

Harborough District Council

Report to the Cabinet 20 February 2025



Title:	Local Development Scheme Update
Status:	Public
Key Decision:	No
Report Author:	Terry Begley, Principal Planner Local Plans
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Galton (Portfolio Holder) – Planning
Appendices:	Appendix A: Revised Local Development Scheme

Summary

- i) The Council is required to keep under review the key milestones in the local plan timetable.
- ii) The latest Local Development Scheme (LDS) for the new Local Plan was approved on 18th December 2023.
- iii) Update to the LDS is required following the publication of a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in December 2024 and to provide a response to the Written Ministerial Statement that requires the Council to provide an updated timetable by 6th March 2025.

Recommendations

1. To approve the update to the Local Development Scheme set out in Appendix A

Reasons for Recommendations

The LDS enables the local community, neighbouring authorities, infrastructure providers, developers and other interested parties, to find out what local plan documents are proposed and the timetable for their preparation.

This LDS update is to ensure that the timetable for local plan preparation remains up to date.

The Minister of State for Housing and Planning has requested this update to the LDS, in response to recent changes to the national planning policy.

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The Council has a duty to prepare, publish and maintain an LDS for the district. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for an update to the LDS.

2 Background

- 2.1 The LDS sets out the timetable for the preparation of the new Local Plan. The timetable identifies key dates and public consultation stages as well as outlining the subject matter and geographical extent of the plan.
- 2.2 By preparing and publishing the LDS, key stakeholders such as the local community, neighbouring authorities, infrastructure providers, developers and other interested parties can contribute to planning policies for the district. The LDS is also an opportunity to provide information on any Supplementary Planning Documents.
- 2.3 The Council is required to keep under review the key milestones in the timetable within the LDS; some changes in context, especially at sub-regional and national level, may be driven by circumstances beyond the authority's control.

3 Details

- 3.1 In July 2021, Cabinet made the decision to start work on the preparation of a new Local Plan. An integral part of the preparation of a new local plan is the formulation of an LDS. The most recent LDS for this plan preparation was agreed and approved on 18th December 2023 but is now in need of an update.
- 3.2 Work on the Local Plan has progressed in line with the LDS including public consultation on the Issues and Options (Regulation 18) between January and February 2024. A significant number of technical evidence studies has been prepared and discussions have been ongoing with stakeholders.
- 3.3 The Government published the new NPPF on 12th December 2024 and issued a Written Ministerial Statement¹ that requires all Local Planning Authorities to prepare and submit an up-to-date LDS within 12 weeks of its publication.
- 3.4 Among other matters the NPPF confirmed the transitional date for Local Plans to reach Regulation 19 on or before 12 March 2025 to proceed under the current plan making system. In light of the updated national planning policy, the LDS amends the programme for the production of the Local Plan. The key amendments are:

Local Plan stage	Current LDS Dec 2023	Updated LDS Feb 2025
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¹ [Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

Reg 19 & 20 Proposed Submission Local Plan Consultation	Between January and March 2025	Between March and May 2025
Reg 22 Submission of the Local Plan for examination	Between May and June 2025	September/October 2025
Reg 22 Local Plan adoption*	Between May and December 2026	Between October and December 2026

* *Indicative only at this stage as dependent on detailed arrangements for Examination by the Planning Inspectorate and decisions/recommendations by the Inspector including the need for and scope of any main modifications arising out of the Examination.*

3.5 Subject to consideration of the report elsewhere on this agenda and the decision by Council, consultation on the Proposed Submission Draft Harborough Local Plan 2020-2041 in accordance with Regulation 19 is now taking place between March and May 2025. This ensures that the Plan will be examined in accordance with the previous NPPF and allows for an extended period of public consultation to enable members of the public additional time to consider the extensive range of evidence base documents. The Local Plan timetable also allows adoption by December 2026 in line with the Government's transitional arrangements for plans to be prepared under the current planning system.

3.6 Other changes to the LDS are more minor and include the following:

- The list of neighbourhood plans in paragraph 3.2 in the local plan has been reordered alphabetically and updated to include neighbourhood plans successfully made part of the development plan since December 2024.
- The section on supplementary planning documents has been deleted and the relevant content assimilated elsewhere within the document.
- Reference to the Community Infrastructure Levy has been added to the section on factors affecting Local Plan preparation.
- Paragraph 7.6 on changes to national planning policy and legislative framework has been updated to reflect current circumstances; and
- A glossary of planning terms has been added to help understand the abbreviated words and terms.

4 Implications of Decisions

Corporate Priorities

4.1 The LDS will support delivery of a new Local Plan which in turn will support all four priorities in Corporate Plan 2022-2031:

- Place and Community: Leading across the local community to create a sense of pride and belonging. CO1, CO2, CO3, CO5.
- Healthy Lives: Promoting health and wellbeing, encouraging healthy life choices. CO6, CO7, CO8.
- Environment and sustainability: Creating a sustainable environment to protect future generations. CO11, CO12, CO14, CO16.
- Economy: Supporting businesses and residents to deliver a prosperous local economy. CO17, CO18, CO23

Consultation

- 4.2 Consultation and engagement are a key element of the plan making. Consultation already undertaken on the Issues and Options, in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement, that will inform the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan. There is no requirement for public consultation on the LDS. The LDS will be published on the Council's website.

Financial

- 4.3 Updates to the LDS do not incur a specific cost, beyond officer time required to update the timetable. This resource is funded from existing budgets.

Legal

- 4.4 The requirement to publish and keep under review the LDS is set out in Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

Environmental Implications

- 4.5 The LDS will support delivery of the Local Plan. The new Local Plan will have implications in relation to the spatial planning of the district. The wider environmental implications of the scale and distribution of development and associated supporting infrastructure will be assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan, which incorporates the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC), or SEA Directive.

Risk Management

- 4.6 Providing an updated timetable for the new Local Plan ensures that the Council complies with the national requirement to keep the Local Plan timetable up to date.
- 4.7 The updated LDS is an important step in the preparation of the new local plan. The LDS helps the Council to manage the risks associated with preparing a new local plan. Detailed risks are identified in Section 7 of the updated LDS. Appropriate risk management practices will be carried out as an integral part of the Plan's project management to keep all these risks under review as the plan progresses.

Equalities Impact

- 4.8 The LDS will support delivery of the Local Plan. The Equalities Impact Assessment has considered the impact of the full suite of policies set out within the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan.
- 4.9 All published documentation related to the new Local Plan will meet public sector accessibility requirements under The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018.

Data Protection

- 4.10 The LDS will support delivery of the Local Plan. All new Local Plan consultations will be carried out in compliance with the provisions of the UK General Data Protection Regulations and the Data Protection Act 2018.

5 Alternative Options Considered

- 5.1 It is a statutory obligation for the Council to publish and maintain an up-to-date LDS, and an update has been requested by the Minister of State and therefore no other options have been considered.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That Council approves the update to the Local Development Scheme, set out at Appendix A.

7 Background papers

- Local Development Scheme Update: Council on Monday 18th December 2023 (adjourned from 11th December 2023): [Document.ashx](#)
- National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024): [National Planning Policy Framework](#)