



**WOKINGHAM  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

# **Local Development Scheme January 2020**

**TIMETABLE (LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME) SETTING OUT WHAT  
LOCAL PLANS ARE BEING PRODUCED BY THE AUTHORITY**

**2020 to 2023**



## CONTENTS

### SUMMARY

<b>1.0</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
	What is a Local Development Scheme (LDS)?	2
	Why is the LDS being amended?	2
<b>2.0</b>	<b>PROPOSED LOCAL PLANS</b>	<b>3</b>
	What Local Plans are to be produced?	3
	What process do Local Plans have to go through?	3
	What is the timetable for the preparation of the Local Plans?	6
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Other plans</b>	<b>8</b>
	Neighbourhood Plans	8
	Supplementary Plans	8

## **SUMMARY**

The government requires that all local planning authorities produce a Local Development Scheme (LDS) which is a public statement of the councils programme for the production of Local Plans. Local Plans are very important as they are the key document through which the council sets the vision and framework for the management of future development. As such they form the starting point for making decisions on planning applications.

### **What Local Plans are being produced?**

Between 2020 and 2023 the following Local Plans will be produced:

1. Local Plan Update
2. Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Both plans will be reflected on changes to the policies Map.

The table below summarises the timetable for future stages in the preparation of each plan. There will be opportunities for engagement at key stages.

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Minerals and Waste Local Plan</b>	<b>Local Plan Update</b>
Draft Plan Consultation	June - November 2018	February – March 2020
Focussed consultation: Sand and Gravel Provision and Operator Performance	January – March 2020	Not applicable
Consultation on Proposed Submission Document	June – September 2020	September – October 2020
Submit to Secretary of State	Winter 2020	Winter 2020
Pre Hearing Meeting	Winter 2020	Winter 2020
Examination	Spring 2021	Spring 2021
Inspector's Report received	Autumn 2021	Autumn 2021
Adoption	Winter 2021	Winter 2021

## 1.0 **INTRODUCTION**

### **What is a Local Development Scheme (LDS)?**

- 1.1 The government requires that all local planning authorities produce a Local Development Scheme (LDS) which is a public statement of the councils programme for the production of Local Plans. Local Plans are very important as they are the key document through which the council sets the vision and framework for the management of future development. As such they form the starting point for making decisions on planning applications.
- 1.2 This LDS sets out:
- The Local Plans the council aims to produce; and
  - The programme for producing them, including when public consultation is likely to take place and other key stages.
- 1.3 This LDS covers the period 2020 to 2023.
- 1.4 Copies of this LDS can be viewed/found at:
- Via <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/local-plan-update/>
  - The Council's office at Shute End, Wokingham.

### **Why is the LDS being amended?**

- 1.5 Since the publication of the last LDS in October 2018, there have been a change in circumstances which have resulted in the need to revise the LDS. These are outlined below.

#### **Re-evaluation of previously approved timetable**

- 1.6 A Local Plan Update consultation ('Homes for the Future' was undertaken from November 2018 – February 2019. The primary purpose of this consultation was to further understand the views of residents, businesses and other interested parties regarding land promoted for developers, alongside possible approaches to density and affordable housing, amongst other matters. This built on the Local Plan Update Issues and Options consultation, which was undertaken over the summer 2016.
- 1.7 A key message was the importance of infrastructure. With a larger number of sites promoted by landowners for potential development, additional time is required to gather necessary information and undertake a robust assessment of options. The next stage of the Local Plan Update, the Draft Local Plan, will provide the opportunity for the public/stakeholders to comment on the proposed development strategy, site allocations, and policies for managing future development.

#### **Agreement of the joint planning for minerals and waste**

- 1.8 The local planning authorities Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham Borough Council have agreed and are working to prepare a joint minerals and waste plan. The update reflects the agreed timetable.

#### **If I need further information about the LDS, who should I contact?**

- 1.9 Further advice on this LDS or other planning policy documents can be obtained from the Council's Growth and Delivery Team on (0118) 974 6478 or email [policyandplans@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:policyandplans@wokingham.gov.uk). You can find more out about the Local Plans by going to <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/>

## 2.0 **PROPOSED LOCAL PLANS**

### **What Local Plans are to be produced?**

2.1 Between 2020 and 2023 the following Local Plans will be produced:

1. Local Plan Update
2. Minerals and Waste Local Plan

#### **Local Plan Update**

2.2 The Local Plan Update will review and put in place up-to-date planning policies for non-minerals and waste development, up to 2036. Upon completion it will replace the current Core Strategy and Managing Development Delivery plans which cover the period to 2026.

2.3 The Local Plan Update will cover a wide range of matters. A key area will be assessing the future development needs for new homes, employment land and other uses such as accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers. It will then set a strategy for delivery including allocating key sites as necessary.

#### **Minerals and Waste Local Plan**

2.4 The Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan will review and put in place up-to-date planning policies for minerals and waste development. The plan is being produced jointly by the local planning authorities of Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, and Wokingham Borough Council. The authorities have commissioned Hampshire Services of Hampshire County Council, to prepare the plan.

2.5 The plan will identify the approach to the delivery of minerals and the treatment of waste and will allocate sites for such uses. Upon completion it will replace all the saved policies in the Replacement Minerals Local Plan<sup>1</sup> and Waste Local Plan for Berkshire<sup>2</sup>.

#### **Policies Map**

2.6 The Policies Map spatially illustrates the policies on an Ordnance Survey base map. It will be updated to reflect any area specific policies in as Local Plans are adopted (completed). The Policies Map will show matters such as:

- local development constraints, e.g. Green Belt;
- designations, e.g. development limits (outside of which it would be difficult for example to get planning permission for a new housing site);
- site allocations, e.g. sites may be allocated for housing, employment, etc.

### **What process do Local Plans have to go through?**

2.7 Local Plans are prepared in accordance with a regulatory process. The process includes consultation with the community and stakeholders. Following its preparation, a Local Plan is subject to examination by an independent Planning Inspector.

2.8 The four main stages in the preparation of a Local Plan are:

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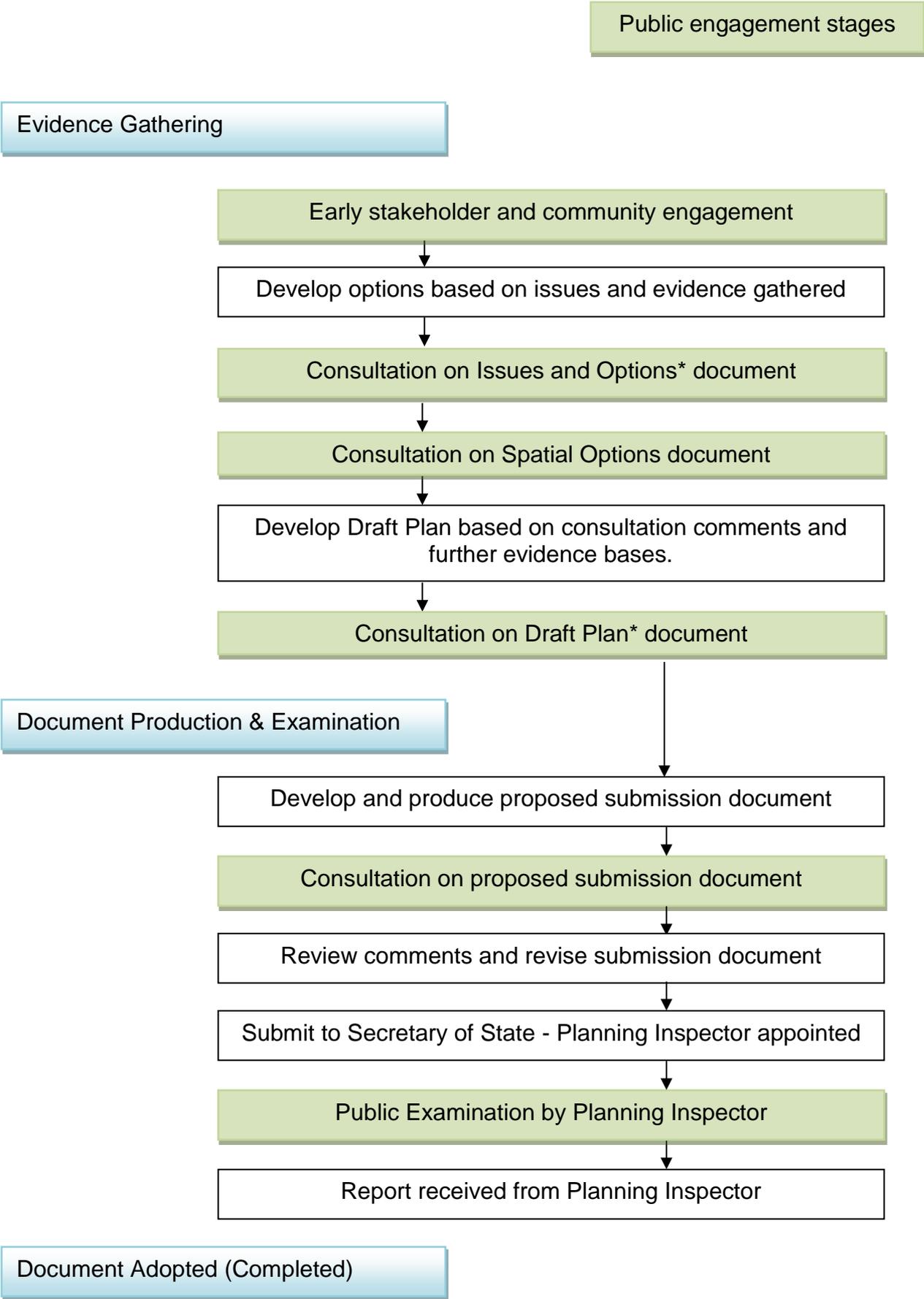
<sup>1</sup> Adopted in 1995 and subsequently adopted alterations in 1997 and 2001 (including Appendices and saved policies)

<sup>2</sup> Adopted in 1998 (including saved policies)

1. The pre-production stage, including evidence gathering by the council on key issues and development options, and consulting statutory bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal.
2. The production stage, including public and stakeholder consultation by the council on the development issues and options, and the scope of the Local Plan and the consideration of consultation responses.
3. The submission and examination stage, where the Local Plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State the subject to scrutiny by an independent Planning Inspector who will assess it for its the legal compliance and soundness.
4. Finally, the adoption stage, where the Local Plan formally becomes part of the development plan.

2.9 These stages are further explained in Figure 1 below. Consultation with different groups is guided by the council's Statement of Community Involvement

Figure 1: Local Plan Process



\* These stages can be undertaken as a number of separate stages or as one Draft Options Stage

### **What is the timetable for the preparation of the Local Plans?**

2.10 Figure 2 below summarises the key stages for the preparation of the Local Plans.

Figure 2 Purpose, stages and dates for producing Local Plans (2016 to 2023)

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Purpose of Stage</b>	<b>Minerals and Waste Local Plan</b>	<b>Local Plan Update</b>
<b>Early Stakeholder &amp; Community Engagement</b>	Early evidence gathering stage, which may include the public and relevant stakeholders. This produces an evidence base from which to form policies	June 2016 (start)	Oct 2015 (start)
<b>Scoping Report consultation</b>	Consultation on what sustainability objectives (social, economic and environmental) should be used to assess whether the Local Plan is sustainable	Sep 2016 – Mar 2017	Nov – Dec 2015
<b>Issues &amp; Options Consultation +</b>	Consultation stage giving the public/stakeholders a first opportunity to shape proposed options and identify issues.	Mar - Sep 2017	Aug – Sep 2016
<b>Spatial Options consultation ('Homes for the Future')</b>	Consultation stage giving the public/stakeholders the opportunity to comment on all the sites promoted to the council for future development		November 2018 – February 2019
<b>Draft Plan consultation +</b>	Further consultation stage, taking account of comments made at earlier (Issues & Options) stage (if required), which will set out the preferred options.  At this stage evidence is still being gathered, and this is the first opportunity for the public/stakeholders to respond to the content of the plan, including proposed site allocations. The Plan can still be changed after this stage.	August - October 2018	February – March 2020
<b>Focussed consultation: Sand and Gravel</b>	Consultations stage giving the public/stakeholders opportunity to comment on new sites promoted for	February – March 2020	

Stage	Purpose of Stage	Minerals and Waste Local Plan	Local Plan Update
<b>Provision and Operator Performance</b>	future mineral extraction, and a proposed approach to 'Areas of Search' and operator performance		
<b>Consultation on Proposed Submission Document</b>	This takes account of comments made at the earlier Draft Plan stage.  Consultation on proposed submission document; allowing the public/stakeholders to review and comment on its justification, effectiveness, consistency with national policy and whether it meets its development and infrastructure requirements.	June – September 2020	September – October 2020
<b>Submit to Secretary of State#</b>	Document submitted to the Secretary of State who appoints Planning Inspector to oversee public examination.	Winter 2020	Winter 2020
<b>Pre Hearing Meeting*</b>	Planning Inspector decides whether a pre hearing meeting is required.	Winter 2020	Winter 2020
<b>Examination</b>	Planning Inspector holds public hearings to examine whether the document is "sound" ( <a href="#">see paragraph 35 of National Planning Policy Framework</a> .) There is an opportunity for those who commented at the proposed submission stage to present their views/suggested changes at the hearings. Date depends on whether Planning Inspectorate consider that a pre hearing meeting is necessary	Spring 2021	Spring 2021
<b>Inspector's Report received~</b>	Report received stating whether document is "sound."	Autumn 2021	Autumn 2021
<b>Adoption</b>	Document is officially adopted and becomes policy.	Winter 2021	Winter 2021

^ Saved policies are those which are still used to determine planning applications following the decision of the Secretary of State on 24/9/07

# Assumes that only minor changes, i.e. typographical changes are needed following consultation on the Proposed Submission document

\*The Planning Inspectorate usually decides whether a Pre-Hearing meeting is needed. This could affect timing of subsequent stages.

~Assumes no further consultation on main modifications necessary following examination hearings

+ These stages can be undertaken as a number of separate stages or as one Draft Options Stage

## **3.0 OTHER PLANS**

### **Neighbourhood Development Plans**

- 3.1 Parish and Town Councils can now prepare Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) and/or Orders. The production of a NDP or Order has to be instigated by the relevant Parish or Town Council and does not form part of this LDS which reflects council plans.
- 3.2 Once adopted, NDPs form part of the development plan.
- 3.3 Any NDP must be in general conformity with 'strategic policies' in the Local Plan and with Government policy. NDPs are not able to propose lower levels of development than those set out in up to date Local Plans but could propose higher levels. Before an NDP is adopted it must be subject to a referendum. If over 50% of the votes are in favour the local planning authority would have a duty to adopt the NDP unless it does not meet regulations. Further information on neighbourhood planning can be found via <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/neighbourhood-planning/>
- 3.4 Within WBC there is currently one completed NPD for Shinfield Parish. The Arborfield and Barkham Neighbourhood Plan, prepared by Arborfield and Newland Parish Council and Barkham Parish Council will be subject to a referendum on 6 February 2020. A number of other NDPs are being worked on by Parish Councils. Further information is available on the website: <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/neighbourhood-planning/>

### **Supplementary Plans**

- 3.5 Supplementary Planning Documents and other forms of supplementary guidance provide more advice to explain the policies and proposals set out in the Local Plan. Unlike Local Plans, their preparation is not subject to examination, however consultation is a key element of their preparation.