

Local Development Scheme



September 2023

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 June 2023 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	Yes – the New Minerals and Waste Plan 2042 will eventually supersede this Plan. The timetable for the Plan 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 2042
The Baldons Neighbourhood Development Plan	October 2018	No
Benson Neighbourhood Development Plan (First Made August 2018)	March 2023	No
Berrick Salome Neighbourhood Development	December 2019	No

² <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/minerals-and-waste-core-strategy>

³ https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/planning-minerals-and-waste/MineralsandWasteDevelopmentScheme2021_12thEdition.pdf

Plan		
Brightwell cum Sotwell Neighbourhood Development Plan	October 2017	Yes – Plan review examination stage
Chalgrove Neighbourhood Development Plan	December 2018	Yes – Plan review preparation stage
Chinnor Neighbourhood Development Plan (First Made October 2017)	May 2021	Yes – Plan review II pre-submission consultation concluded in September 2023
Cholsey Neighbourhood Development Plan (First Made April 2019)	October 2022	No
Crowmarsh Neighbourhood Development Plan	October 2021	No
Cuddesdon and Denton Neighbourhood Development Plan	May 2021	No
Culham Neighbourhood Development Plan	June 2023	No
Dorchester on Thames Neighbourhood Development Plan	April 2018	No
East Hagbourne Neighbourhood Development Plan	April 2019	Yes – Plan review submission consultation stage
Ewelme Neighbourhood Development Plan	May 2021	No
Goring Neighbourhood Development Plan	July 2019	No
Joint Henley and Harpsden Neighbourhood Development Plan (First Made April 2016)	December 2022	No
Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan	September 2022	No
Little Milton Neighbourhood Development Plan	December 2018	No

Long Wittenham Neighbourhood Development Plan (First Made October 2017)	September 2022	No
Pyrtton Neighbourhood Development Plan	April 2019	No
Shiplake Neighbourhood Development Plan	September 2022	No
Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan (First Made October 2016)	March 2023	No
Sydenham Neighbourhood Development Plan	May 2021	No
Tetsworth Neighbourhood Development Plan	May 2021	No
Thame Neighbourhood Development Plan	July 2013	Yes – Plan review pre-submission consultation concluded in August 2023
Tiddington with Albury Neighbourhood Development Plan	June 2023	No
Wallingford Neighbourhood Development Plan	May 2021	No
Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Development Plan	October 2018	Yes – Plan review preparation stage
Watlington Neighbourhood Development Plan	August 2018	Yes – Plan review preparation stage
Wheatley Neighbourhood Development Plan	May 2021	Yes – Plan review examination concluded in August 2023
Woodcote Neighbourhood Development 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
- Burcot and Clifton Hampden**
- Eye and Dunsden
- Garsington*
- Horspath
- Lewknor*
- Sandford-on-Thames (preparation paused)
- South Stoke
- Stanton St John
- Towersey*
- Whitchurch-on-Thames (preparation paused)

** Recently submitted for independent examination.*

*** Burcot and Clifton have also recently submitted a Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO) for independent examination. A Neighbourhood Development Order can grant planning permission for specific types of development in a specific neighbourhood area.*

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	Yes – the New Minerals and Waste Plan 2042 will eventually supersede this Plan. The timetable for the Plan 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 Plan 2042.
Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Development Plan	October 2021	No
Ashbury Neighbourhood Development Plan	July 2019	No
Blewbury Neighbourhood Development Plan	December 2016	No
Chilton Neighbourhood	October 2021	No

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

Development Plan		
Cumnor Neighbourhood Development Plan	May 2021	No
Drayton Neighbourhood Development Plan	July 2015	No
East Challow Neighbourhood Development Plan	June 2023	No
Faringdon Neighbourhood Development Plan	December 2016	No
Great Coxwell Neighbourhood Development Plan (First Made July 2015)	October 2020	No
Longworth Neighbourhood Development Plan	October 2016	No
North Hinksey Neighbourhood Development Plan	May 2021	No
Radley Neighbourhood Development Plan	October 2018	No
Shrivenham Neighbourhood Development Plan	May 2021	No
Uffington and Baulking Neighbourhood Development Plan	July 2019	No
West Hanney Neighbourhood Development Plan	October 2021	No
Wootton and St Helen Without Neighbourhood Development 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 Hanney*
- Marcham
- Shellingford
- Stanford in the Vale
- Steventon
- Sunningwell (preparation paused)
- Sutton Courtenay*
- Wantage

** Recently submitted for independent examination.*

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 Plan
- 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)	January/ February 2024
Public Consultation on Pre-Submission (Regulation 19)	October/ November 2024
Submission to Secretary of State (Regulation 22)	April 2025
Examination in Public (Regulation 24)	August 2025
Inspector's report (Regulation 25)	November 2025
Adoption (Regulation 26)	December 2025

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.

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	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
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.	January 2023	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	May 2009	No review planned

Name of SPD/SPG	Description of SPD	Date Adopted	Review Target Completion Date
	adopted South Oxfordshire Plan.		
Affordable Housing SPG	Provides clear practical guidance on the delivery of affordable housing within the district.	September 2004	Affordable Housing Guidance Paper published in March 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	Joint South and Vale Landscape Assessment in preparation
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	April 2018	No review planned

Name of SPD/SPG	Description of SPD	Date Adopted	Review Target Completion Date
	policies, as well as giving residents an idea of what enhancements could be made		
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 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
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

Name of SPD/SPG	Description of SPD	Date Adopted	Review Target Completion Date
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 SPD	Provides clear guidance on how development could come forward in this Local Service Centre.	January 2016	No review planned – development under construction

Name of SPD	Description of SPD	Date Approved	Review Target Completion Date
Abbey Shopping Centre and Character Area SPD	Provides a guide to detailed applications and possible future development options for the area	December 2011	No review planned
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	Affordable Housing Guidance Paper published in March 2023 ⁵

⁵ <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/planning-and-development/local-plan-and-planning-policies/affordable-housing-guidance/>

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 been undertaken and in February 2023 Council resolved to adopt a new LDO subject to a legal agreement being secured between MEPC (owners of Milton Park), Oxfordshire County Council and this council to secure infrastructure improvements. Once the legal agreement is complete the new LDO will replace the 2012 LDO.
- Didcot Technology Park LDO - a draft LDO has been prepared and has been subject to formal public consultation (ending 28 June 2023), following which responses are being considered and if necessary, the draft LDO revised before Council makes any decision to adopt it or not.
- 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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Please contact customer services to discuss your requirements on 01235 422422.

**Planning Policy Team
Abbey House
Abbey Close
Abingdon
OX14 3JD**

Email: planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk

