



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

www.westoxon.gov.uk

West Oxfordshire Local Development Scheme (LDS)

April 2023

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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 April 2023 – April 2026

2. West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2041

- 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 Although the current Local Plan remains relatively recent, it was prepared under previous national policy which has since been updated and the plan could usefully be strengthened in a number of key areas around climate change, environmental enhancement and health and well-being.
- 2.3 As such, the District Council has committed to preparing a new Local Plan covering the 20-year period 2021 – 2041.
- 2.4 To kick start that process, an initial ‘scoping’ consultation took place from 24 August – 5 October 2022. The consultation was the first step in the Regulation 18 *plan preparation* stage and was intended to seek early views on the potential content of the new Local Plan.
- 2.5 Two further periods of public consultation are now expected to take place under the Regulation 18 plan preparation stage as follows:
- June/July 2023 – A focused consultation on draft Local Plan objectives and spatial strategy options along with a ‘call for sites’ exercise
 - November 2023 – Consultation on preferred policy options/approaches
- 2.6 Subject to the outcome of these two stages, the Council should then be in a position to publish the formal Regulation 19 pre-submission draft version of its new Local Plan in June 2024, with a view to submitting it for examination in November 2024.
- 2.7 Depending on the progress of the examination, adoption would then follow sometime in the second half of 2025.
- 2.8 Further information on the purpose, scope and timing of the Local Plan 2041 is set out at Appendix I.

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

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 Development 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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 The District Council will now review the report recommendations which include a number of changes to the AAP and formally consider its adoption.
- 3.6 Further information on the purpose, scope and timing of the AAP is set out at Appendix I.

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

4. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 At present, the Council has two adopted SPDs including the [West Oxfordshire Design Guide SPD](#) adopted in 2016 and the [Affordable Housing SPD](#) adopted in 2021.

Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document

- 4.3 The Council is preparing a SPD on the topic of 'Developer Contributions' setting out in detail the District Council's approach to mitigating the impact of new development by securing the right package of supporting infrastructure.
- 4.4 Initial consultation on a first draft of the SPD took place in November 2020 with 27 responses received from a variety of Town and Parish Councils, developers and landowners, other local authorities, statutory bodies and individuals.
- 4.5 Further consultation on a revised draft version of the SPD subsequently took place in October 2022 with 29 further responses from various individuals and organisations.
- 4.6 Taking account of the issues raised, the final version of the SPD is expected to be adopted in July 2023.
- 4.7 Further information on the anticipated purpose, scope and timing of the SPD is set out at Appendix I.

Hanborough Station Masterplan

- 4.8 The District Council has previously agreed to provide funding, in conjunction with Oxfordshire County Council, to commission the development of a masterplan for Hanborough Station.
- 4.9 After a period of delay, the scope/brief of the masterplan has now been established and it is hoped that work can begin during summer 2023. Completion of the project will depend on a number of factors including the outcomes of stakeholder consultation and so detailed dates are not provided here. In broad terms, the District Council expects significant progress to have been made by the end of the year.
- 4.10 It has however become evident that whilst the development of a masterplan for the station is possible within the available budget, taking it forward formally as a supplementary planning document would have additional cost implications in terms of additional procedural requirements and stakeholder consultation etc.

- 4.11 As such, once the masterplan has been produced, Officers propose to then take a view on the merits of taking it forward as a formal Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

Combe Village Design Statement

- 4.12 Combe Parish Council has prepared a Village Design Statement which was the subject of initial public consultation in 2019/2020 and was submitted to the District Council in November 2021.
- 4.13 The stated purpose of the VDS is to *‘provide design guidelines that can help to shape any future development so that it blends in with Combe’s distinctive rural landscape and heritage’*.
- 4.14 In October 2022, the Council’s Cabinet agreed that the draft VDS should be subject to a 6-week period of public consultation. This took place from 3 February – 17 March 2023.
- 4.15 The responses received will now be considered and a view taken on whether the VDS should be formally adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). If the VDS is taken forward for formal adoption as a SPD, this is likely to take place in July 2023.
- 4.16 Further information on the anticipated purpose, scope and timing of the VDS is set out at Appendix I.

5. 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 seven adopted Neighbourhood Plans in West Oxfordshire including:
- Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 15 March 2016)
 - South Leigh Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 8 January 2019)
 - Shilton Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 2 September 2019)
 - Hailey Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 2 September 2019)
 - Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 6 February 2020)
 - Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 14 June 2021)
 - Woodstock (adopted 23 January 2023)
- 5.3 There are six other Neighbourhood Plans currently in progress including:
- Ascott under Wychwood
 - Brize Norton Neighbourhood Plan
 - Cassington
 - Milton-under-Wychwood Neighbourhood Plan

- North Leigh Neighbourhood Plan
- Stonesfield 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 website².

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 2020³. Although there is no immediate need to review the SCI because it remains quite recent, we anticipate that planning policy related consultations will in the future have a much greater digital focus, with the District Council having secured funding from central Government under Round 2 of the PropTech Engagement Fund⁴ which has enabled the implementation of a new digital engagement platform.

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 2020 – 31st March 2021⁵. A further report covering the period 1st April – 2021 – 31st March 2022 will be published shortly.

² <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/>

³ <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/jo0g3prh/statement-of-community-involvement.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.localdigital.gov.uk/proptech-engagement-fund-round-2/>

⁵ <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/wqdcxefn/annual-monitoring-report-2020-2021.pdf>

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 online at <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/>
- 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.

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

Appendix I – Document Profiles

West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2041	
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 – June/July 2023</p> <p>Regulation 18 consultation on preferred policy options/approaches – November 2023</p> <p>Publication of pre-submission draft Local Plan (Regulation 19) – June 2024</p> <p>Submission of pre-submission draft Local Plan (Regulation 22) – November 2024</p> <p>Examination and adoption - 2025</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.
Resource requirements	Internal resources comprise the Council’s Planning Policy Team with input from other teams and services as appropriate. External resources will be drawn upon in terms of the production of supporting technical evidence.

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)	
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>Adoption – July 2023</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 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).

Developer Contributions SPD	
Status	Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
Overview	Intended to provide further guidance on the Council's approach in respect of developer contributions including planning obligations.
Geographical coverage	District-Wide
Timetable	<p>Informal consultation – November 2020 (COMPLETE)</p> <p>Further consultation – October 2022 (COMPLETE)</p> <p>Adoption – July 2023</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 appropriate.
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).

Hanborough Station Masterplan	
Status	To be confirmed. Potentially to be taken forward as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) either in whole or in part.
Overview	A masterplan for Hanborough Station considering a range of factors including accessibility, the use of space, circulation, available facilities etc.
Geographical coverage	Hanborough Station
Timetable	Work to commence in summer 2023 with exact timings for completion to be confirmed.
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	<p>The masterplan will be produced by external consultants with input from West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council as the commissioning authorities.</p> <p>If the masterplan (or elements of it) is/are subsequently taken forward as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), that process may be led by the District Council.</p>
Resource requirements	Masterplan to be commissioned through external consultants.
Community engagement	The masterplan will be the subject of extensive stakeholder engagement. If taken forward as a Supplementary Planning Document, any further engagement as part of that process would be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

Combe Village Design Statement (VDS)	
Status	Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
Overview	Intended to provide design guidelines that can help to shape any future development so that it blends in with Combe's distinctive rural landscape and heritage.
Geographical coverage	Combe Parish
Timetable	<p>Informal consultation – 2019/2020 (COMPLETE)</p> <p>Further consultation – February/March 2023 (COMPLETE)</p> <p>Adoption – July 2023</p>
Conformity	Prepared in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) West Oxfordshire Local Plan (2031) and West Oxfordshire Design Guide (2016).
Management arrangements	Document production led by Combe Parish Council. West Oxfordshire District Council to facilitate formal public consultation.
Resource requirements	Combe Parish Council have led on the preparation of the VDS to this point. West Oxfordshire District Council to facilitate formal public consultation.
Community engagement	Public consultation has already taken place in respect of the VDS in 2019/2020. Further statutory consultation will take place in accordance with the requirements of the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

Appendix 2 – Overall Timetable

Document	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	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	Jul-25	Aug-25
Salt Cross Garden Village Area Action Plan (AAP)				A																									
Developer Contributions SPD				A																									
Combe Village Design Statement SPD				A																									
Hanborough Station Masterplan	Dates to be confirmed																												
Key: IC = Informal Consultation; FC = Formal Consultation; S = Submission; H = Hearings; MM = Main Modifications; A = Adoption																													
Document	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	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	Jul-25	Aug-25
West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2041			IC	IC				IC	IC						FC					S									
Key: IC = Informal Consultation; FC = Formal Consultation; S = Submission																													