

Local Development Scheme

Summer 2021



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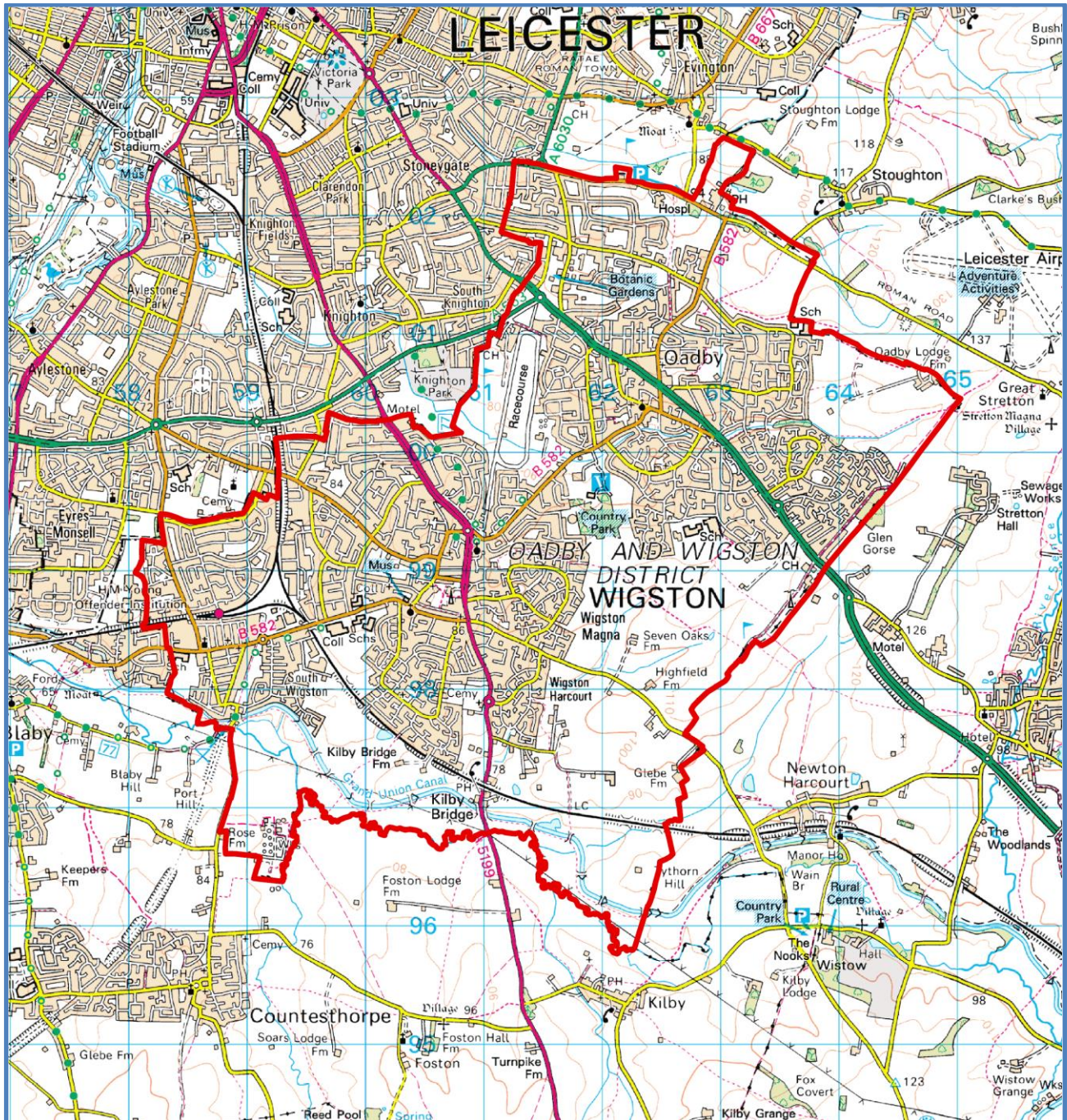
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a document which contains a local authority's timetable / programme of works for the production of their Development Plan and other planning related documents. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) requires local planning authorities to prepare, maintain and publish an LDS. This enables local communities and stakeholders to find out which key planning documents are to be prepared for the area within the foreseeable future.
- 1.2 The Council seeks to update its LDS approximately every two to three years, with this LDS updating the Council's previously adopted LDS of autumn 2018. This LDS will cover the period summer 2021 to autumn / winter 2023.
- 1.3 This LDS will outline the Council's timetable for adopting the new Local Plan. It also makes reference, where relevant to other planning related documentation, such as Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) (and planning guidance), however does not set out any specific programme for future SPD, due to the focus of resource being on the production of the new Local Plan. Having such information and timetabling enables the community, businesses, developers, service and infrastructure providers and other interested organisations to know which planning related documents are being and / or are to be prepared for the Borough area and when they will be able to participate in public consultation.
- 1.4 The Council is committed to working with its partners, stakeholders and all members of the local community in the preparation of new planning policy. Together, the LDS and the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) set out how and when the aforementioned can participate in the process. External participation throughout the process is integral to shaping the Boroughs future.
- 1.5 The Council's most up to date LDS will be published on its website – www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk

2. Geographical coverage area

- 2.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) requires local planning authorities to set out the geographical area to which each planning document set out in this Local Development Scheme (LDS) applies.
- 2.2 The extent of the coverage area for the Development Plan, is the administrative local authority boundary of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston (see redline boundary in map below).



3. The Planning System

- 3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was first published on 27th March 2012 and came into immediate effect. The NPPF document has been reviewed and updated by Government a number of times since. The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It also provides a framework in which local authorities can produce their own distinctive Local Plans.
- 3.2 The NPPF confirms that the planning system is “plan-led” which means that planning applications have to be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 3.3 The NPPF also confirms that the policies in emerging plans will gather more weight as development plans progress towards adoption.
- 3.4 During March 2014 the government published the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) which gives further guidance on specific aspects of the planning system, for example the Duty to Cooperate and housing and economic land availability assessments. The NPPG is a web-based ‘live’ resource and is updated on a regular basis by Government as and when required to do so.

4. The Council's current Development Plan

- 4.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that a local authorities Development Plan comprises adopted Local Plans, Neighbourhood Plans, and the London Plan (where relevant). A local authorities Development Plan can also be supplemented by Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) and relevant local planning guidance.
- 4.2 The Council's current Development Plan comprises the adopted Local Plan April 2019 (and its associated Adopted Policies Map) that sets out the spatial and development strategy for the Borough area for the period up to 2031. The Borough area does not currently have any adopted Neighbourhood Plans. The Council's Local Plan is supplemented by the following SPD and local planning guidance:
- Residential Development SPD
 - Conservation Areas SPD
 - Developer Contributions SPD
 - Public Realm Strategy SPD
 - Identified Employment Land SPD
 - Town and District Centre guidance
 - Supplementary local development control planning guidance
- 4.3 The Council forms part of a two tier local government structure. The Council comprises the lower tier and the planning function for the local authority area; the upper tier is coordinated by Leicestershire County Council. It is therefore the County Council that produce and manage the delivery of Minerals and Waste Plans.

5. The Council's Local Plan

- 5.1 National planning policy places Local Plans at the very heart of the planning system. It is essential that they are in place and kept up to date. The Council's adopted Local Plan was adopted on the 16th April 2019.
- 5.2 The Council's Local Plan sets out the vision, framework and spatial strategy for the future development of the entire Borough area for the period 2011 to 2031. The Plan addresses the needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure; it also safeguards vital green open spaces and the environment, and illustrates how the Borough area can secure high quality sustainable design.
- 5.3 The Local Plan is also a critical tool in guiding decisions about individual development proposals, as the Plan is the starting-point for considering whether applications for development can be approved.
- 5.4 Government planning policy and guidance sets out the local planning authorities should review their Local Plans at least every 5 years from the date of adoption, to ensure that they are up to date and based on the most reliable and up to date evidence. It is also clear from national planning policy and guidance that relevant local policies for the supply of housing should not be considered up to date if the local authority cannot demonstrate a 5 year supply of deliverable housing sites.
- 5.5 The Council monitors the policies set out within the Local Plan on an annual basis through the production of the Annual Monitoring Report and other associated monitoring documents.
- 5.6 It should be noted that the Council's current adopted Local Plan, has not been considered out of date. The Council has taken the decision to be proactive in the preparation of its next Local Plan after taking into consideration the recent Government announcement that sets out that all local authorities should have an up-to-date Local Plan in place by the end of 2023.

6. Timetable for new Development Plan Documents

- 6.1 The following tables set out the delivery of the Council's Local Plan and the related planning documents that the Council will be preparing over the next 2 – 3 year period.
- 6.2 A profile for each document is provided, that sets out the documents role and subject, its geographical coverage and its planning status. A timetable of preparation is also illustrated for each document. It should be noted that although the Council will seek to follow the preparation timetables, it is difficult to be precise at the outset, therefore timings should be regarded as indicative. Should there be a need to update the preparation timings of a particular document this will be done so through regular review and will be highlighted on the Borough's dedicated Local Development Scheme (LDS) webpage.
- 6.3 It should be noted that the production of each of the documents set out in this chapter will be done so in conformity with the Duty to Cooperate, as well as the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

New Local Plan – Overview

Role and Subject	The Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan document provides the overall spatial and development strategy for the Borough area for the period up to 2041. It contains both strategic and specific planning policy, as well as relevant designations and allocations. All planning decisions made within the Borough will need to be consistent with the Council's Local Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
Geographical coverage area	The entire Borough area
Planning status	Development Plan Document
Conforms to	the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
Timetable (key stages) Initial Call for sites Regulation 18 (Issues and Options) Regulation 18 (Preferred Options) Pre-Submission Consultation Submission to the Planning Inspectorate Examination Hearing Sessions Receipt of Inspectors Report Adoption	September 2020 to November 2020 August to September 2021 May to June 2022 May to June 2023 June 2023 August / September 2023 September / October 2023 December 2023
Production arrangements Lead section Project Manager Internal resources External resources Community Involvement	Planning Policy Planning Policy Manager All internal Council departments Specific expert consultants As per the Council's SCI

Adopted Policies Map – Overview

Role and Subject	The Adopted Policies Map is directly related to the Council's new Local Plan and illustrates the Plans key proposals, relevant policy areas, designations, allocations and locations of development within the Borough area.
Geographical coverage area	The entire Borough area
Planning status	Local Plan Adopted Policies Map
Conforms to	The new Local Plan and NPPF
Timetable (key stages)	The Adopted Policies Map is produced alongside the Council's Local Plan and will be published alongside the Council's Local Plan during December 2023.
Production arrangements Lead section Project Manager Internal resources External resources Community Involvement	Planning Policy Planning Policy Manager Planning Policy and Regeneration Leicestershire County Council As per the Council's SCI

7. Other new documents

- 7.1 In addition to the documents highlighted in Chapter 6 of this document, the Council will also be producing a number of other planning related documents that will assist in the production and delivery of the new Local Plan.
- 7.2 The additional planning related documents that the Council will be producing over the next two – three years will include; guidance relating to the Borough's town and district centres; guidance relating to climate change and renewable energy; and, guidance relating to high quality design and use of high quality materials.
- 7.3 In addition to the guidance documents set out above, the Council regularly update its evidence base documents, and will continue to do so. For example, over the next two – three years, the Council will be updating evidence relating to housing need, employment need, highway capacity and sustainable transport and viability.
- 7.4 It should be noted that a Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment) will be produced for each Development Plan Document (DPD) that the Council produces, as well as Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) where relevant to do so.

8. Resourcing document production

- 8.1 The successful completion of the programme of works outlined in Chapter 6 of this document will be very challenging for the Council. The programme of works will be completed in the main by the Council's Planning Policy team. The Planning Policy team consists of; a Planning Policy Manager post; a Planning Officer (Senior) post; a Planning Officer post; and, a joint Planning Policy / Planning Control Officer post.
- 8.2 Of the posts illustrated above, the following resources will need to be made available to ensure delivery of the programme of works.

Post	Percentage of Time (%)
Planning Policy Manager	60 - 70 %
Planning Officer (Senior)	80 - 85 %
Planning Officer	80 - 85 %
Planning Policy / Planning Control Officer	40 - 45% (of the 50% available)

- 8.3 In addition to that highlighted above, limited staff resources will be required from a number of other Council teams, including – the Planning Control team, the Economic Regeneration team, the Planning Technical and Administration team, as well as the ICT and Legal Departments of the Council.

Councillors

- 8.4 As well as Council officer time, the successful completion of the programme of works outlined in Chapter 6 of this document will require Councillor time. A cross party Place Shaping Member Working Group involving elected Members meets throughout the calendar year to discuss the Local Plan as well as other planning related projects. The group has the following terms of reference:
- Provide input in relation to issues where guidance from Councillors is required
 - Provide advice on issues where guidance is needed quickly in order to meet milestones set out in this Local Development Scheme (LDS)
 - Provide advice on the various methods for undertaking public consultation
 - Represent the Council in relation to Local Plan issues, including chairing meetings and providing statements to the press through official press releases and interviews.
- 8.5 Place Shaping Member Working Group does not make decisions regarding the Council's Development Plan or related documentation. Such decisions are made at Full Council or Policy, Finance and Development Committee depending on the nature of the decision required. Through reporting to the committee's and working groups, Councillors will have the opportunity to shape the planning related documents set out in this LDS. It is vitally important that Councillors have these opportunities.

9. Risks to delivery of the programme of works

9.1 A number of 'risks' could arise over the next two – three year period, which could affect the delivery of the programme of works set out in this Local Development Scheme (LDS). A number of potential risks are outlined below.

Potential Risk	Likelihood	Notes	Action
Insufficient staff resource available.	High	Being a small local authority, the Planning Policy team has required involvement in many projects not necessarily associated to planning policy. The Planning Policy team is involved in an ever broadening work programme. In addition, should experienced staff leave the authority, recruiting equivalent experience and knowledge could be extremely challenging.	Continue to work as efficiently as possible. Be able to concentrate on the production of the Local Plan. The completion of the work programme outlined in this LDS is the priority for the Planning Policy team.
Duty to Cooperate delays	High	The Duty to Cooperate requires local authorities to work together spatially and produce joint pieces of evidence base work. Delays can occur from the different governance processes.	The Council will continue to work closely with local authorities and will timetable work and projects accordingly, taking account of potential delays.
Loss of financial resource due to government funding cuts.	Medium to High	Government funding cuts have already required the Council to review its staffing structure and use of external expertise. Further structure reviews and use of external expertise could be required.	Continue to work as efficiently as possible. Always seek cost savings where possible as well as 'value for money' opportunities.
Missing project milestones and deadlines set out in this Local Development Scheme.	Medium to High	The Planning Policy team is undertaking an ever increasing and diverse workload and is seeking to achieve an ambitious Local Plan production timetable.	Continue to work as efficiently as possible. Use external resources where relevant and appropriate to do so.
Lack of public interest in the planning process.	Medium	The general public may not want to get involved in the planning process.	The Borough Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how the Council will consult with the public. The SCI sets out how the Council goes 'above and beyond' when consulting the public to ensure that as many people as possible can get involved.
Planning Inspectorate taking time to assess the Plan	Medium	The timetabling and requirements of the Planning Inspectorate are beyond the Council's control and the Council can only be reactive once the plan is submitted for examination.	Continue to work as efficiently as possible. Use external resources where relevant and appropriate to do so.
Pandemic slowing the production process	Low to Medium	The recent Covid-19 Pandemic could not have been foreseen and has had an impact on plan preparation processes. It is likely that further period of restrictions due to Covid-19 could slow the production process.	Local Planning Authorities are instructed by Government to continue with plan making and some flexibilities have been introduced to facilitate this.

10. Monitoring and review

- 10.1 A number of planning monitoring reports, for example the Residential Land Availability Assessment and the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, are produced on an annual basis by the Council to feed into the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). This all-encompassing report (AMR) is produced each year and published on the Council's website. The report assesses progress towards the implementation of the Local Development Scheme, and the extent to which the policies in Council's Development Plan are being achieved. If necessary, the Local Development Scheme will be revised in light of these monitoring reports.