



**WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

www.westoxon.gov.uk

West Oxfordshire Local Development Scheme (LDS)

July 2024

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This is the West Oxfordshire District Council Local Development Scheme (LDS). It explains what planning policy documents the Council already has in place and what will be prepared during the three-year period February 2024 – February 2027.

2. West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031

- 2.1 The current [West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031](#) was formally adopted on 27 September 2018. The plan provides an overall framework for growth in the period up to 2031.
- 2.2 Because the Local Plan became five years old in September 2023, a [formal review](#) was undertaken in accordance with Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 2.3 The review concluded that although the adopted local plan policies remain generally consistent with national policy, many of them could usefully be strengthened and updated, in particular those policies relating to the plan's housing requirement given they are based on evidence dating from 2014.
- 2.4 Work on a new Local Plan to 2041 is therefore now well underway as outlined below.

3. West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2041

- 3.1 The District Council is currently in the process of producing a new Local Plan covering the period up to 2041.
- 3.2 The plan is currently at the Regulation 18 'plan preparation' stage, with two rounds of initial stakeholder engagement carried out in October 2022 and October 2023 respectively.
- 3.3 The first consultation sought general views on the overall scope of the new Local Plan. A [consultation summary report](#) has been made available online.
- 3.4 The second consultation started to explore draft plan objectives and potential patterns of development. It also included a specific call for sites, ideas and opportunities. A consultation summary report has again been made available online.
- 3.5 In terms of next steps, it is envisaged that a further Regulation 18 consultation will take place in October 2024. The primary purpose of this will be to set out a series of preferred policy options, drawing on national policy, the feedback received to date and supporting technical evidence.
- 3.6 Depending on the outcome of that consultation, it is anticipated that the Regulation 19 pre-submission draft plan will be published in March 2025.

- 3.7 The Council should then be in a position to formally submit the draft Local Plan for examination in June 2025 with a view to examination in autumn 2025.
- 3.8 Further information on the purpose, scope and timing of the Local Plan 2041 is set out at Appendix I.

4. Salt Cross Garden Village Area Action Plan (AAP)

- 4.1 A key element of the adopted Local Plan is the allocation of land to the north of the A40 near Eynsham for a new garden village of around 2,200 homes, together with business space and other supporting uses and facilities. The proposal is being supported by central Government through its locally led garden village, towns and cities programme.
- 4.2 The planning of the garden village is being led by a separate [Area Action Plan](#) (AAP) which, when adopted, will form part of the statutory development plan for West Oxfordshire.
- 4.3 The AAP was formally submitted for examination in February 2021, with examination hearing sessions held in June/July 2021. Following the hearing sessions, the appointed Planning Inspector wrote to the Council, effectively ‘pausing’ the examination and requesting further work on the phasing of infrastructure.
- 4.4 Subsequently, the Inspector wrote to the District Council on 26 May 2022 confirming that the AAP can be made ‘sound’ through a number of Main Modifications. Consultation on those modifications took place from 23 September to Friday 4 November 2022 and the Inspector’s Final Report¹ was received on 1 March 2023.
- 4.5 Subsequently however, a legal challenge was submitted by a third-party organisation called Rights Community Action (RCA). The challenge focused on the conclusions reached by the Inspector in relation to the soundness of AAP Policy 2 – Net Zero Carbon Development.
- 4.6 The case was heard in the High Court in November 2023 and the written judgement was handed down on the 20th February 2024. The subsequent order of 4th March 2024 confirmed that the claim for judicial review is allowed and that the Inspectors’ report into the Salt Cross Area Action Plan dated 1 March 2023 and the Inspectors’ proposed Main Modifications to the Salt Cross Area Action Plan are quashed, insofar as they relate to Policy 2 of the said Plan.

¹ <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/djkhe03s/salt-cross-aap-inspectors-report-main-mods-appendix-final.pdf>

- 4.7 As a result and having taken legal advice on the matter, Officers wrote to the Planning Inspectorate on 2 April 2024 to suggest that the examination be re-opened on a focused basis to re-consider Policy 2 and that a new Inspector should be appointed.
- 4.8 On 22 April 2024, the Planning Inspectorate confirmed that the examination has been re-opened and that a new Inspector - Helen Hockenhull BA(Hons) B.PI MRTPI has been appointed.
- 4.9 The following approximate timings are now anticipated to apply:
- Preparation of Main Modifications and supporting evidence – May to August 2024
 - Submission to Inspector – August 2024
 - Inspector prepares and publishes Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) – August to September 2024
 - Hearing session/s – October 2024
- 4.10 Timings beyond this will depend on the outcome of the examination including any need for public consultation on further Main Modifications to Policy 2. It is anticipated that the Council should be in a position to formally adopt the AAP by April 2025 or sooner if possible.
- 4.11 Further information on the purpose, scope and timing of the AAP is set out at Appendix I.

5. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

- 5.1 Supplementary planning documents do not form part of the statutory development plan but are important material considerations in the determination of planning applications. Their main purpose is to elaborate on specific local plan policies and explain in more detail how those policies will operate.
- 5.2 At present, the Council has four adopted SPDs:
- West Oxfordshire Design Guide SPD – adopted in 2016
 - Affordable Housing SPD – adopted in October 2021
 - Developer Contributions SPD – adopted in July 2023
 - Combe Village Design Statement SPD – adopted in July 2023
- 5.3 These are all available [online](#).
- Hanborough Station Masterplan*
- 5.4 The District Council has previously agreed to provide funding, in conjunction with Oxfordshire County Council, to commission a masterplan for Hanborough Station. Potentially, any such document could be taken forward as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) subject to due process.

- 5.5 At the current time, discussions remain ongoing between the District Council and County Council on the scope of the work and it is intended to be the subject of further dialogue with the Hanborough Station Sub-Group which will be reconvened in summer 2024.
- 5.6 Once the scope and timing of the project has been agreed, this will be reflected in an updated future iteration of the LDS.

6. Neighbourhood Planning

5.1 Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area.

5.2 There are currently nine adopted Neighbourhood Plans in West Oxfordshire including:

- Cassington Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 26 June 2023)
- Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 14 June 2021)
- Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 15 March 2016)
- Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 6 February 2020)
- Hailey Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 2 September 2019)
- Milton under Wychwood Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 26 June 2023)
- Shilton Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 2 September 2019)
- South Leigh Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 8 January 2019)
- Woodstock (adopted 23 January 2023)

5.3 There are six other Neighbourhood Plans currently in progress including:

- Ascott under Wychwood Neighbourhood Plan
- Brize Norton Neighbourhood Plan
- Ducklington Neighbourhood Plan
- North Leigh Neighbourhood Plan
- Stonesfield Neighbourhood Plan
- Wootton by Woodstock Neighbourhood Plan

5.4 Because the progress and timing of neighbourhood plans are beyond the control of the District Council, the LDS does not include any information on their anticipated timetables. Further information can however be obtained from the District Council's [website](#).

6. Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

6.1 A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) explains how local communities and other stakeholders will be engaged in the preparation of the Local Plan and other related documents. It also provides information about how local communities and other stakeholders will be engaged in relation to the determination of planning applications.

- 6.2 Local planning authorities are required to review their Statements of Community Involvement every 5 years with the Council’s most recent SCI being adopted in February 2020².
- 6.3 The Council will ensure that the SCI is updated prior to February 2025 – in particular to reflect the increased use of digital engagement tools, with the District Council having secured funding from central Government to develop its approach in this field.

7. LDF Monitoring Report

- 7.1 In accordance with national planning regulations the Council is required to produce a monitoring report addressing various matters including plan progress and implementation, neighbourhood planning, CIL (where applicable) and the duty to co-operate.
- 7.2 The Council’s most recently published monitoring report covers the period 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2023 and is available [online](#).

8. LDS availability and updates

- 8.1 The LDS must be made publicly available and kept up-to-date.
- 8.2 In terms of availability, a copy of this LDS is available [online](#)
- 8.3 Hard copies are also available in the locations listed in the following table.
- 8.4 The LDS will be updated annually or more often if there are any significant changes in timescales or documents being prepared.

² <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/jo0g3prh/statement-of-community-involvement.pdf>

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| <p>West Oxfordshire District Council Witney Town Centre Shop 3 Welch Way Witney OX28 6JH Tel: 01993 861000 Open: Monday – Friday 9am to 5pm</p> | <p>Witney Town Council Town Hall Market Square Witney OX28 6AG Tel: 01993 704379 Open: Mon, Tues and Thurs 8.30am to 5pm, Wed 9.30am to 5pm and Fri 8.30am to 4.30pm.</p> | <p>Carterton Town Council 19 Alvescot Road Carterton OX18 3JL Tel: 01993 842156 Open: Monday – Friday 9.30am to 4.00pm</p> |
| <p>Chipping Norton Town Council The Guildhall Market Place Chipping Norton OX7 5NJ Tel: 01608 642341 Open: Monday – Friday 9am to 1pm</p> | <p>Bampton Library Old Grammar School Church View Bampton OX18 2NE Tel: 01993 850076</p> | <p>Burford Library 86A High Street Burford OX18 4QF Tel: 01993 823377</p> |
| <p>Carterton Library 6 Alvescot Road Carterton OX18 3JH Tel: 01993 841492</p> | <p>Charlbury Library Charlbury Community Centre Enstone Road Charlbury OX7 3PQ Tel: 01608 811104</p> | <p>Chipping Norton Library Goddards Land Chipping Norton OX7 5NP Tel: 01608 643559</p> |
| <p>Eynsham Library 30 Mill Street Eynsham OX29 4JS Tel: 01865 880525</p> | <p>North Leigh Library Memorial Hall Park Road North Leigh OX29 6SA Tel: 01993 882935</p> | <p>Stonesfield Library Village Hall Longore Stonesfield OX29 8EF Tel: 01993 898187</p> |
| <p>Witney Library Welch Way Witney OX28 6JH Tel: 01993 703659</p> | <p>Woodstock Library The Oxfordshire Museum Fletcher's House Park Street Woodstock OX20 1SN Tel: 01993 814124 07759 140531</p> | <p>Wychwood Library 29 High Street Milton-under-Wychwood OX7 6LD Tel: 01993 830281</p> |

Appendix I – Document Profiles

| West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2041 | |
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| Status | Development Plan Document (DPD) |
| Overview | The Local Plan will set out the overall framework for future growth in West Oxfordshire to 2041. This is expected to include strategic policies dealing with the overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development as well as non-strategic policies dealing with other matters including site allocations and development management policies. |
| Geographical coverage | District-wide |
| Timetable | <p>Regulation 18 initial scoping consultation – August - October 2022 (COMPLETE)</p> <p>Regulation 18 focused consultation on draft plan objectives and spatial strategy options along with a ‘call for sites’ exercise – August – October 2023 (COMPLETE)</p> <p>Regulation 18 consultation on preferred policy options – October 2024</p> <p>Publication of pre-submission draft Local Plan (Regulation 19) – March 2025</p> <p>Submission of pre-submission draft Local Plan (Regulation 22) – June 2025</p> <p>Examination and adoption – 2025/26</p> |
| Conformity | Prepared in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). |
| Management arrangements | Document production to be led by the Council’s Planning Policy Team under the direction of the Planning Policy Manager. Cross Party Member Working Group established to oversee the process. |
| Resource requirements | Internal resources comprise the Council’s Planning Policy Team with input from other teams and services as appropriate via Local Plan Officer Working Group. External resources will be drawn upon in terms of the production of supporting technical evidence. |

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| Community engagement | Engagement to be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). |
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Salt Cross Garden Village Area Action Plan (AAP)

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| Status | Development Plan Document (DPD) |
| Overview | Supplements the Local Plan 2031 providing additional detail on the Oxfordshire Cotswolds Garden Village Strategic Location for Growth (SLG) – now referred to as Salt Cross Garden Village. The AAP will establish a vision for the garden village, supported by a series of core objectives and policies arranged on a thematic basis. A key focus of the AAP will be delivery and implementation. |
| Geographical coverage | Oxfordshire Cotswolds Garden Village Strategic Location for Growth (SLG) north of Eynsham |
| Timetable | <p>Submission – February 2021 (COMPLETE)</p> <p>Examination hearings – June/July 2021 (COMPLETE)</p> <p>Consultation on Main Modifications – September/November 2022 (COMPLETE)</p> <p>Inspector’s Report received – March 2023 (COMPLETE)</p> <p>Examination re-opened to consider Policy 2 - Net Zero Carbon Development – April 2024 (COMPLETE)</p> <p>Preparation of Main Modifications and supporting evidence - May to August 2024</p> <p>Submission to Inspector – August 2024</p> <p>Inspector prepares and publishes Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) – August to September 2024</p> <p>Hearing session/s – October 2024</p> <p>Adoption – April 2025</p> |
| Conformity | Prepared in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) and the West Oxfordshire Local Plan (2031). |
| Management arrangements | Document production to be led by the Council’s Planning Policy Team under the direction of the Planning Policy Manager. |
| Resource requirements | Internal resources comprise the Council’s Planning Policy Team with input from other teams and services as |

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| | appropriate. External resources will be drawn upon in terms of the production of supporting technical evidence. |
| Community engagement | Engagement on the preparation of the document to be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). |

Appendix 2 – Overall Timetable

| Document | May-24 | Jun-24 | Jul-24 | Aug-24 | Sep-24 | Oct-24 | Nov-24 | Dec-24 | Jan-25 | Feb-25 | Mar-25 | Apr-25 | May-25 | Jun-25 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2041 | | | | | | IC | | | | | FC | | | S |
| Salt Cross Area Action Plan (AAP) | | | | S | | | | | | | | | | |
| Key: IC = Informal Consultation; FC = Formal Consultation; S = Submission | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |