

YOUR PLACE YOUR PLAN.

Winchester District Local Plan

Interim

Local Development Scheme

February 2025



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1. Introduction

What is an LDS?

- 1.1. The LDS is effectively a project management plan tool that sets out the timetable for the production of new or revised Development Plan Documents which will form the Council's Local Plan. The LDS is required under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The LDS must specify (among other matters) the development plan documents which, when prepared, will comprise the Local Plan. It must be made publicly available on the Council's website and be kept up-to-date to enable local communities and interested parties to keep track of progress. It is reviewed annually through the Council's Authorities Monitoring Report.
- 1.2. The LDS is important in the context of communication and transparency. The local community, businesses and others with an interest in the future planning of the District must be properly informed of the planning documents that the Council intends to produce and the timescale for their preparation, consultation and adoption.
- 1.3. Although consultations on the Local Plan will continue to be advertised and interested parties notified in accordance with the Council's Adopted Statement of Community Involvement, the LDS provides information about when consultations are likely to happen.
- 1.4. The LDS is also a useful tool for establishing and reflecting the Council's priorities and enables work programmes to be set for the preparation of planning documents. It also provides a context for the review of planning documents once they have been prepared. It is important that the LDS is kept up-to-date as one of the key soundness tests at the Local Plan examination is whether the Local Plan has been prepared in accordance with the agreed LDS.

Why do we need an LDS?

- 1.5. The Act (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) states that a Local Development Scheme must specify:
 - The Local Development Documents which are to be Development Plan Documents;
 - The subject matter and geographical area to which each development plan document relates;
 - Which Development Plan Documents, if any, are to be prepared jointly with one or more other local planning authorities;
 - Any matter or area in respect of which the authority has agreed (or proposes to agree) to the constitution of a joint committee [with other Local Planning Authorities]; and
 - The timetable for the preparation and revision of the Development Plan Documents.

2. Background

Why are we updating the LDS now when there are considerable changes about to happen to the Plan-making system as a result of the change in administration?

2.1. The Chief Planning Officer has written to all Local Planning Authorities [Chief Planner's newsletter December 2024](#) and advised them that the Deputy Prime Minister has requested that *'all local planning authorities produce an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) within 12 weeks of the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework, i.e. by no later than 6 March 2025. The updated LDS should include clear, realistic, and specific dates for consultation and submission of the local plan. We ask that once updated, the LDS is made publicly available, and a copy is sent to the Ministry using the following email address: LocalPlans@communities.gov.uk AND the key information is recorded by filling out an online form'*.

3. Current Development Plan Documents for Winchester District

The Winchester District Local Plan Part 1 - Joint Core Strategy (LPP1).

The LPP1 was prepared by Winchester City Council (WCC) and the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). It was adopted by WCC in March 2013. This plan covers the entire geographical area of Winchester District including the SDNP (the SDNP section of the Local Plan has now been superseded by their National Parks adopted Local Plan) and provides the strategic policies for the area.

The Local Plan Part 2 - Development Management and Site Allocations (LPP2).

This local plan covers the parts of the district that lie outside the SDNP and are administered by WCC as local planning authority. It provides site allocations and detailed policies relating to development management. LPP2 was adopted in April 2017.

The Denmead Neighbourhood Plan;

The plan covers most of the parish of Denmead. This is the only Neighbourhood Plan in the district that has been "made" (1 April 2015). Denmead Parish Council have indicated an intention to review their plan in line with the Local Plan process.

The Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople DPD (G&T DPD).

Local Authorities are required by Central Government to assess the accommodation requirements of Gypsy and Travellers and to develop a strategy that addresses any unmet need. It was adopted as a Development Plan Document in February 2019.

The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan.

This plan is produced jointly by Hampshire County Council (HCC), Southampton City Council, Portsmouth City Council and South Downs and New Forest National Park Authorities. The plan covers the entire county.

4. Scope and content

Table 1: Winchester City Council Local Plan Review – Scope and Preparation Document

Document title	Winchester City Council Local Plan Review
Role & Content	The Council has a statutory duty under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) to prepare and maintain an up-to-date Local Development Scheme (LDS). The new LDS would fulfil this requirement by outlining a clear and realistic timetable for the adoption of the new Local Plan that will shortly be the subject of an examination and the production of the next Local Plan following that.
Geographic Coverage	This LDS covers the administrative area of Winchester that falls outside the South Downs National Park (which produces its own Local Plan) and sets out which planning policy documents the council intends to produce, and the timetable for producing these documents.
Status	Local Plan as described by The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended). A Development Plan Document.
Stakeholder & Community Involvement	The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out the standards which the city council will achieve with regard to involving individuals, communities and other stakeholders in the preparation of the Local Plan and for process for consultation on Development Management planning applications.
Monitoring & Review Mechanisms	The implementation of Local Plan is monitored on yearly basis through the Authorities Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR monitors the policies in the Local Plan.

5. Monitoring and Review

5.1. The council's Authorities' Monitoring Report (AMR) monitors the progress of the LDS on an annual basis, reporting in December each year. The latest version is available to view on the council's website: [Authorities' Monitoring Report \(AMR\) - Winchester City Council](#) The AMR will compare progress against the key milestones set out in the LDS and consider the need to revise and update the LDS

5.2. AMRs review the performance of planning policies on the area in which they apply. They also include an update on the milestones set out in the Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS).

6. Risk Assessment

6.1. The production of a Local Plan requires consideration of the potential risk involved in its preparation. These vary from local matters such as changes in staffing levels or political / administrative changes to those of regional or national significance including publication of revised government guidance and changes to the plan making system.

6.2. There are a number of risks which could have an impact on the LDS and require the LDS to be reset. This can include the following examples:

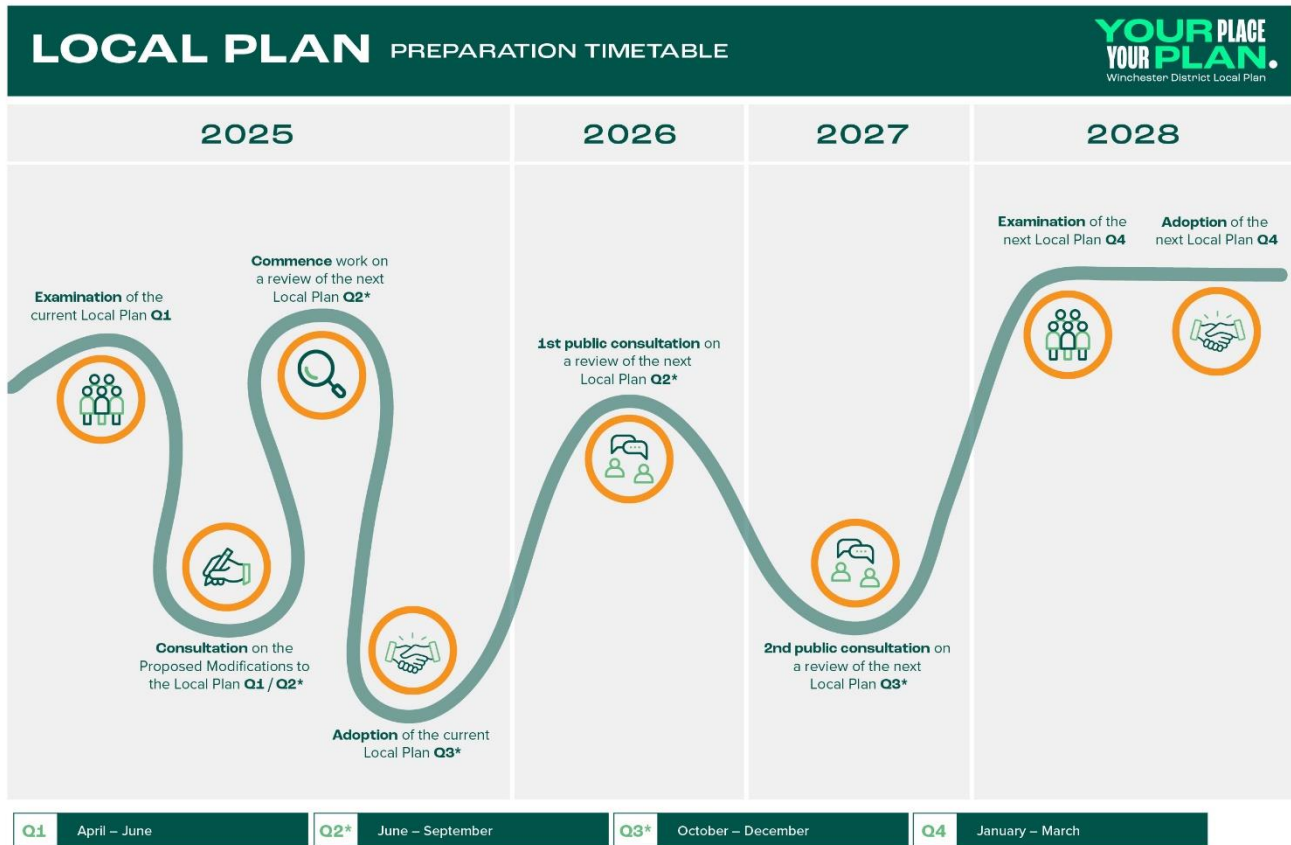
- Staffing changes which include the loss of any planning policy staff along with any built up local and technical knowledge and the time it could take to recruit suitably experienced replacement staff;
- Delays in the appointment of consultants and/or the work they undertake for the Local Plan Review evidence base due to unforeseen circumstances beyond the immediate control of the planning policy team. This can include evidence which covers more than one Council area (e.g. that commissioned by Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) or neighbouring authorities within PfSH); and
- Wider political (national and local), administrative or further legislative changes to the plan-led system and a number variables that are outlined in the illustration below.



There is a detailed risk

assessment and likelihood of occurrence together with contingency and mitigation measures are in chapter 8.

7. Local Plan timetable



(* the dates will be reviewed and reset depending on the timing of the publication of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act).

8. Risk Assessment Table

What might go wrong?	What will happen?	Residual risk score	Current controls	Mitigation
A team member may leave	A vacancy would be created in the team and depending on the level of seniority this would have different risk implications	Likelihood = Likely Impact = Major	Spread knowledge of the Local Plan and its associated documents throughout the team in order to minimise impact.	Re-appoint as soon as possible. If this is not possible, seek to re-deploy staff resources within Built Environment team. If this was not possible appoint someone on a short term as a Consultant although this would have financial implications and possible reputational damage.
Vacant post might not be filled	Unable to deliver the LP due to lack of resources	Likelihood = Likely Impact = Major	Seek to recruit in a timely manner to allow for a new member of staff to become familiar with WCC processes, prior to key stages of plan making.	Seek to recruit a temporary member of staff/agency staff with the necessary experience. Consider use of consultants where appropriate.
New national legislation	The Government introduces changes that significantly alter the way that Local Plans needs to be prepared	Likelihood = Highly likely Impact = Major	The Government has, and continues to make a number of changes to the planning system, the National Planning Policy Framework and the planning legislation. In addition to this there has been a number of public	Include flexibility in the timescales for preparation of the Local Plan and associated documents to allow opportunity to respond to any changes. Adapt plan making to future proof the process

			<p>consultations on a number of key issues including for example, changes to CIL in the form of a Infrastructure Levy and the Environmental Outcomes Report.</p> <p>It is highly likely that other changes and guidance will happen. The previous government has consulted on some radical changes to the form and content of Local Plans and the way they need to be prepared. There will be a series of changes to the plan-making system that are coming forward as part of the Levelling up and Regeneration Act and number of other changes that are on the horizon - see separate entry.</p>	<p>as far as possible and implement changes without delay that align with the direction of travel set at national level.</p> <p>Monitor closely and respond to the outcome of the various consultations promptly and any pending changes at Infrastructure Level, where possible, prior to commencement of regulatory stages of plan preparation process.</p> <p>Ensure documents are regularly updated to ensure compliance with legislation.</p> <p>National changes may be subject to transitional arrangements,</p>
Legal challenge	A legal challenge could be submitted	<p>Likelihood = Unlikely</p> <p>Impact = Major</p>	<p>Post adoption of a Local Plan, there is a six week legal challenge period. There is potential for newly- adopted plans to be challenged, placing a degree of uncertainty over</p>	<p>To reduce risk of challenge, ensure the Local Plan is legally compliant, is based on robust evidence and has been subject to extensive consultation. The</p>

			the status of the policies and proposals.	<p>involvement of Counsel at key stages of the Local Plan process will help to minimise the risk of legal challenge.</p> <p>There has been two PINS Advisory meetings in order to discuss a number of key issues and help to de-risk the Local Plan process.</p> <p>Robustly resist challenges made through the Courts unless there are clear and substantial legal reasons which mean the council is unlikely to be able to defend adoption of its Local Plan.</p>
Problems arising from joint working; compliance with the duty to co-operate	It is not possible for an examining Inspector to 'correct' a failure to meet the Duty to Cooperate at the Local Plan examination, so this	<p>Likelihood = unlikely</p> <p>Impact = major</p>	Close working is therefore needed with other authorities through Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) and other direct channels , council Members and Counsel to detect issues	Some flexibility is included in the Local Plan timescales and allows for continuing discussions with neighbouring authorities to reach agreed positions.

	could have a serious impact.		early on in the process. The city council is required to produce Statements of Common Grounds and, by agreement, meeting neighbours' unmet housing needs. PINS Advisory meetings were arranged in order to help de-risk the LP process and discuss some of the key issues arising from the public consultations.	Ensuring that there is a clear document audit trail of any discussions and outcomes from those DTC meetings. The council is also represented on project boards / steering groups of major development sites and is a member of the PfSH.
Programme slippage	There could be delays to the Local Plan timetable due to Government reforms to the planning system or a large number of representations submitted that would delay the adoption of the LP. Any slippage in the Local Plan timetable could have financial implications in terms of the evidence base needing to be updated and this would need to be managed.	Likelihood = Likely Impact = moderate	Contingency time is built into the LDS programmes, which includes sufficient time to deal with the large number of representations typically received at consultation stages.	Sufficient flexibility is included in the Local Plan timescales. Revise LDS where necessary. Ensure sufficient resources available to complete future stages (financial and staffing).

Local Plan found not to be 'sound'	If the LP is found to be unsound or there was serious shortcomings with the LP work would need to halt and the problems would need to be addressed. Inability to maintain a 5 year housing land supply	Likelihood = Unlikely Impact = Major	Convening PINS Advisory meetings has helped to de-risk the Local Plan. Be prepared to make modifications to the plan at the Local Plan Examination. Develop and take account of sound evidence.	Develop sound and reliable technical evidence base. If necessary, go back to an earlier stage, revise the plan and re-submit.
Failure to secure timely provision of Infrastructure	Infrastructure issues are not clearly considered as part of the LP.	Likelihood = Highly unlikely Impact = moderate	Retain up to date evidence on infrastructure and liaise with infrastructure providers.	Continuing engagement with infrastructure providers to develop a Infrastructure Delivery Plan in order to ensure the timely provision of infrastructure.
Failure to secure agreement at Full Council to Local Plan	The LP needs to be agreed by Full Council at the Reg 19 stage and at the time that the LP is adopted.	Likelihood = Unlikely Impact = Major	It is important to work closely with all elected Members through Councilor briefings, and to maintain awareness of the plan, and associated documents at each key stage of the process.	Build sufficient flexibility into the strategy and timescales.
Inspector's report includes recommendations that the council finds difficult to accept	Although the Inspector's recommendations are no longer binding (except for any modifications proposed by the	Likelihood = Unlikely Impact = major	The council will need to consider all recommendations made by the inspector and may decide to accept them unless it considers there are sound and substantial	Keep council Members up to date on issues arising and likely recommendations and ensure each stage of the plan making process is evidence based, taking

	council), the Plan may not be 'sound' unless it is modified.		reasons not to whilst acknowledging this could lead to a position where an up-to date-plan is no longer in place.	legal advice as required, to minimise the potential for the inspector to need to recommend significant changes to the draft plan.
<p>Changes to the Plan-making system as a result of the change in administration that could affect and require the LDS to be reset:</p> <p>Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – housing and employment.</p> <p>Outcome of the Local Plan examination.</p> <p>Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) 2023.</p> <p>National Development Management Policies.</p> <p>Devolution,</p> <p>Strategic Planning.</p>	This is explained in more detail for each variable in the Cabinet paper: CAB3499	Each variable differs in it's likelihood and impact and this is explained in more detail in the Cabinet paper: CAB3499	<p>The Government has, and continues to make a number of changes to the planning system, the National Planning Policy Framework and the Building Regulations.</p> <p>It is highly likely that other changes and guidance will happen as the Government has consulted on some radical changes to the form and content of Local Plans and the way they need to be prepared. There will be a series of changes to the planning system that will come forward in the Levelling up Bill and changes on the horizon – see variables in the diagram.</p>	<p><i>There are many mitigation strategies we can have in place, each variable will have a different mitigation response. These will include:</i></p> <p>Include flexibility in the timescales for preparation of the Local Plan and associated documents to allow opportunity to respond to any changes.</p> <p>Adapt plan making to future proof the process as far as possible and implement changes without delay that align with the direction of travel set at national level.</p> <p>Monitor closely and respond accordingly to the outcome of the various consultations.</p>

Planning and Infrastructure Bill. Number of Neighbourhood Plans in the district. Outcome of the New Towns Task Force.				
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