

Planning and Strategic Housing

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WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Date: 5th December 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Local Development Scheme (LDS)

The District Council have published an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) to replace the existing LDS document.

A copy of the updated LDS is enclosed with this letter and we would be very grateful if you could make it available for public inspection, replacing any existing copies of the document.

Yours sincerely,

Planning Policy Team





WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

www.westoxon.gov.uk

West Oxfordshire
Local Development Scheme (LDS)

November 2024

Contents

1.	Introduction.....	3
2.	West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031	3
3.	West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2041	3
4.	Salt Cross Garden Village Area Action Plan (AAP)	4
5.	Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).....	5
6.	Neighbourhood Planning	6
7.	Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).....	6
8.	LDF Monitoring Report.....	7
9.	LDS availability and updates.....	7
	Appendix 1 – Document Profiles	9
	Appendix 2 – Overall Timetable	13

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This is the West Oxfordshire District Council Local Development Scheme (LDS). It explains what planning policy documents the Council already has in place and what will be prepared during the three-year period November 2024 – November 2027.

2. West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031

- 2.1 The current [West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031](#) was formally adopted on 27 September 2018. The plan provides an overall framework for growth in the period up to 2031.
- 2.2 Because the Local Plan became five years old in September 2023, a [formal review](#) was undertaken in accordance with Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 2.3 The review concluded that although the adopted local plan policies remain generally consistent with national policy, many of them could usefully be strengthened and updated, in particular those policies relating to the plan's housing requirement given they are based on evidence dating from 2014.
- 2.4 Work on a new Local Plan to 2041 is therefore now well underway as outlined below.

3. West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2041

- 3.1 The District Council is currently in the process of producing a new Local Plan covering the period up to 2041.
- 3.2 The plan is currently at the Regulation 18 'plan preparation' stage, with two main periods of public consultation carried out in October 2022 and October 2023.
- 3.3 The first consultation sought general views on the overall scope of the new Local Plan. A [consultation summary report](#) has been made available online.
- 3.4 The second consultation started to explore draft plan objectives and potential patterns of development. It also included a specific call for sites, ideas and opportunities. A [consultation summary report](#) has again been made available online.
- 3.5 It had been anticipated that a further Regulation 18 'preferred options' consultation would take place in October 2024, however, significant national planning policy changes have been announced and are expected to come into force in early 2025. These have a significant bearing on the content of the new Local Plan including in relation to the number of new homes that will need to be planned for.
- 3.6 As such, the proposed 'preferred options' consultation will now be considered by the Council's Executive in March 2025 and then subject to a 6-week public consultation beginning in early May 2025.

- 3.7 Depending on the outcome of that consultation, it is anticipated that the Regulation 19 pre-submission draft plan will be formally published for a statutory 6-week period of consultation in October 2025.
- 3.8 The Council should then be in a position to formally submit the draft Local Plan for examination by March 2026 with a view to examination in summer 2026.
- 3.9 Further information on the purpose, scope and timing of the Local Plan 2041 is set out at Appendix I.

4. Salt Cross Garden Village Area Action Plan (AAP)

- 4.1 A key element of the adopted Local Plan is the allocation of land to the north of the A40 near Eynsham for a new garden village of around 2,200 homes, together with business space and other supporting uses and facilities. The proposal is being supported by central Government through its locally led garden village, towns and cities programme.
- 4.2 The planning of the garden village is being led by a separate [Area Action Plan](#) (AAP) which, when adopted, will form part of the statutory development plan for West Oxfordshire.
- 4.3 The AAP was formally submitted in February 2021 and following hearing sessions in June/July 2021 and further work on the phasing of infrastructure, the Inspector published his final report in March 2023, concluding that the AAP is sound subject to a number of Main Modifications.
- 4.4 However, following a successful 3rd party legal challenge, those parts of the Inspector's report which related to AAP Policy 2 – Net Zero Carbon Development have been quashed and in April 2024, the examination was re-opened, with a new Inspector appointed to re-consider Policy 2.
- 4.5 At present, there is some uncertainty about when the examination hearings are expected to take place. This is because the District Council wrote to the Inspector on 19 November 2024 to request that the examination process be 'paused' to enable the Council to write to central Government asking for further clarity on the national planning policy position regarding net zero carbon buildings.
- 4.6 Once a response is received, the Council will seek to agree a timetable for the remainder of the examination with the Inspector. Further information is available on the Salt Cross Garden Village AAP web page¹ and further information on the purpose, scope and timing of the AAP is set out at Appendix I.

¹ <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/gardenvillage>

5. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

5.1 Supplementary planning documents do not form part of the statutory development plan but are important material considerations in the determination of planning applications. Their main purpose is to elaborate on specific local plan policies and explain in more detail how those policies will operate.

5.2 At present, the Council has four adopted SPDs:

- West Oxfordshire Design Guide SPD – adopted in 2016
- Affordable Housing SPD – adopted in October 2021
- Developer Contributions SPD – adopted in July 2023
- Combe Village Design Statement SPD – adopted in July 2023

5.3 These are all available [online](#).

Hanborough Station Masterplan

5.4 The District Council has previously agreed to provide funding, in conjunction with Oxfordshire County Council, to commission a masterplan for Hanborough Station. Potentially, any such document could be taken forward as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) subject to due process.

5.5 At the current time, discussions remain ongoing between the District Council and County Council on the scope of the work. Once the scope and timing of the project has been agreed, this will be reflected in an updated future iteration of the LDS.

6. Neighbourhood Planning

6.1 Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area.

6.2 There are currently nine adopted Neighbourhood Plans in West Oxfordshire including:

- Cassington Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 26 June 2023)
- Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 14 June 2021)
- Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 15 March 2016)
- Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 6 February 2020)
- Hailey Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 2 September 2019)
- Milton under Wychwood Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 26 June 2023)
- Shilton Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 2 September 2019)
- South Leigh Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 8 January 2019)
- Woodstock (adopted 23 January 2023)

6.3 There are six other Neighbourhood Plans currently in progress including:

- Ascott under Wychwood Neighbourhood Plan
- Brize Norton Neighbourhood Plan
- Ducklington Neighbourhood Plan
- North Leigh Neighbourhood Plan
- Stonesfield Neighbourhood Plan
- Wootton by Woodstock Neighbourhood Plan

6.4 Because the progress and timing of neighbourhood plans are beyond the control of the District Council, the LDS does not include any information on their anticipated timetables. Further information can however be obtained from the District Council's [website](#).

7. Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

7.1 A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) explains how local communities and other stakeholders will be engaged in the preparation of the Local Plan and other related documents. It also provides information about how local communities and other stakeholders will be engaged in relation to the determination of planning applications.

- 7.2 Local planning authorities are required to review their Statements of Community Involvement every 5 years with the Council's most recent SCI being adopted in February 2020².
- 7.3 The Council will therefore prepare an update of the SCI in early 2025, in particular to reflect the increased use of digital engagement tools, with the District Council having secured funding from central Government to develop its approach in this field.

8. LDF Monitoring Report

- 8.1 In accordance with national planning regulations the Council is required to produce a monitoring report addressing various matters including plan progress and implementation, neighbourhood planning, CIL (where applicable) and the duty to co-operate.
- 8.2 The Council's most recently published monitoring report covers the period 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2023 and is available [online](#). A further update covering the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024 will be published in December 2024.

9. LDS availability and updates

- 9.1 The LDS must be made publicly available and kept up-to-date.
- 9.2 In terms of availability, a copy of this LDS is available [online](#)
- 9.3 Hard copies are also available in the locations listed in the following table.
- 9.4 The LDS will be updated annually or more often if there are any significant changes in timescales or documents being prepared.

² <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/jo0g3prh/statement-of-community-involvement.pdf>

<p>West Oxfordshire District Council Witney Town Centre Shop 3 Welch Way Witney OX28 6JH Tel: 01993 861000 Open: Monday – Friday 9am to 5pm</p>	<p>Witney Town Council Town Hall Market Square Witney OX28 6AG Tel: 01993 704379 Open: Mon, Tues and Thurs 8.30am to 5pm, Wed 9.30am to 5pm and Fri 8.30am to 4.30pm.</p>	<p>Carterton Town Council 19 Alvescot Road Carterton OX18 3JL Tel: 01993 842156 Open: Monday – Friday 9.30am to 4.00pm</p>
<p>Chipping Norton Town Council The Guildhall Market Place Chipping Norton OX7 5NJ Tel: 01608 642341 Open: Monday – Friday 9am to 1pm</p>	<p>Bampton Library Old Grammar School Church View Bampton OX18 2NE Tel: 01993 850076</p>	<p>Burford Library 86A High Street Burford OX18 4QF Tel: 01993 823377</p>
<p>Carterton Library 6 Alvescot Road Carterton OX18 3JH Tel: 01993 841492</p>	<p>Charlbury Library Charlbury Community Centre Enstone Road Charlbury OX7 3PQ Tel: 01608 811104</p>	<p>Chipping Norton Library Goddards Land Chipping Norton OX7 5NP Tel: 01608 643559</p>
<p>Eynsham Library 30 Mill Street Eynsham OX29 4JS Tel: 01865 880525</p>	<p>North Leigh Library Memorial Hall Park Road North Leigh OX29 6SA Tel: 01993 882935</p>	<p>Stonesfield Library Village Hall Longore Stonesfield OX29 8EF Tel: 01993 898187</p>
<p>Witney Library Welch Way Witney OX28 6JH Tel: 01993 703659</p>	<p>Woodstock Library The Oxfordshire Museum Fletcher's House Park Street Woodstock OX20 1SN Tel: 01993 814124 07759 140531</p>	<p>Wychwood Library 29 High Street Milton-under-Wychwood OX7 6LD Tel: 01993 830281</p>

Appendix I – Document Profiles

West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2041	
Status	Development Plan Document (DPD)
Overview	The Local Plan will set out the overall framework for future growth in West Oxfordshire to 2041. This is expected to include strategic policies dealing with the overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development as well as non-strategic policies dealing with other matters including site allocations and development management policies.
Geographical coverage	District-wide
Timetable	<p>Regulation 18 initial scoping consultation – August - October 2022 (COMPLETE)</p> <p>Regulation 18 focused consultation on draft plan objectives and spatial strategy options along with a ‘call for sites’ exercise – August – October 2023 (COMPLETE)</p> <p>Regulation 18 consultation on preferred policy options – May 2025</p> <p>Publication of pre-submission draft Local Plan (Regulation 19) – October 2025</p> <p>Submission of pre-submission draft Local Plan (Regulation 22) – March 2026</p> <p>Examination and adoption – 2026</p>
Conformity	Prepared in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG).
Management arrangements	Document production to be led by the Council’s Planning Policy Team under the direction of the Planning Policy Manager. Cross Party Member Working Group established to oversee the process.
Resource requirements	Internal resources comprise the Council's Planning Policy Team with input from other teams and services as appropriate via Local Plan Officer Working Group. External resources will be drawn upon in terms of the production of supporting technical evidence.

Community engagement	Engagement to be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).
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Salt Cross Garden Village Area Action Plan (AAP)	
Status	Development Plan Document (DPD)
Overview	Supplements the Local Plan 2031 providing additional detail on the Oxfordshire Cotswolds Garden Village Strategic Location for Growth (SLG) – now referred to as Salt Cross Garden Village. The AAP will establish a vision for the garden village, supported by a series of core objectives and policies arranged on a thematic basis. A key focus of the AAP will be delivery and implementation.
Geographical coverage	Oxfordshire Cotswolds Garden Village Strategic Location for Growth (SLG) north of Eynsham
Timetable	<p>Submission – February 2021 (COMPLETE)</p> <p>Examination hearings – June/July 2021 (COMPLETE)</p> <p>Consultation on Main Modifications – September/November 2022 (COMPLETE)</p> <p>Inspector’s Report received – March 2023 (COMPLETE)</p> <p>Examination re-opened to consider Policy 2 - Net Zero Carbon Development – April 2024 (COMPLETE)</p> <p>Preparation of Main Modifications and supporting evidence - Subject to further agreement with Planning Inspector</p> <p>Submission to Inspector – Subject to further agreement with Planning Inspector</p> <p>Inspector prepares and publishes Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) – Subject to further agreement with Planning Inspector</p> <p>Hearing session/s – Subject to further agreement with Planning Inspector</p> <p>Adoption – Subject to further agreement with Planning Inspector</p>
Conformity	Prepared in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) and the West Oxfordshire Local Plan (2031).

Management arrangements	Document production to be led by the Council's Planning Policy Team under the direction of the Planning Policy Manager.
Resource requirements	Internal resources comprise the Council's Planning Policy Team with input from other teams and services as appropriate. External resources will be drawn upon in terms of the production of supporting technical evidence.
Community engagement	Engagement on the preparation of the document to be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

Appendix 2 – Overall Timetable

Document	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	
West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2041									IC					FC						S
Key: IC = Informal Consultation; FC = Formal Consultation; S = Submission																				