

# Local Development Scheme

Spring 2024

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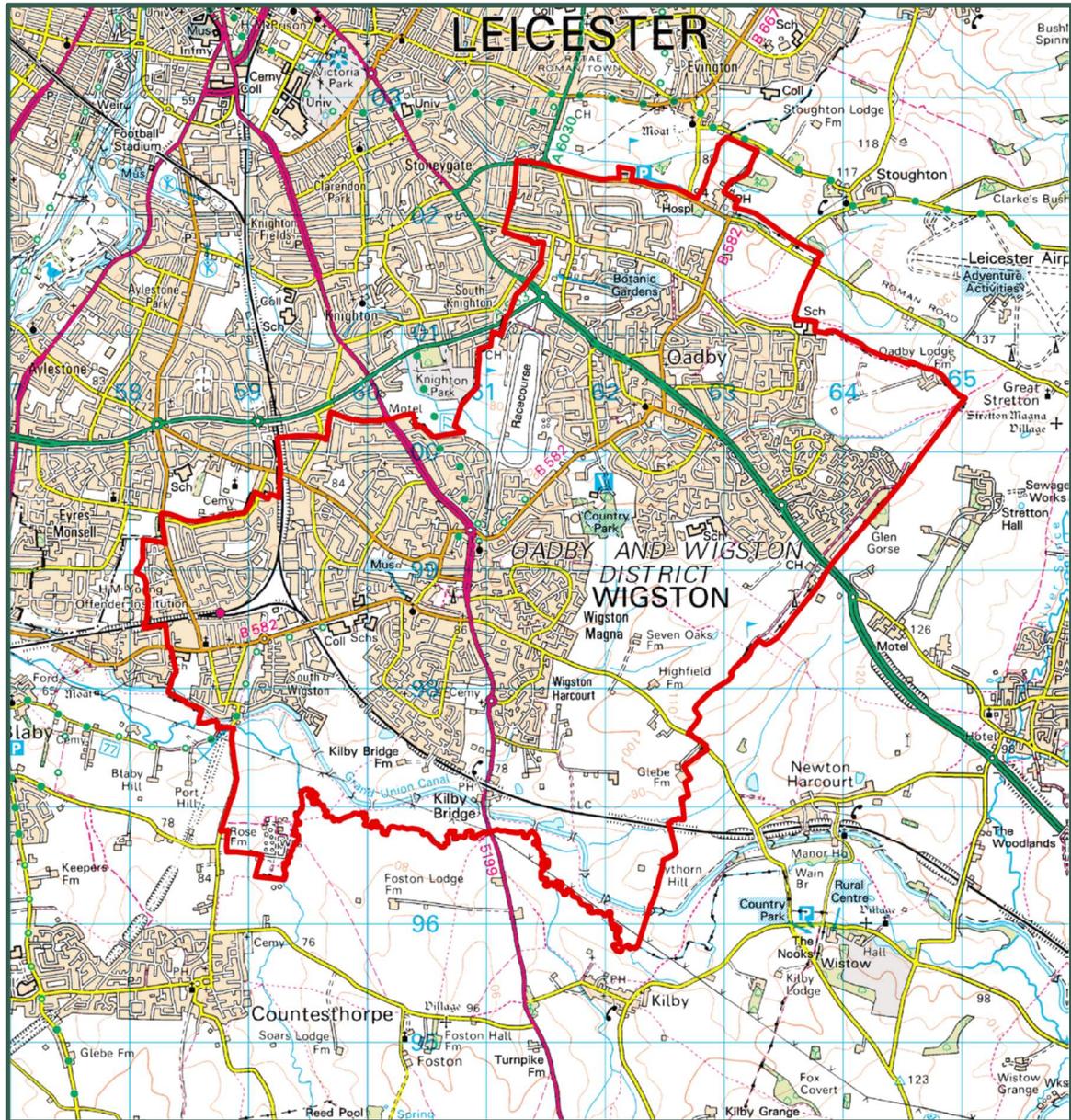
# 1. Introduction

- 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, and this LDS is updating the Council's previously adopted LDS of Winter 2022. This LDS will cover the period Spring 2024 to Summer / Autumn 2026.
- 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 Boroughs future.
- 1.5 The Council's most up to date LDS will be published on its website – [www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk](http://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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 updated in December 2023. 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 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 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 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 has taken the decision to be proactive in the preparation of its next Local Plan after taking into consideration the Government announcement that set out that all local authorities should proactively work towards having an up-to-date Local Plan submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by June 2025.
- 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 - three 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**

<b>New Local Plan Overview</b>	
<b>Role and Subject</b>	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.
<b>Geographical coverage area</b>	The entire Borough area
<b>Document Type</b>	Development Plan Document
<b>Chain of Conformity</b>	The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), National Planning Practice Guidance and reflect the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan
<b>Timetable (key stages)</b>	
<b>Initial Call for sites</b>	Autumn 2020 and 2021
<b>Regulation 18a (Issues and Options)</b>	Autumn 2021
<b>Regulation 18b (Preferred Options)</b>	Spring 2024
<b>Regulation 19 Pre-Submission Consultation</b>	Spring 2025
<b>Regulation 22 Submission to the Planning Inspectorate</b>	April 2025
<b>Regulation 24 Estimated Examination Hearing Sessions</b>	Autumn 2025 (date to be determined by the Planning Inspectorate)
<b>Main modifications, as recommended by the Independent Planning Inspectorate</b>	Winter / Spring 2026 (date to be determined by the Planning Inspectorate)
<b>Regulation 26 Adoption</b>	Summer / Autumn 2026 (date to be determined by the Planning Inspectorate)
<b>Production Arrangements</b>	
<b>Lead Section</b>	Planning Policy
<b>Project Manager(s)</b>	Planning Policy and Development Manager and Principal Planning Policy Officer
<b>Internal resources</b>	All internal Council departments
<b>External resources</b>	Specific expert consultants
<b>Community Involvement</b>	As per the Council's SCI

**Table 2. Adopted Policies Map**

<b>Adopted Policies Map Overview</b>	
<b>Role and Subject</b>	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.
<b>Geographical coverage area</b>	The entire Borough area
<b>Document Type</b>	Local Plan Adopted Policies Map
<b>Chain of Conformity</b>	The new Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
<b>Timetable (key stages)</b>	
<b>Stage</b>	The Adopted Policies Map is produced alongside the Council’s Local Plan and will be published alongside the Council’s Local Plan during Summer / Autumn 2026 (date to be determined by the Planning Inspectorate).
<b>Production Arrangements</b>	
<b>Lead Section</b>	Planning Policy
<b>Project Manager(s)</b>	Planning Policy and Development Manager and Principal Planning Policy Officer
<b>Internal resources</b>	Planning Policy and Regeneration
<b>External resources</b>	Leicestershire County Council
<b>Community Involvement</b>	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 could 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 could 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 and Development Manager post (overseeing the Planning Section); a Principal Planning Policy Officer post; a Senior Planning Policy Officer post; and a Planning Policy and Monitoring 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.

**Table 3. Officer Time spent on Local Plan Production**

Post	Percentage of Time (%)
Planning Policy and Development Manager	10 - 15 %
Principal Planning Policy Officer	80 - 85 %
Senior Planning Policy Officer	95 - 100 %
Planning Policy and Monitoring Officer	80 - 85 %

- 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.

### 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. Potential Risks to Delivery of the Programme of Works

9.1 A number of potential 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.

**Table 4. Potential Risks**

Potential Risk	Likelihood	Notes	Action
Insufficient staff resource available.	<b>Likely</b>	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	<b>Likely</b>	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.
Planning Inspectorate taking time to assess the Plan	<b>Likely</b>	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.
Loss of financial resource due to government funding cuts.	<b>Possible</b>	Government funding cuts have already required the Council to review its staffing structure and use of external expertise. Further structure reviews could mean that the use of additional external expertise could be required.	Local Plan funding has been set aside. 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.	<b>Possible</b>	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.	<b>Possible</b>	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.

## 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.