

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE
LOCAL PLAN**

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
SCHEME**

2016– 2019

May 2016



1. INTRODUCTION

The North West Leicestershire Local Plan

- 1.1 North West Leicestershire District Council as Local Planning Authority is required to produce a Local Plan.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Local Plan is to guide future decisions in respect of future development. This Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the programme for the preparation of the Local Plan and other documents, including Supplementary Planning Documents.
- 1.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) notes that “ *Local Plans are the key to delivering sustainable development that reflects the vision and aspirations of local communities. Planning decisions must be taken in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise*”.
- 1.4 The NPPF also notes that it “*must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans*” and that “*Each local planning authority should produce a Local Plan for its area. This can be reviewed in whole or in part to respond flexibly to changing circumstances*”.
- 1.5 The existing Local Plan was adopted on 22nd August 2002. In addition, the District Council has also adopted the following Local Plan Alterations:
 - No.1: Housing Design and Density and Parking Standards (adopted 13th December 2004);
 - No.2: Airport Safety (adopted 29th June 2004); and
 - No.3: Housing Land Release (adopted 7th July 2005).
- 1.6 A number of the existing Local Plan policies were saved following the passing of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. A list of the saved policies is set out at Appendix 1.

The Local Development Scheme

- 1.7 The LDS for North West Leicestershire identifies the various Development Plan Documents (DPD) which the District Council proposes to prepare for the three year period up to 2019 and sets out the programme for their preparation.

The Development Plan

- 1.8 As noted above, planning applications are to be determined in accordance with the provisions of the Development Plan unless there are good planning reasons for doing otherwise. The Development Plan represents the cornerstone of the planning system as it sets out the local planning authorities planning strategy and policies to guide the future development of the district..
- 1.9 At the present time the Development Plan for North West Leicestershire will consist of the following documents:
 - The saved policies of the existing Local Plan;

- Development Plan Documents (DPDs) – produced by the District Council (which will be brought together in the District Council’s new Local Plan); and
 - Minerals and Waste DPDs – produced by Leicestershire County Council (to replace the existing Minerals and Waste Local Plans).
- 1.10 All DPDs have to be consistent with national policies, as set out in the NPPF.
- 1.11 Each DPD must also be accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal.
- 1.12 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process intended to ensure that significant environmental effects arising from Local Plan proposals are identified, assessed, mitigated, communicated to decision-makers and monitored. The role of SEA is to:
- Support sustainable development;
 - Improve the evidence base for decision-making; and
 - Facilitate and respond to consultation with stakeholders.
- 1.13 The Planning Act requires local planning authorities to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (incorporating SEA) to ensure that, in addition to considering the environmental impacts of policies and proposals, an assessment is also made of their economic and social impacts.
- 1.14 The SA outputs will be consulted upon during the DPD and SPD consultation periods.
- 1.15 The River Mease which passes through part of the district is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) at EU level. The council is required to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment of any DPD whose policies or proposals could have a significant adverse effect upon the integrity of the SAC.
- 1.16 The outcome of any such assessment will be consulted up on alongside the parent DPD.

Neighbourhood Plans

- 1.17 Under the Localism Act Neighbourhood Plans can be prepared by local communities. These can be used to establish general planning policies for an area. A Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the Development Plan (e.g. the Core Strategy), as well as having regard to national planning policy and must be compatible with EU obligations and human rights requirements.
- 1.18 Before a Neighbourhood Plan can be adopted it must gain the approval of a majority of voters of the neighbourhood.
- 1.19 If adopted a Neighbourhood Plan will be part of the Development Plan for that area – it will be a material consideration to be taken in to account in determining planning applications.

- 1.20 The LDS does not set out what Neighbourhood Plans will be produced as this will be a matter for local communities to decide when such plans will be produced. However, the District Council will provide support to local communities wanting to produce a Neighbourhood Plan.

Community Infrastructure Levy

- 1.21 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge payable by developers which contributes towards the cost of providing of new infrastructure as part of new development.
- 1.22 The Council has undertaken some work with the other Leicestershire Local Planning Authorities to establish the potential for a CIL charge and what such a charge would be.
- 1.23 The CIL does not form part of the LDS but any future updates to the LDS will set out the latest situation on the CIL.

2. **THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE**

Purpose and Content of Local Development Scheme

2.1 The Local Development Scheme has the following main purposes:

- To inform the public of the documents that the District Council proposes to prepare which will make up the new planning policy framework for North West Leicestershire;
- To set out the timescales envisaged for the preparation of these documents;
- To establish and reflect District Council priorities;
- To enable work programmes to be set and resources to be allocated for the preparation of these documents;
- To set a timetable for the review of these documents once they have been prepared.

Development Plan Documents

2.2 The District Council's revised programme of Development Plan Documents comprises:

- Local Plan and ;
- Gypsy and Travellers Site Allocations Development Plan Document

2.3 The Local Plan will form the initial focus of work. This will include both strategic policies (for example the development strategy) as well as more detailed policies such as the identification of sites for development and development management policies.

2.4 The Gypsy and Travellers Site Allocations Development Plan Document will identify sites to meet the needs of gypsies and travellers. There is currently an unmet need in the district and in accordance with Government policies it is important that this need is met as soon as possible.

2.5 The District Council will review the need for and timing of these and other additional DPDs as part of the annual monitoring cycle involved in the preparation of the Annual Monitoring Review.

2.6 The Policies Map will be a dynamic document and amended to reflect changes to the development plan. It will be updated to show the geographic extent of site specific policies or other matters referred to in adopted DPD.

2.7 Each DPD will be subject to statutory procedures, including consideration at an independent examination, and an Inspector's report which the Council will need to consider before adopting the relevant DPD.

2.8 Section 4 sets out individual profiles for each document to be prepared by the Council. This provides a brief description of each document, information on its status and the timing of the main stages or 'milestones' towards its adoption.

3. **SUPPORTING STATEMENT**

Introduction

- 3.1 This supporting statement sets out the context for the preparation of the Local Plan. It identifies the resources that will be available for the preparation of the various documents and provides an assessment of the various risks which the District Council is likely to face in the production of the Local Plan.

District Profile

- 3.2 North West Leicestershire is a mainly rural district, covering 27,900 hectares. The principal town is Coalville and the other main settlements are Ashby de la Zouch, Castle Donington, Ibstock, Kegworth and Measham.
- 3.3 The population of the district in 2011 was 93,468.
- 3.4 Little trace of the former deep mining industry now remains. Unemployment is low (currently just over 1.0%) and there is now very little dereliction. Major employment areas have been provided at strategic locations as part of the area's regeneration strategy.
- 3.5 The District is crossed by the A42, with the M1 passing on the eastern side. East Midlands Airport is situated in the northern part of the District and provides a major source of local employment. There is no passenger rail service within the District, but the Leicester-Burton railway (the 'National Forest Line') remains open for freight traffic.
- 3.6 North West Leicestershire is at the heart of the National Forest and has areas of very attractive countryside, including Staunton Harold and the Charnwood Forest. There are nationally recognised conservation areas in Ashby-de-la-Zouch Town Centre and at Castle Donington.

Joint Working

- 3.7 It is not the District Council's intention, at the current time, to set up a joint planning board on planning matters with any neighbouring authority or authorities. However, we have, and will, collaborate with our neighbouring planning authorities, Leicestershire County Council and other public agencies in respect of policies, proposals and/or opportunities which have cross boundary or county/district implications or benefits.
- 3.8 None of the documents identified for preparation during the first 3-year period will be prepared as joint documents with other authorities. However, the potential for the production of any joint documents will be kept under review.

Resources

- 3.9 Production of local development documents is led by the Planning Policy Team in the Planning Service. A more detailed explanation of resource requirements is set out within the individual document profiles in Section 4.
- 3.10 The following staff resource is available for preparing the Local Plan:

- Head of Planning & Regeneration 10%
- Planning Policy Team Manager 75%
- Planning Policy Team Leader Officer 95%
- Senior Planner x 3 (2 PT) 85%

3.11 Consultants have been engaged to carry out a number of studies for the District Council. The need for further input of such expertise will be kept under review.

3.12 Every effort will be made to take advantage of the skills and experience available in other sections of the District Council.

Programme Management Responsibilities

3.13 The preparation of the Local Plan for North West Leicestershire will be the responsibility of the Head of Planning Service, with day-to-day project management and programming being dealt with by the Planning Policy Team Manager.

Council Procedures

3.14 A Project Board of key officers has been established to oversee the preparation of the Local Plan. In addition, a Local Plan Advisory Committee provides an opportunity for Councillors and officers to discuss key issues pertaining to the Local Plan.

3.15 The District Council's Cabinet has responsibility for overseeing planning policies, although a Council resolution will be required for the submission and adoption stages of each Development Plan Document.

Risk Assessment

3.16 An assessment has been undertaken of the main areas of risk facing the District Council in the preparation of the Local Plan, together with measures to address such risks. The risks identified include:

- Staff turnover and possible delays in filling vacant posts.

Mitigation measures: continual professional development through appraisals; flexible use of other planning expertise elsewhere within the Planning service as required.

- Nature and extent of public response is such that existing resource will be stretched to maintain programme of work.

Mitigation measures: The Government anticipates that the greater emphasis on community engagement and involvement will result in less confrontation and the emergence of consensus regarding development proposals. The SCI for North West Leicestershire is now in place and provides a clear basis for community engagement. Consider the employment of temporary staff to help assist with assessment of

responses to consultations if required particularly to free up experienced planning officers.

- New Government guidance which affects approach being taken thus requiring additional work and hence delays.

Mitigation measures: closely monitor potential changes and ensure that t all Planning Policy staff are aware of any emerging issues and guidance and asses potential impact upon Local Plan immediately.

4 OVERVIEW OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENTS TO BE PRODUCED

4.1 This section describes the purpose of each document forming the Local Plan and the timetable for its preparation. The chart at Appendix 2 provides a summary guide to the timetabling of each document

Local Plan Development Plan Document (DPD1)

Purpose

4.2 The Local Plan will set out the vision, strategic objectives and planning policies that will shape the District in the future. It will contain both strategic policies and more detailed policies. A key diagram setting out the key strategic elements of the Local Plan policies will be included.

4.3 Amongst other matters, the Local Plan will identify:

- The quantum amount of housing provision to be made;
- The quantum amount of new employment provision to be made;
- The distribution of new housing;
- The development Strategy ;and
- The retail hierarchy.

OVERVIEW	
Coverage	District-wide
Status	Development Plan Document
Conformity	National Planning Policy Framework

Timetable and arrangements for production

4.4 Work on preparing the new Local Plan commenced in early 2014. An initial consultation was undertaken in the summer of 2014 in respect of 'Issues which the local plan ought to address'. A draft Local Plan was the subject of consultation from September to December 2015.

4.5 The next stage in the process is for the Council to agree a publication version Local Plan which will then be published and representations invited. After this the Council will submit the plan to the Secretary of State and a Planning Inspector will be appointed to exam the plan. At this point the District Council will no longer be in control of the process as this will be the responsibility of the Planning Inspector.

4.6 The timetable for producing the new Local Plan is set out below.

TIMETABLE	
Stage	Dates
Council agrees publication version of Local Plan	June 2016
Publication of Local Plan	July 2016
Submission	September 2016
Examination	December 2016
Adoption	June 2017

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRODUCTION	
Organisational Lead	Head of Planning & Regeneration
Political Management	Local Plan Advisory Committee Cabinet Council
Internal Resources	Planning Policy Team Manager and Planning Policy Team
External Resources	Resources from the local strategic partners and other external stakeholders including various public agencies will be required to inform the production of the document. Consultants have been used to provide input into evidence base.
Community & Stakeholder Involvement	As set out in Statement of Community Involvement
Monitoring	Addressed in the Annual Monitoring Review

Gypsy and Travellers Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD2)

Purpose

- 4.7 The Local Plan will identify the need for additional provision of sites to meet the needs of the gypsy and traveller community, including travelling showpeople. It will also establish the criterion to be used when assessing proposals for sites for gypsies and travellers. However, the Local Plan will not identify any specific sites or preferred locations for future provision. These matters will be dealt with as part of a separate Gypsy and Travellers Site Allocations Development Plan Document.

OVERVIEW	
Coverage	District-wide
Status	Development Plan Document
Conformity	National Planning Policy Framework

- 4.8 In addition to identifying sites and/or broad locations the Gypsy and Traveller DPD may also contain other policies which relate directly to this matter.
- 4.9 Work on the DPD has commenced with an initial consultation, including a call for sites, from February to April 2016. The next stage will be the publication of a draft DPD for consultation.

TIMETABLE	
Stage	Dates
Draft Plan consultation	November– December 2016
Council agrees publication version of Local Plan	June 2017
Publication of Local Plan	July 2017
Submission	September 2017
Examination	December 2017
Adoption	June 2018

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRODUCTION	
Organisational Lead	Head of Planning & Regeneration
Political Management	Local Plan Advisory Committee Cabinet Council
Internal Resources	Planning Policy Team Manager and Planning Policy Team
External Resources	Resources from a range of external stakeholders including various public agencies (for example highway authorities, utility providers) will be required to inform the production of the document. Consultants have been used to provide input into evidence base.
Community & Stakeholder Involvement	As set out in Statement of Community Involvement
Monitoring	Addressed in the Annual Monitoring Review

Policies Map

Purpose

- 4.10 The Policies Map illustrates on an Ordnance Survey base map all the policies and proposals set out in Development Plan Documents (DPDs). Inset maps illustrate policies and proposals for specific parts of the District or specific settlements. The Policies Map (and any relevant Inset Maps) will be revised as new DPDs are adopted, policies are deleted or policies cease to be part of the development plan.

OVERVIEW	
Coverage	District-wide
Status	Development Plan Document
Conformity	National Planning Policy Framework

Timetable

- 4.11 Revisions to the existing Proposals Map which accompanies the existing Local Plan will be subject to the timetable associated with the relevant documents which requires changes to the Proposals Map.

Arrangements for production

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRODUCTION	
Organisational Lead	Head of Planning & Regeneration
Political Management	Cabinet Council
Internal Resources	Manager and Planning Policy & Business Focus Team
External Resources	Possible external resource required to facilitate electronic version of proposals map which is web based. In addition, external printing resource may be required for paper copies of Policies Map.

5. MONITORING

5.1 The District Council will monitor annually how effective its policies and proposals are. The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) will be published by the end of December of each year.

5.2 As part of the AMR the District Council will assess:

- Its progress against targets set out in the various Local Plan documents produced;
- The impact its policies are having on other targets set at national, regional or local level;
- The need for policies to be changed or replaced;
- What action is necessary if this is the case.

5.3 The District Council will consider, in the light of monitoring, what changes, if any, are needed as part of the annual review of the Local Development Scheme.

6 SUPPLMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS

- 6.1 In addition to policies in the existing Local Plan there are a number of Supplementary Planning Guidance/Documents which the Council has approved as listed at Appendix 3 This Appendix also identifies the 'parent' Local Plan policy for each SPG.
- 6.2 As the various parts of the new Local Plan are adopted so the parent policies may be replaced or disappear entirely. Therefore, the need to update or replace these documents will be kept under review.
- 6.3 The NPPF advises that Supplementary Planning Documents can be used where they can help applicants make successful applications or aid infrastructure delivery. There may therefore be a need to prepare supplementary guidance to provide additional details to support new Local Plan policies. The need for these will be reviewed as the component parts of the Local Plan are prepared and the need for them will be highlighted in the relevant part of the Local Plan.

APPENDIX 1

Schedule of Saved Policies

[to insert]

APPENDIX 3

SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS

Supplementary Planning Guidance	Adopted	'Parent' Local Plan Policy
Diseworth Village Design Statement	April 2000	E4
Appleby Magna and Appleby Parva Village Design Statement	August 2000	E4
Development Guidelines	October 2000	E4
Play Area Design Guidance	July 2001	L21
Ashby Area Cycling Network	October 2001	T12 T14 T15
Guidance for Telecommunications Development	January 2003	E39 E40
Affordable Housing	January 2011	H8
Designing out crime, designing in community safety	November 2003	E8
Lighting	November 2003	E3
Northern Parishes Cycling Strategy	March 2003	T12 T14
Retail	January 2011	R4 R19