

Local Development Scheme 2021-2024

July 2021



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The existing statutory development plan for Wokingham Borough consists of the following alongside made (adopted) neighbourhood development plans:
- Core Strategy, adopted January 2010;
 - Managing Development Delivery, adopted February 2014;
 - Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire, adopted May 2001; and
 - Waste Local Plan for Berkshire, adopted December 1998.
- 1.2 The council is undertaking a review of the above local plans. The Core Strategy and the Managing Development Delivery plans will be superseded by a Local Plan Update. The Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire and Waste Local Plan for Berkshire, which apply to local authorities across Berkshire, will be superseded by a new Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan covering the central and eastern Berkshire area.
- 1.3 The council has a statutory duty to maintain an up-to-date Local Development Scheme (LDS) – the document which sets out the programme for preparing new local plans.
- 1.4 This LDS sets out the local plans that will be prepared and the programme for their preparation, including when public consultation and publication is likely to take place.
- 1.5 This LDS is produced in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) and sets out the details for the next three year period, between 2021 and 2024.
- 1.6 In addition to local plans, there are several other types of policy documents that are adopted by the council and used to guide decisions on planning application. The programme for preparing these other types of documents is not a requirement for this LDS, however reference is made here for completeness.

Neighbourhood Development Plans

- 1.7 Commonly referred to as simply neighbourhood plans, these are produced by a parish or town council. A neighbourhood plan must be in conformity with strategic policies set out in relevant local plans and with government planning policy. They are not able to propose lower levels of development than those set out in up-to-date local plans but could propose higher levels. Before a neighbourhood plan is adopted it must be subject to a referendum. If over 50% of the votes are in favour the council has a duty to adopt the plan unless it does not meet specific regulations.

Supplementary Planning Documents and Guidance

- 1.8 Supplementary Planning Documents and other forms of supplementary guidance provide more advice to explain the policies and proposals set out in local plans. Unlike local plans, they are not subject to examination, however consultation is a key element of their preparation.

Statement of Community Involvement

- 1.9 A Statement of Community Involvement sets out how the council will engage with stakeholders in the preparation of local plans and when assessing planning applications. The council's SCI was last reviewed and published in March 2019.

2. Proposed Local Plans

- 2.1 Between 2021 and 2022 two local plans will be produced by the council:
1. Central and East Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan; and
 2. Local Plan Update.

Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan

- 2.2 The Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan will review and put in place planning policies for minerals and waste development. The plan is being produced jointly by the local planning authorities of Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, and Wokingham Borough Council. The authorities have commissioned Hampshire Services of Hampshire County Council, to support the preparation of the plan.
- 2.3 The plan will identify the approach to the delivery of minerals and the treatment of waste and will allocate sites for such uses. Upon completion it will replace all the saved policies in the Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire and Waste Local Plan for Berkshire.

Local Plan Update

- 2.4 The Local Plan Update will review and put in place planning policies for non-minerals and waste development, up to 2037. Upon completion it will replace the current Core Strategy and Managing Development Delivery plans which cover the period to 2026.
- 2.5 The Local Plan Update will cover a wide range of matters. A key area will be assessing the future development needs for new homes, employment land and other uses such as accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers. It will then set a strategy for delivery including allocating key sites as necessary.

Policies Map

- 2.6 The Policies Map spatially illustrates policies contained in local plans on an Ordnance Survey base map. It will be updated to reflect any changes as local plans are reviewed and adopted). The Policies Map will show matters such as:
- local development constraints, e.g. Green Belt;
 - designations, e.g. development limits (outside of which it would be difficult for example to get planning permission for a new housing site);
 - site allocations, e.g. sites may be allocated for housing, employment, etc.

What process do local plans have to go through?

- 2.7 Local plans are prepared in accordance with a regulatory process. The process includes consultation with the community and stakeholders. Following its preparation, a local plan is subject to examination by an independent Planning Inspector.
- 2.8 The four main stages in the preparation are:
1. The pre-production stage, including evidence gathering by the council on key issues and development options, and consulting statutory bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal.
 2. The production stage, including public and stakeholder consultation by the council on the development issues and options, and the scope of the local plan and the consideration of consultation responses.
 3. The submission and examination stage, where the local plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State and subject to scrutiny by an independent Planning Inspector who will assess it for its the legal compliance and soundness.
 4. Finally, the adoption stage, where the local plan formally becomes part of the development plan.

3. Programme for preparing local plans

- 3.1 The programme for the preparation of the Central and East Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan and the Local Plan Update are set out below.
- 3.2 Please note that following the submission of a local plan, the timing of the examination and subsequent stages is dependent on the availability of a Planning Inspector and the issues raised that require exploration through that process. The timings shown below are therefore indicative only.

Central and East Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Title	Central and East Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan
Status	Development Plan Document
Role and content	It sets out policies and guidance for minerals and waste related development over the period to 2036. It identifies where mineral resources are present and sets the framework for assessing any proposed extraction. It also considers how waste will be managed.
Coverage	Wokingham Borough Reading Borough Bracknell Forest Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Timetable	Issues and Options consultation

	<p>Consultation held June – July 2017 This aim of this consultation was to engage communities in discussions about managing waste and minerals, and gathering evidence to inform future options for the plan policies and site allocations.</p> <p>Draft Plan consultation Consultation held August – October 2018 The consultation set out a full set of draft policies, including the spatial strategy directing the location of future minerals extraction and waste management. The consultation included a full suite of policies intended to assess and manage the impact of minerals and waste development.</p> <p>Focused consultation: Sand and gravel provision and operator performance Consultation held February – March 2020 The purpose of the Focused Consultation was to seek feedback on the proposed Area of Search, the potential new sites (Land West of Basingstoke Road, Spencers Wood and Area between Horton Brook and Poyle Quarry) and Policy DM15 (Past Operator Performance).</p> <p>Proposed Submission Plan consultation Consultation held September – October 2020 The purpose of this consultation was to consider compliance with all legal requirements including the Duty to Cooperate and soundness.</p> <p>Submission to Secretary of State Submitted 25th February 2021</p> <p>Examination Summer 2021</p> <p>Inspector’s report received Expected to be received Autumn 2021</p> <p>Adoption Expected to be achieved in Winter 2021/22</p>
Notes	Upon adoption, the Local Plan Update will supersede the existing adopted Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire, adopted May 2001; and Waste Local Plan for Berkshire, adopted December 1998.

Local Plan Update

Title	Local Plan Update
Status	Development Plan Document
Role and content	It sets out policies and guidance for the development of the borough over the next 15 years. It looks ahead to 2037 and identifies where the main

	developments will take place, and how places within the borough will change, or be protected from change.
Coverage	Wokingham Borough
Timetable	<p>Issues and Options Consultation held August-September 2016. The Focus was early opinion gathering on a range of high level issues.</p> <p>Spatial Options Consultation: Right Homes, Right Places Consultation held November 2018-February 2019. The focus was to provide opportunity to comment on the suitability of land promoted across the borough for potential development. In addition, some high level opinions were sought, e.g. on development density and height</p> <p>Draft Local Plan Consultation held February-April 2020. The consultation set out a full set of draft policies, including the spatial strategy directing the location of future development and supporting allocations. The consultation includes a full suite of policies intended to assess and manage the impact of development.</p> <p>Revised Draft Local Plan Expected to be held autumn 2021</p> <p>Pre Submission Local Plan Expected to be held summer 2022</p> <p>Submission Expected to occur November-December 2022</p> <p>Examination Expected to be during 2023</p> <p>Inspector's report received Expected to be received summer 2023</p> <p>Adoption Expected to be achieved by end of 2023</p>
Notes	Upon adoption, the Local Plan Update will supersede the existing adopted Core Strategy and Managing Development Delivery local plans.

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