



Policy, Finance and Development Committee	Tuesday, 04 February 2025	Matter for Decision
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Report Title: **Local Development Scheme (February 2025)**

Report Author(s): **Lisa Chevallereau (Planning Policy and Monitoring Officer)**

Purpose of Report:	This report seeks Committee's approval for the adoption of the revised Local Development Scheme as the Council's most up to date Local Development Scheme.
Report Summary:	<p>The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a statutory document that sets out the Council's proposal for the preparation of the Local Plan and other planning policy documents. The LDS is a statutory document that is required by Government and needs to be kept up to date.</p> <p>The LDS has been produced in line with the recent Government changes made to Annex 1 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published on Thursday 12 December 2024. Changes set out in the new NPPF requires the Council to take account of a much larger Local Housing Need (LHN) figure. The LDS details the revised timescales for the Council to fully assess the new LHN and progress with plan-making as per the transitional arrangements set out in Annex 1 of the NPPF.</p> <p>The Local Development Scheme establishes a programme of work for the period Spring 2025 to Spring / Summer 2027 and identifies the milestones that the Council will need to meet.</p> <p>The Local Development Scheme will ensure that planning policy and guidance documents are robust, up to date and in line with the project milestones and timescales.</p> <p>Having up to date planning policy and guidance documents ensures that the Council is able to make robust, justified and informed planning decisions. It also reduces the risk of developer appeals.</p>
Recommendation(s):	That the Local Development Scheme (February 2025) be approved.
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	<p>Teresa Neal (Strategic Director) teresa.neal@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Adrian Thorpe (Head of Built Environment) (0116) 257 2645 adrian.thorpe@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Jamie Carr (Planning Policy and Development Manager) (0116) 257 2652 jamie.carr@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Ed Morgan (Principal Planning Policy Officer)</p>

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Strategic Objectives:	Our Council (SO1) Our Communities (SO2) Our Economy (SO3) Our Environment (SO4) Our Partners (SO5)
Vision and Values:	"Our Borough - The Place To Be" (Vision) Customer & Community Focused (V1)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Financial:	The implications are as set out at paragraph 1.6 of this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Regulatory Governance (CR6)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	None.
Appendices:	1. Local Development Scheme February 2025

1. Information

- 1.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a statutory document that sets out the Council's proposal for the preparation of the Local Plan and other planning policy documents. The LDS is a statutory document that is required by Government and needs to be kept up to date.
- 1.2 On a periodic basis, the Local Development Scheme is updated to reflect the ongoing preparation and development of the Council's Local Plan and other planning policy related

documents, for example, Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents such as the Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document.

- 1.3 The Local Development Scheme breaks down the preparation of the Local Plan and other planning policy related documents into specific stages and gives a timescale by which these stages will be completed as well as outlining the potential risks to meeting these timescales.
- 1.4 This LDS is not a periodic review, but has been produced to ensure that the Plan is prepared in accordance with timescales set by the Government in Annex 1 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published by the Government on Thursday 12 December 2024. Whilst the new Local Plan production was progressing well and has reached Regulation 19 stage, recent Government announcements and changes to the NPPF has changed the planning framework landscape for the Borough area. Changes set out in the new NPPF require the Council to take account of a significantly higher Local Housing Need (LHN) figure. The Council is now required to deliver 382 new homes per year, rather than the 240 per year previously being planned for. The Council must now pause and reassess relevant evidence to give consideration to the Borough's ability to accommodate the new LHN figure over the Plan period. In line with Annex 1 of the new NPPF, the Council should then proceed to examination by Friday, 12 June 2026. The Council is hamstrung, in that it has been forced into a position to pause and take account of the new larger housing figure. The Council cannot refuse to take account of the enlarged housing needs figure, as it is under a statutory duty to produce an up-to-date Local Plan.
- 1.5 It is important that the Council has an up-to-date Local Plan to manage development as the Council could otherwise be forced into a position where it must permit poor development and poor contributions to local infrastructure without control on the location of such growth. By meeting the deadline, the Council ensures a level of continued control on forthcoming development and its infrastructure requirements and allows for a smooth transition into the new Local Plan period.
- 1.6 The Council has submitted an expression of interest to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to seek a grant for the additional funding that has been identified by Government to help Councils in this 'pause' position to cover the costs of additional work on the Local Plan.
- 1.7 The various milestones set out for the new Local Plan within the February 2025 Local Development Scheme are as set out below:
 - Call for Sites: 6-week consultation between March and April 2025
 - Local Housing Need and NPPF Conformity Consultation Document: 6-week consultation between June and July 2025
 - Regulation 19 Pre-Submission Consultation: 6-week consultation between February and March 2026
 - Regulation 22 Submission to the Planning Inspectorate: Process to Examination by 12 June 2026
 - Regulation 24 Estimated Examination Hearing Sessions: Dependent on the Planning Inspectorate, however likely within 6 months of submission date
 - Regulation 26 Adoption: Likely Spring / Summer 2027 (date dependant on the Planning Inspectorate)
- 1.8 The need to amend the Local Development Scheme is to ensure that planning policy and

guidance documents are robust, up to date and in line with the target of Local Plan Submission by Friday, 12 June 2026.

- 1.9 More detailed information regarding preparation timescales and the key milestones for Local Development Documents is contained within the Local Development Scheme document.