

Local Development Scheme

February 2025

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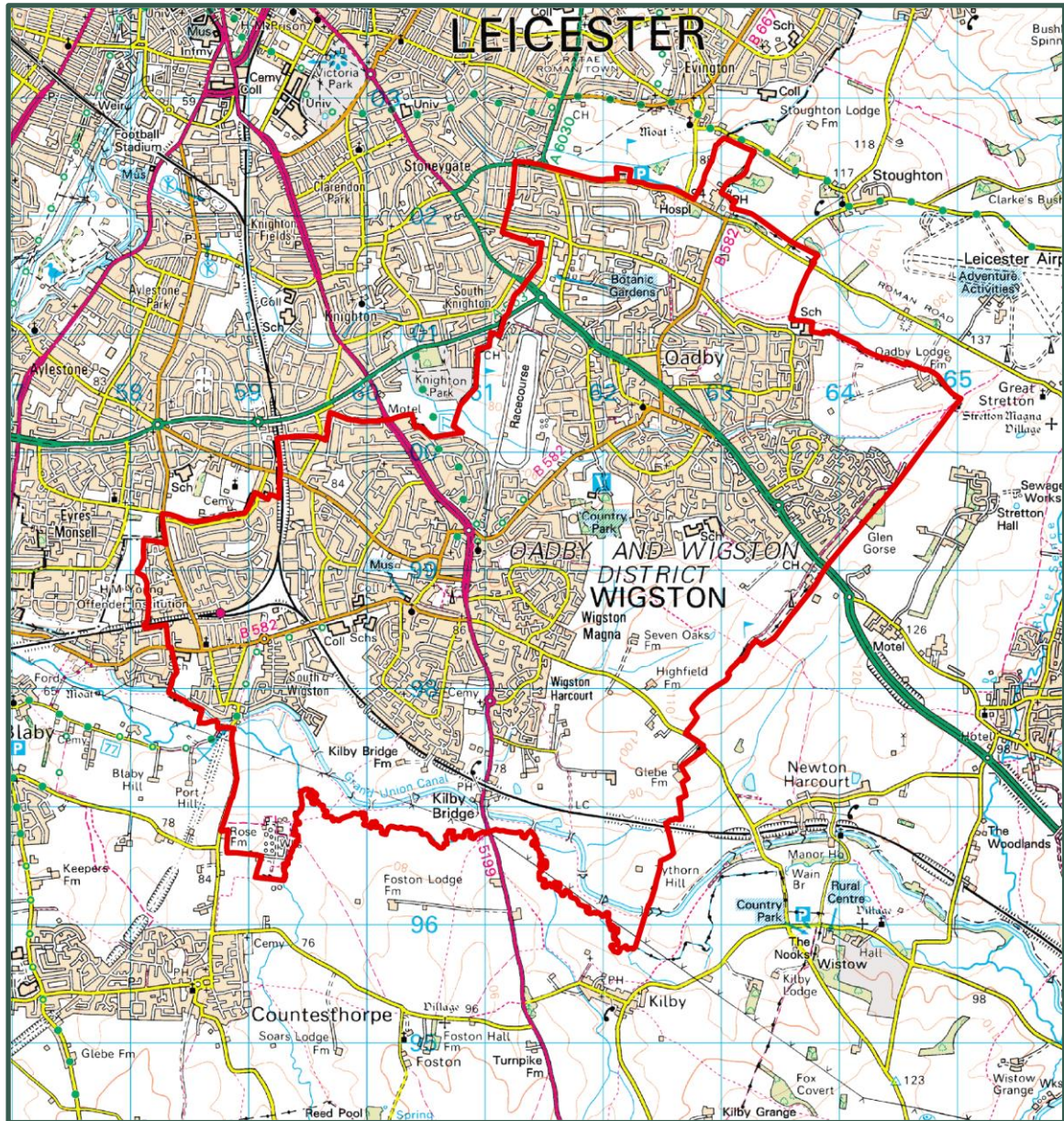
1. Introduction

- 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 generally seeks to update its LDS approximately every two to three years, however this LDS is updating the Council's previously adopted LDS of Autumn 2024. This LDS will cover the period Spring 2025 to Spring / Summer 2027. This update has been produced due to recent changes made to Annex 1 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published by the Government 12th December 2024. Annex 1 of the NPPF focusses on Local Plan production and transitional arrangements. In short, the Council has needed to revise its current new Local Plan production timetable because Government has significantly increased the Borough's Local Housing Need (LHN).
- 1.3 This LDS will outline the Council's timetable for producing 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 stakeholders can participate in the process. External participation throughout the process is integral to shaping the Borough's 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, with the latest version having been published in December 2024. 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 dictate 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 authority's Development Plan comprises adopted Local Plans, Neighbourhood Plans, and the London Plan (where relevant). A local authority's 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
- 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 current Local Plan was adopted on Tuesday 16 April 2019.
- 5.2 The Council's Local Plan sets out the vision, framework, and spatial strategy for all future development within 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 planning 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 that 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. These are all available on the Council's website.
- 5.6 It should be noted that the Council's current adopted Local Plan is not considered out of date. However, the Council took the decision to be proactive in the preparation of its next Local Plan. New Local Plan production was progressing well and had reached Regulation 19 stage, when the recent Government announcements and changes to the NPPF changed the planning framework landscape for the Borough area. Changes set out in the new NPPF requires the Council to take account of a much larger Local Housing Need (LHN) figure. To ensure that this new LHN is fully assessed, the Council is pausing the new Local Plan production and will progress as per the transitional arrangements set out in Annex 1 of the NPPF.
- 5.7 The Council will continue to proactively work to deliver a New Local Plan within this timeframe. It should be noted that the date of adoption is very much in the hands of the Planning Inspectorate once the Council submits the new Plan for Examination.

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 two-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 and consultation 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).

Table 1. Local Plan Development Plan Document

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 at least 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
Document Type	Development Plan Document
Chain of Conformity	The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and National Planning Practice Guidance.
Timetable (key stages)	
Call for Sites	9 weeks between September 2020 and November 2020, followed by 6 weeks between September 2021 and October 2021 alongside the Regulation 18A Public Consultation on the emerging new Local Plan Issues and Options Draft. Most recently there has also been a Call for Sites for 6 weeks between April and May 2024 alongside the Regulation 18B Public Consultation on the emerging new Local Plan Preferred Options consultation.
Regulation 18a (Issues and Options)	6 week consultation between September 2021 and October 2021
Regulation 18b (Preferred Options)	6 week consultation between April and May 2024
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	Proceed 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)
Production Arrangements	
Lead Section	Planning Policy
Project Manager(s)	Principal Planning Policy Officer

Internal resources	All internal Council departments
External resources	Specific expert consultants
Community Involvement	As per the Council's SCI

Table 2. Adopted Policies Map

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
Document Type	Local Plan Adopted Policies Map
Chain of Conformity	The new Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
Timetable (key stages)	
Stage	The Adopted Policies Map is produced alongside the Council's Local Plan and will be published alongside the Council's new Local Plan.
Production Arrangements	
Lead Section	Planning Policy
Project Manager(s)	Planning Policy and Development Manager and Principal Planning Policy Officer
Internal resources	Planning Policy and Regeneration
External resources	Leicestershire County Council
Community Involvement	As per the Council's SCI

7. Other New Documents

- 7.1 The Council regularly updates its evidence base documents, and will continue to do so. For example, over the next two years, the Council could be updating evidence relating to housing need, employment need, highway capacity and sustainable transport and viability.
- 7.2 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 Principal Planning Policy Officer post; a Senior Planning Policy Officer post; and a Planning Policy and Monitoring Officer post. The Planning Policy and Development Manager post (overseeing the whole Planning section) will need to make an element of time available also.
- 8.2 Of the posts illustrated above, the following resources will need to be made available to ensure delivery of the programme of works.

Table 3. Officer Time spent on Local Plan Production

Post	Approximate Percentage of Time (%)
Planning Policy and Development Manager	25 %
Principal Planning Policy Officer	90 - 95 %
Senior Planning Policy Officer	95 - 100 %
Planning Policy and Monitoring Officer	95 - 100 %

- 8.3 In addition to that highlighted above, limited staff resources will be required from a number of other Council teams, including but not limited to; the Development Control Team, the Economic Regeneration Team, the Planning Technical and Administration Team, as well as the ICT and Legal Departments of the Council.
- 8.4 Further still, a significant amount of consultant advice and time will be needed to evidence the Council's new Local Plan, specifically on topic areas that the Council does not have the expertise in, for example, highways and transport.

Councillors

- 8.5 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 and Climate Change 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.
- 8.6 The Place Shaping and Climate Change 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, all member briefings 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-year period, which could affect the delivery of the programme of works set out in this Local Development Scheme (LDS). In line with the Council's adopted [Risk Management Policy](#), all risks have been assessed twice. The first score is given when evaluating the risk before controls are in place to minimise the risk, and the second and final score is given after controls have been evaluated.

9.2 The risks are outlined and explained in table 4 below. The scoring of these risks is then shown in table 5. All risks and their scores will be kept under review by the Council's planning policy team.

Table 4. Outline of risks

Risk	Risk Explained
Insufficient staff resource available.	The Planning Policy is a very small team compared to most. The amount of Planning Policy work that is required means that the team is always at capacity. Further, 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, which adds additional resource implications. In addition, should experienced staff leave the authority, recruiting equivalent experience and knowledge could be extremely challenging.
New Planning Framework	The new Government could introduce a new planning framework that would supersede the current plan making system.
Duty to Cooperate delays.	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.
Loss of financial resource due to government funding cuts.	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.
Missing project milestones and deadlines set out in this LDS.	The Planning Policy team is undertaking an ever increasing and diverse workload and is seeking to achieve an ambitious Local Plan production timetable.
Lack of public interest in the planning process.	The general public may not want to get involved in the planning process.
Planning Inspectorate taking time to assess the Plan.	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.

Table 5. Risk Assessment scores before and after controls to minimise risks have been evaluated.

Risk	Likelihood of risk before control	Impact of risk before control	Initial risk score ¹	Controls and action in place to minimise the risk	Likelihood of risk after control	Impact of risk after control	Final risk score
Insufficient staff resource available.	3 (Significant)	4 (Major)	Medium	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.	2 (Possible)	3 (Significant)	Medium
New Planning Framework and Devolution White Paper.	4 (Major)	4 (Major)	Medium	Continue to work as efficiently as possible.	3 (Significant)	3 (Significant)	Medium
Duty to Cooperate delays.	3 (Significant)	4 (Major)	Medium	The Council will continue to work closely with local authorities and will timetable work and projects accordingly, taking account of potential delays.	3 (Significant)	3 (Significant)	Medium
Loss of financial resource due to government funding cuts.	3 (Significant)	4 (Major)	Medium	Continue to work as efficiently as possible. Always seek cost savings where possible as well as 'value for money' opportunities.	3 (Significant)	3 (Significant)	Medium
Missing project milestones and deadlines set out in this LDS.	3 (Significant)	4 (Major)	Medium	Continue to work as efficiently as possible. Use external resources where relevant and appropriate to do so.	2 (Possible)	4 (Major)	Medium
Lack of public interest in the planning process.	2 (Possible)	2 (Minor)	Medium	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	2 (Possible)	2 (Minor)	Medium

¹ Overall risk score is calculated by multiplying likelihood and impact, where a score of 3 or below results in an overall score of low, 4-9 is medium and 10 or above is classed as high.

				the public to ensure that as many people as possible can get involved.			
Planning Inspectorate taking time to assess the Plan.	3 (Significant)	4 (Major)	Medium	Continue to work as efficiently as possible. Use external resources where relevant and appropriate to do so.	2 (Possible)	4 (Major)	Medium

10. Monitoring and Review

- 10.1 A number of planning monitoring reports, for example the Residential Land Availability Assessment and the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment, are produced on an annual basis by the Council to feed into the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR - formerly known as an Annual Monitoring Report). 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.