



# **HARBOROUGH DISTRICT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

**Harbrough District Council**

February 2025

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# Local Development Scheme (February 2025)

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council has a duty to prepare, publish and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS) for the district. This LDS replaces the November 2023 version.
- 1.2 The LDS sets out the timetable for the preparation of the new Local Plan, specifying key production and public consultation stages as well as outlining the subject matter and geographical extent. It also enables the local community to find out about planning policies for their area by setting out the documents which currently form the development plan for Harborough District. The LDS is also an opportunity to provide information on any Supplementary Planning Documents which have been adopted by the Council.
- 1.3 The LDS is published on the Council's website at [www.harborough.gov.uk/local-development-scheme](http://www.harborough.gov.uk/local-development-scheme). The Authority's Monitoring Report will document the plan making activity and progress against the LDS to keep communities and interested parties informed.
- 1.4 Although every attempt has been made to avoid technical terminology there are occasions where terms are used in planning legislation, therefore definitions of planning terms used throughout the document are provided in the glossary.

## 2. The planning system

- 2.1 Planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The National Planning Policy Framework, which must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans, and is a material consideration in planning decisions, emphasises that 'the planning system should be genuinely plan-led'. It advocates succinct local and neighbourhood plans, which should be kept up to date, and be based on joint working and co-operation.
- 2.2 As set out in Section 3 below, the Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 is a fundamental part of the 'plan-led' system. It was adopted in April 2019 meaning it is now more than 5 years old. The National Planning Policy Framework states that a local plan review should take place every 5 years

or when policies need updating. On 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 Cabinet took the decision to begin preparation of a new Local Plan as a full update to the adopted Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 (the Cabinet report and Local Plan Review are available [here](#)).

- 2.3 In order to keep local communities and other stakeholders informed of local planning activity, the Council is required to prepare an LDS under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). In relation to the new Local Plan the LDS must specify:
- the subject matter of the document to be prepared and the geographical extent to which it relates;
  - whether the document will be prepared jointly with one or more other local authority; and
  - the timetable for the preparation of document.
- 2.4 The LDS must be publicised and kept up to date. Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) states that an LDS is expected to be reviewed and updated at least annually but it may need updating more frequently if there are any significant changes to the plan or the timescales.

### **3. Current development plan**

- 3.1 The development plan is at the heart of the planning system with a requirement in law that planning decisions must be taken in line with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. As such it is essential that plans are in place and kept up to date.
- 3.2 The current development plan for Harborough District comprises:
- [Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031](#) (adopted 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019)
  - [Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan to 2031](#) (adopted 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019)
  - [Arnesby Review Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025)
  - [Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024)
  - [Broughton Astley Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014)
  - [Burton Overy Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019)
  - [Dunton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023)
  - [East Langton Neighbourhood Plan Review](#) (made on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022)
  - [Fleckney Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021)
  - [Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Review](#) (made 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021)

- [Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022)
- [Great Bowden Neighbourhood Plan Review](#) (made on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018, reviewed (minor amendments) 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020)
- [Great Easton Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018)
- [Great Glen Neighbourhood Plan Review](#) (made on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020)
- [Hallaton Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021)
- [High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025)
- [Houghton on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018)
- [Hungarton Neighbourhood Plan Review](#) (made 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017, reviewed (minor amendments) 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021)
- [Husbands Bosworth Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021)
- [Kibworths Neighbourhood Plan Review](#) (made 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023)
- [Leire Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022)
- [Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017)
- [Medbourne Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and reviewed with minor (non-material) modifications July 2023)
- [Misterton with Walcote](#) (made 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021)
- [North Kilworth Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017)
- [Saddington Neighbourhood Plan Review](#) (made 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019, reviewed (minor amendments) 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021)
- [Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016)
- [Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019)
- [South Kilworth Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019)
- [Swinford Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018)
- [Tugby and Keythorpe Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022)
- [Tur Langton Neighbourhood Plan](#) (made on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019, reviewed (minor amendments) 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025)

3.3 [Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031](#). The Local Plan was adopted on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and sets out the vision and strategic objectives for the district to 2031. It includes site allocations to meet identified development needs, and a range of development management policies used to determine planning applications. The Local Plan is accompanied by a Policies Map which identify the areas different planning policies apply within the district.

3.4 [Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan \(LMWLP\) up to 2031](#). The County Council formally adopted the Minerals and Waste Local Plan on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019. It includes a spatial vision, strategic objectives, and core policies to guide the future extraction of minerals and the form of waste management development in the County.

- 3.5 [Neighbourhood Plans](#) In addition to the ‘made’ neighbourhood plans listed in paragraph 3.2, above, which form part of the Development Plan for Harborough District, several other neighbourhood plans are in the process of being prepared or reviewed. The up-to-date position in relation to the preparation and adoption of neighbourhood plans is available on the Council’s [website](#). Once neighbourhood plans are ‘made’ (adopted) by the Council, they form part of the development plan for the district and must be taken into account in the determination of planning applications.
- 3.6 [Supplementary Planning Documents \(SPD\)](#) Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) provide additional guidance, explanation and information on planning policies and proposals in the adopted local plan. They are a material consideration in the determination of planning applications; however, they are not part of the Development Plan. The Council is not required to include them in the LDS, but they are included here for information purposes.
- 3.7 The [Development Management SPD](#) was adopted on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and replaces the previous Supplementary Planning Guidance Notes. This document provides further detail on the interpretation and implementation of Local Plan Policies.
- 3.8 The [Planning Obligations SPD](#) was adopted on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022 replacing the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) (2017). It informs developers, landowners, infrastructure providers and local communities about the approach of the Council to securing community infrastructure and affordable housing through planning obligations.

## **4. New Local Plan**

- 4.1 Central to the planning system is the preparation of a Local Plan which is consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 4.2 The Council has previously taken the decision to prepare a new Local Plan to replace the adopted Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 which became 5 years old in April 2024, following adoption in April 2019.
- 4.3 An update to the LDS is necessary to reflect amendments to the timetable for preparation of the Harborough Local Plan 2020-2041 following the publication of the revised National Planning Policy Framework in December 2024. The amendment to the timetable enables the Local Plan to be progressed in accordance with the transitional arrangements set out

in Annex 1 of the National Planning Policy Framework that plans should reach Regulation 19 on or before 12 March 2025.

<b>New Local Plan</b>	
<b>Role and Subject:</b>	<p>The New Local Plan will provide the strategic planning framework for the district for at least 15 years from its adoption. The current Local Plan spatial strategy will be updated by a new strategy to deliver the required scale of development in appropriate and sustainable locations. Current Development Management policies will be reviewed and updated as necessary.</p> <p>In line with NPPF (September 2023) paragraphs 20-23, strategic policies in the New Local Plan will set out the overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places and make sufficient provision for development needs and supporting infrastructure. It will also provide for the conservation and enhancement of the district's natural, built and historic environment as well as planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>Where appropriate, the New Local Plan will also set out non-strategic, more detailed policies for specific areas, neighbourhoods or types of development in line with NPPF (September 2023) paragraphs 28-30. Such policies can also be set out in neighbourhood plans.</p> <p>The Local Plan will support the continued preparation of neighbourhood plans across the district by providing a clear strategic policy framework. It will identify which policies are strategic and provide the policy context for the preparation or review of neighbourhood plans prepared by Parish Councils or neighbourhood forums on behalf of their local communities.</p>
<b>Geographical Area:</b>	District wide
<b>Status:</b>	Development Plan Document
<b>Chain of Conformity:</b>	National Planning Policy Framework
<b>Joint Production?</b>	No but there is a 'duty to cooperate' on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, particularly those relating to strategic priorities. National planning policy is clear that in order to demonstrate effective and on-going joint working, strategic policy making authorities should prepare and maintain one or more Statements of Common Ground (SoCG), documenting the cross-boundary matters being addressed and progress in cooperating to address these. The Council will continue to prepare joint evidence across the Housing Market

	Area (Leicester and Leicestershire) or other geographical area, as appropriate, and to address cross-boundary strategic issues through the preparation of SoCGs as appropriate.
<b>Timetable – Key Stages</b>	
Reg 18 Issues and Options Consultation	January and February 2024
Reg 19 & 20 Proposed Submission Local Plan Consultation	Between March and May 2025
Reg 22 Submission of Local Plan for Examination	September/October 2025
Reg 26 Local Plan Adoption*	October- 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.*

## 5. Other documents

- 5.1 **Policies Map:** The Local Plan Policies Map will be revised as appropriate as part of the new Local Plan. The Policies Map will identify policy designations, proposals and sites allocate for particular uses.
- 5.2 **Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment):** A Sustainability Appraisal be undertaken for the new Local Plan and for Supplementary Planning Documents where required. The main aim of this process, which runs in parallel with the preparation of plans, is to ensure that the social, economic and environmental effects of emerging policies are understood and taken into account. The process will follow guidance at the time.
- 5.2 **Appropriate Assessment:** An Appropriate Assessment is prepared at each published stage of a Development Plan to show whether the policies will have significant effects on sites subject to the constraints of the Habitats Regulations Assessment of European Importance.
- 5.3 **Authority Monitoring Report:** Local planning authorities are required to publish an annual report that monitors the progress and implementation of each document set out in the LDS. It must specify whether adopted policies are meeting their stated objectives. In addition, it must include:
- Details of any neighbourhood development order or a neighbourhood development plan made by the Council;



- Any Community Infrastructure Levy related receipts and expenditure; and
- Details on where the Council has worked with other authorities in accordance with the ‘Duty to Cooperate’.

The latest Council monitoring report is available [here](#).

- 5.4 **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI):** This document explains how parties with an interest in planning issues in the district can engage with the planning system. Essentially its sets out who, when and how the authority will consult when developing new planning policy and processing planning applications. The latest version of the SCI was adopted by the Council in February 2020 and is available [here](#). The Council is keen to encourage the use of the [Strategic Planning Consultation Portal](#) as a means of engaging stakeholders and the public and this is reflected in the Statement of Community Involvement.

## 6. Other factors impacting on Local Plan preparation

- 6.1 **Evidence Base:** A number of studies were prepared to support the production of the current Local Plan. Updated and additional evidence will be prepared to inform the preparation of the new Local Plan. This is published on the Council’s website on the [supporting evidence](#) webpage wherever possible.
- 6.2 **Duty to Cooperate:** Given the importance attached to the ‘Duty to Cooperate, the Council is putting procedures into place to ensure effective collaboration with neighbouring local authorities, other local authorities within the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area and other public bodies, particularly on strategic planning issues that span district council boundaries. Both member and officer groups are established to facilitate this process.
- 6.3 **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):** The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) applies where local authorities have adopted a CIL Charging Schedule and is essentially a fixed financial contribution based on the size of development proposed. Unlike S106 agreements, money received through CIL is not tied to a particular development and can be spent more flexibly on new and enhanced infrastructure across the area. As part of the plan making process the Council has not pursued the introduction of a CIL Charging Schedule. Circumstances may change at a later date therefore

based upon evidence the Council may consider pursuing this course of action.

6.4 **Council Procedure and Reporting:** The preparation of the Local Plan will be informed, monitored and approved as appropriate by Harborough District Council through:

- Member engagement, including the Planning Portfolio Holder and Chair of Planning Committee and other councillors;
- The Council's Cabinet; and
- The Council

6.5 **Equality Impact Assessment:** An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken in conjunction with the preparation of the Local Plan to consider the likely effects of planning policies on people with protected characteristics. This will help the Council to ensure that the needs of people are taken into account when developing and implementing the Local Plan.

## 7.0 Risk Assessment

7.1 It is important that the risks associated with delivery of the Local Plan are acknowledged and mitigating measures put in place to avoid adverse impact on the delivery of the LDS. The main risks to delivery have been identified together with proposed mitigation measures:

7.2 **Resources:** The following officers of Harborough District Council will be involved, to varying degrees, in preparing the Local Plan:

- Director of Planning
- Head of Strategic and Local Planning
- Principal Planning Policy Officer
- Local Plan Project Officer (0.6 FTE)
- Senior Planning Policy Officer (2.3 FTE)
- Planning Policy Officer (0.5 FTE)
- Planning Policy Assistant
- Neighbourhood and Green Spaces Officer
- Heritage and Conservation Officer
- Additional external support as necessary.

The need for additional staff resources may occur through sickness, staff turnover or volume of work.

Mitigation measures: succession planning, continual professional development through appraisals, liaison with Local Planning Advisory Panel, liaison with Director of Planning over recruitment, secondment arrangements, temporary cover arrangements, additional external resources.

- 7.3 **Evidence**: Delay to Plan progress if relevant evidence at Leicestershire-wide level is postponed.

Mitigation measures: Full involvement in process, timely provision of information/comments for consultants, close monitoring of adherence to project timescales, ensure project group are aware of Local Plan deadlines. Should a significant delay be experienced in the preparation of evidence, which the Local Plan relies upon, an amendment to the LDS will be prepared and presented for consideration.

- 7.4 **Political Decision-making**: Politically contentious issues may require unforeseen circumstances to resolve.

Mitigation measures: Internal process arrangements provide a number of opportunities for district councillors to meet and discuss emerging policies and proposals with officers including Portfolio Holder meetings, Member engagement in Local Plan preparation, all-Member workshops and briefings, the formal approval of documents at Cabinet and Council meetings.

- 7.5 **Duty to Cooperate**: Local planning authorities must demonstrate how they have complied with the Duty to Cooperate at the independent examination of their local plan. If a local planning authority cannot demonstrate to the examination inspector that it has complied with the Duty, then the local plan will not be able to proceed further in the examination process. In preparing local plans, local planning authorities have to bear in mind that cooperation should produce effective and deliverable policies on strategic cross boundary matters

Mitigation measures: Ensure a good understanding of the requirements of the duty to cooperate at an early stage through clarity on the legislative framework, accompanying guidance and lessons from inspectors' reports. This then needs to be translated into officer and member involvement in appropriate structures for evidence gathering and agreement on strategic issues. Appropriate ongoing engagement with partners on identified Duty to Cooperate issues will take place involving one to one engagement

where appropriate, stakeholder meetings and workshops. The preparation of SoCG with relevant partners will identify strategic cross boundary issues and identify the mechanisms to address such issues, including the preparation of joint evidence.

- 7.6 **Changes to National Planning Policy and legislative framework:** The government is in the process of publishing multiple new policy, legislation and guidance which will be relevant to planning in the future. For example, over the course of December 2024, the government published a new National Planning Policy Framework on 12<sup>th</sup> December setting out new national planning rules; and the 'English Devolution White Paper' was published on 16<sup>th</sup> December, outlining an approach to introduce a regional level of local government; and a new Planning and Infrastructure Bill, anticipated to include a framework for producing Local Plans, is expected March 2025.

Mitigation measures: Closely monitor new policy and practice guidance, anticipate changes to national policy and its implications at the Housing Market Area level, build flexibility into the plan and work closely with neighbouring local authorities in respect of the Duty to Cooperate on strategic priorities. Should changes to Government policy or legislative framework impose additional requirements and therefore additional time to resolve, an amendment to the LDS will be prepared and presented for consideration.

- 7.7 **Financial Resources:** Undertaking evidence gathering projects, public consultation events and the formal Examination of the final new Local Plan require significant financial resources. Any additional unforeseen costs would place a further burden on the budget.

Mitigation measures: Close monitoring of the new Local Plan preparation budget and likely future commitments.

## 8. Timetable for new Local Plan

- 8.1 The timetable overleaf sets out the key stages in the preparation of the new Local Plan for Harborough District.

### Local Development Scheme: New Local Plan timetable (February 2025)

	2023					2024												2025												2026											
Stage	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Evidence gathering	█	█	█	█	█																																				
Consultation on issues and options (Reg 18)						█	█																																		
Consultation on Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19)																		█	█	█																					
Submission to Secretary of State																											█	█													
Examination																													█	█	█										
Inspectors report																																									
Adoption of Local Plan*																																									

Figure 1: An illustration of the timeline for local plan preparation, with key project milestones indicated on a calendar; Issues and Options consultation (Jan-Feb 2024), Proposed Submission consultation (March-May 2025), Submission for Examination (September-October 2025), and Adoption October/December 2026.

\*Estimated to be 12 months from Submission for Examination (the current Local Plan was adopted 11 months after Submission for Examination), i.e. the Local Plan Adoption Date is indicative only at this stage – it is 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.

## 9. Glossary of planning terms

**Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)** (formerly the Annual Monitoring Report) An annual document that reports the progress made on plan preparation compared to the Local Development Scheme and the delivery of local plan policies including housing and employment.

### **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

The Community Infrastructure Levy is a charge placed on certain developments, to be paid by developers to provide necessary infrastructure.

### **Development Plan**

A set of adopted documents which, together, are the main consideration in deciding planning applications. The Development Plan sets out the Local Planning Authority's objectives in relation to the development and use of land in their area, and their general policies for the implementation of those objectives. The Development Plan for the District includes the Local Plan, minerals and waste plan and Neighbourhood Development Plans.

### **Development Plan Document (DPD)**

Statutory documents prepared by the local planning authority with community involvement and consultation. They are subject to an examination in public by an independent Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.

### **Habitat Regulation Assessments (HRA)**

An assessment, in this case of the Local Plan, to determine whether proposals are likely to have a significant effect on protected sites of European importance for nature conservation, and if so what the implications are for those sites in view of their conservation objectives.

### **Local Plan**

The plan for the development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community. In law this is described as the development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

### **Local Development Scheme (LDS)**

The Local Development Scheme is a document which sets out the Local Planning Authority's programme for the production of Local Development Documents.

### **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The Regulatory title for a planning document which may be initiated and prepared by Parish and Town Councils or Neighbourhood Forums. Following robust consultation, independent examination and a local referendum they become 'made' (essentially adopted) by the Council

as part of the statutory development plan. They are generally referred to as Neighbourhood Plans and must be prepared in general conformity with the Local Plan.

### **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

### **Planning Practice Guidance**

A set of detailed and regularly updated Government advice on how the National Planning Policy Framework should be interpreted

### **Policies Map**

This will illustrate on an Ordnance Survey Base Map all the policies and proposals contained in the Local Plan.

### **Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)**

The National Planning Practice Guidance adds further context to the NPPF on specific issues.

### **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)**

A document outlining the approach of the authority to involving the community in preparing planning policy and considering planning applications.

### **Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**

A document that provides guidance on how to use and interpret planning policies when developing proposals or making decisions

### **Sustainability Appraisal**

A process by which the economic, social and significant environmental impacts of a project, strategy or plan are assessed. The aim of the appraisal process is to avoid or mitigate significant adverse impacts.

### **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive**

A European directive requiring public plans and programmes to undergo an assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment of the plan and reasonable alternatives. It also requires public consultation on the assessment, and monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's implementation.