
- Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Plan
- Watlington Neighbourhood Plan
- Woodcote Neighbourhood Plan 2013-2027
- Joint Henley and Harpsden Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Brightwell cum Sotwell Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Chinnor Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Long Wittenham Neighbourhood Development Plan

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<sup>2</sup> [https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s43226/CA\\_SEP1818R09%20Annex%201%20-%20LDS%20JSSP%20August%202018.pdf](https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s43226/CA_SEP1818R09%20Annex%201%20-%20LDS%20JSSP%20August%202018.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/minerals-and-waste-core-strategy>

- Dorchester on Thames Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Little Milton Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Chalgrove Neighbourhood Development Plan

9 In addition to those listed above, the statutory development plan for the Council will also include:

- South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011-2034
- Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Part 2
- Any other “made” (adopted) Neighbourhood Plans.

## Programme for the South Oxfordshire Local Plan Review

- 10 South Oxfordshire District Council is currently working on its Local Plan and associated documents. The following tables describe the content, coverage and timetable for these development plan documents, 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.

<b>Local Plan 2011-2034</b>	
<b>Role &amp; Subject</b> - This document will set out the overall development strategy for the period from 2011 to 2034. It will include strategic policies as well as locations for strategic housing and employment sites.	
<b>Coverage</b> - District-wide	
<b>Conformity</b> - With the National Planning Policy Framework	
<b>Replaces</b> - Local Plan 2011 and Core Strategy	
<b>Timetable - Key Stages</b>	
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>	

**Figure 1: Production timetable for development plan documents**

	2019												2020												2021												2022											
	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
South Local Plan 2034	P	P	S		E	E	E	E	R	C	A																																					
Oxfordshire Plan 2050							C	P*	P*	C	P	P			S				E				R																									

<b>Key</b>	
Preparation, analysis and/or plan development	
Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Full Council review and decision	C
Public Consultation on 'Preferred Options' draft plan (regulation 18)	P
Public Consultation on 'Preferred Options' draft plan (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
Submit plan and supporting documents to the Secretary of State for independent examination (regulation 22)	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

## Development Plan Documents prepared by others

### Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs)

11 A number of **Neighbourhood Plans** are 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
- Berrick Salome
- Cholsey\*
- Clifton Hampden
- Crowmarsh
- Cuddesdon and Denton
- East Hagbourne\*
- Ewelme
- Garsington
- Goring-on-Thames
- Horspath
- Kidmore End
- Lewknor
- Pyrton\*
- Sandford-on-Thames
- Shiplake
- Stanton St John
- Sydenham
- Tetsworth
- Tiddington with Albury
- Towersey
- Wallingford
- Wheatley
- Whitchurch-on-Thames

\* These Neighbourhood Plans are planned to go to referendum in Spring 2019.

12 Subject to them successfully completing the formal stages, some of these plans are expected to become part of the Development Plan this year. 14 plans have been 'made' thus far and form part of the development plan - these are: Little Milton, Chalgrove, Thame, Benson, The Baldons, Warborough and Shillingford, Watlington, Woodcote, Joint Henley and Harpsden, Sonning Common, Brightwell cum Sotwell, Chinnor, Long Wittenham, and Dorchester on Thames Neighbourhood Development Plans.

- 13 A number of areas are now reviewing their made Neighbourhood Development Plans – these are: Woodcote, Chinnor, Thame, Sonning Common, Joint Henley and Harpsden and Long Wittenham.
- 14 The District Council can only set a timetable for development plan documents it is preparing itself (or jointly with another Local Authority). The timetable for preparing a Neighbourhood Plan is set by and can be obtained from the relevant town or parish council.
- 15 Oxfordshire County Council is preparing the new **Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan** to provide up to date minerals and waste planning policies and proposals for the period to 2031, replacing the existing Minerals and Waste Local Plan which was adopted in 1996. The new Local Plan is in two Parts. **Part 1: Core Strategy** was adopted in September 2017, and work is ongoing on **Part 2: Site Allocations**. The timetable for the Minerals and Waste Local Plans is set by the County Council and can be obtained from their website<sup>4</sup>.

## Related documents supporting the South Oxfordshire Local Plan

<b>Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) (adopted February 2016)</b>
<b>Role and Subject</b> – This document sets out the charging rates for new developments in South Oxfordshire. The money can be used to fund a wide variety of infrastructure that is needed as a result of the new development.
<b>Coverage</b> – District wide
<b>Conformity</b> – Local Plan 2011, the National Planning Policy Framework and Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended)

- 16 There will be a CIL Review in 2019, with consultations taking place regarding the preliminary draft, and then final draft Charging Schedule.
- 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.
- 18 A **Design Guide SPD** was adopted in November 2016 to provide 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

<sup>4</sup> The timetable for the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan is available here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/new-minerals-and-waste-local-plan>



guide will help to ensure that we attain high quality and inclusive design for all developments, including individual buildings, public and private spaces.

19 The District Council are intending to prepare an **Affordable Housing SPD** in the next year.

20 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:

<b>Name of SPD/SPG</b>	<b>Date Adopted</b>
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

21 The **Statement of Community Involvement** (SCI) was adopted on 15 June 2017. The updated SCI is a code of practice that shows how and when the Council will involve different groups, organisations and communities in the production of planning documents, including the Local Plan. It also sets out how the Council 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.

22 The SCI is being reviewed to ensure that it remains current and a revised version, should it be pertinent, will be consulted on in due course.

23 A **Delivering Infrastructure Strategy**<sup>5</sup> has been published to summarise how the Council intends to secure the infrastructure identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The strategy sets out how we will use CIL, s106, s278 and other funding sources to deliver the infrastructure and facilities necessary to enable the development our local plan promotes to be sustainably accommodated.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/delivering-infrastructure>

## **Monitoring and Review**

- 24 The Council is required to monitor annually how effective its policies and proposals are. An Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) will be published by the Council each year to inform LDS reviews and will be made public.
- 25 As part of the monitoring process, the Council will assess:
- whether it is meeting, or is 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 Council 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 are available on request. These include large print, Braille, audio, email, easy read and alternative languages.

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