



**Doncaster  
Council**

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**Doncaster Local Plan  
Local Development Scheme**

**March 2019**

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## Introduction

- 1.1 Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council is the planning authority for the largest geographical metropolitan area in the country. It prepares and implements planning policies that shape the development for the borough. These policies ensure that planning has co-ordinated aims and strategies and provides the basis for consistent decisions on planning applications that meet local circumstances.
- 1.2 Currently, planning policies are contained in a number of documents. Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, requires every Local Planning Authority to put in place a Local Development Scheme (LDS) which should set out the documents which will comprise of the Local Plan. Doncaster's first LDS was produced in 2006 and has been revised in 2010 and 2014 which mapped out the start of a new Local Plan following the withdrawal of the Local Development Framework Sites and Policies Development Plan Document that had previously been submitted to Government. There has been a further revision to the time table of the Local Plan (December 2016) resulting from an extra period of consultation, not included in the previous scheme, on a Homes and Settlement Strategy which took place in March/April 2016. Also, in July 2016, High Speed 2 Ltd made an announcement on a new route alignment for its proposals between West Midlands and Leeds through the west of the borough. The Government, in November 2016, requested that this route be safeguarded in Local Plans. Since then, government has announced in July 2017, that this route is its preferred route and confirmed the safe guarding of the route through Doncaster albeit the Council objected to this route alignment.
- 1.3 The previous LDS (Dec 2017) proposed publishing a Local Plan in Summer 2018, with submission to the Secretary of State in Autumn 2018.
- 1.4 Since the last LDS (Dec 2017), there have been 2 matters that have led to the need to update the Local Plan timetable set out in this revised LDS:
  - The Council decided to consult informally on proposed sites and draft policies in Autumn 2018, an important stage to ensure residents, town and parish councils, businesses and stakeholders had the opportunity to provide their views before the Council drafts the plan.
  - Further updating of evidence base work.

## Planning Policies

- 1.5 The statutory development plan for Doncaster currently comprises of:
  - The **Local Development Framework Core Strategy**. This plan, adopted in May 2012, sets out the overall vision for planning of the borough to 2028 and includes strategic planning policies.
  - The **Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Plan** sets out the overall approach to managing waste across the areas over a 15-year

period, up until 2026. It has Core Strategy status and forms part of each borough's statutory development plan. This plan was adopted in March 2012.

- The saved policies of the **Doncaster Unitary Development Plan (UDP)**. The UDP was adopted in July 1998 but only some of its policies are still "saved"; these are listed at Appendix 3 of the Core Strategy. These policies were saved by the Direction of the Secretary of State dated 27<sup>th</sup> September 2007. The UDP Proposals Map still forms part of the statutory development plan.
- **Neighbourhood Plans** once adopted form part of the statutory development plan for Doncaster. Currently, there are adopted Neighbourhood Plans in the areas of Tickhill, Burghwallis, Edlington and Armthorpe. These are all adopted having been through an independent examination and passed a referendum.
- A number of other **Neighbourhood Plans** are at various stages of preparation. These include plans for Rossington, Bawtry, Edenthorpe, Thorne/Moorends, Sprotbrough, Auckley and Stainforth. Other plans may emerge during the lifetime of the Local Plan.

## Local Development Scheme

1.6 Doncaster Council is continuing to prepare its single Local Plan. This will supersede the Local Development Framework Core Strategy and the saved policies of the Unitary Development Plan. It will set out both the strategic and detailed planning policies for the Borough and will include a new Policies Map. The main stages and timings of them are set out below in table 1.

1.7 The Council has agreed to progress a South Yorkshire Joint Waste Plan with the other South Yorkshire planning authorities. Evidence base work on this is at a very early stage.

**Table 1: Local Plan Preparation Timetable**

<b>Call for Sites</b> Invitation to submit sites for consideration in the Local Plan for 8 weeks.	October – December 2014
<b>Issues &amp; Options</b> Issued for public consultation for 6 weeks.	July – September 2015
<b>Homes and Settlements Strategy</b> Issues for public consultation for 6 weeks.	March – April 2016
<b>Further on-going stakeholder engagement and consultation</b> Stakeholders will be invited to comment on the Local Plan evidence base work streams e.g. site selection methodology, sustainability appraisals and emerging proposals in the local plan.	Spring 2015 to Spring 2018

<b>Draft Policies and Proposed Sites Consultation</b> Informal public consultation on Local Plan draft policies and proposed sites as well as the supporting evidence base documents.	September - October 2018
<b>Consideration of plan by Council</b> The council will consider the plan and proposals through its various governance arrangements.	Late Spring 2019
<b>Publication</b> The Local Plan is published for Representations in respect to 'soundness' of the plan and whether it has been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements.	Early Summer 2019
<b>Submission</b> The Local Plan (alongside its supporting evidence base) and all Representations received are submitted to the Secretary of State who then appoints a Planning Inspector.	Late Autumn 2019
<b>Examination in Public</b> The Inspector considers the Plan and Representations made by the public.	Winter 2019/20
<b>Inspector's Report</b> Doncaster's Full Council considers the Inspector's recommendations.	Spring 2020
<b>Adoption</b> The Local Plan is adopted.	Summer 2020

## Supplementary Planning Documents

1.8 In addition to the statutory development plan the Council has a number of adopted **Supplementary Planning Document (SPDs)**. These give further explanation to policies and are a material planning consideration, but are not part of the Development Plan. Table 2 sets out the current SPDs that the Council has adopted at the time of writing. Draft SPD's are issued for full public consultation, in line with the Statement of Community Involvement (see para. 1.8), before they are finalised and adopted by the Council.

**Table 2: Currently Adopted Supplementary Planning Documents**

<b>Adopted SPD's</b>	<b>Date of Adoption</b>
Development and Flood Risk SPD	4 <sup>th</sup> October 2010
Residential Backland and Infill Development SPD	15 <sup>th</sup> November 2010
South Yorkshire Residential Design Guide SPD	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2015
Development Guidance and Requirements SPD	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2015
Carr Lodge Design Code SPD	16 <sup>th</sup> October 2016

## **Statement of Community Involvement in Planning**

1.9 The **Statement of Community Involvement** (SCI) sets out how and when we will involve the community and stakeholders in the preparation of the Local Plan and the determination of applications for planning permission and related consents. The Council's first SCI was adopted in November 2006. It has been reviewed alongside the initial stages of the new Local Plan and a revised version was consulted on (April – May 2015). The final version was adopted in July 2015 and is available to view on the Council's Local Plan website.

## **Risk Assessment**

1.10 The timetable for preparing policy documents set out in this LDS is based on a number of assumptions, for example the availability of Council and stakeholder resources to prepare the plan. There are uncertainties about a range of factors which should be recognised as they could lead to revisions to the programme.

1.11 Project management identifies the risks and sets out a number of mitigation measures (see Table 3 below) in place to monitor and manage them throughout the preparation of the plan; this has been reflected in the Doncaster Local Plan project management arrangements. In addition, project management support has been sought from the Planning Advisory Service and DCLG concluding on the need to manage the requirements for efficiency and progress the plan in line with the government's clear priority to seek comprehensive Local Plan coverage across the country.

## **Further Information**

1.12 You can find full information about the borough's planning policies, Neighbourhood Plans, and latest information on the emerging Local Plan, on the Council's web site via the following web-link: [www.doncaster.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/localplan)

**Table 3: Local Development Scheme Risk Assessment**

	<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
<b>Staffing resources</b>	The withdrawal of the Sites & Policies DPD may lead to an increase in Development Management activity requiring Local Plans Team input (e.g. Appeals, Public Inquiries). Resources may be required to facilitate the delivery of emerging major projects in the borough. The Localism Act 2011 gives powers to Town and Parish Councils to prepare Neighbourhood Plans and the Council has a duty to assist with the preparation of these. A number are already under preparation in the borough with potential for further interest. In response to Government spending cuts staffing levels may decline.	A more flexible planning service recently implemented will allow re-allocation of resources to progress the Local Plan whilst managing competing and/or changing workloads. The Council has increased its planning fees by 20% in 2018
<b>Duty to Cooperate (joint working and wider stakeholder resources)</b>	The Council is required to engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis with all stakeholders with an interest in the plan, including statutory stakeholders who also will be at risk of needing to find resource savings.	Regular meeting/correspondence with key stakeholders to ensure time scales are identified at an early opportunity, including when responses/input will be necessary.
<b>Planning Inspectorate resources and Examination</b>	The Local Plan will be subject to Examination by an independent Planning Inspector. Programming of public examinations depends on the availability of Inspectors. The Planning Inspector may require modifications or more work to be undertaken during the examination to make the plan 'sound' and/or legally compliant.	Comparative Local Plan hearings are monitored to identify issues causing additional work. Where required, further work may be undertaken to avoid delays. The Council keeps the Inspectorate up-to-date with Local Plan timescales.
<b>Potential changes to national policy</b>	The Government has revised national planning policy and some of the supporting guidance in July 2018, with further revisions in February 2019, and there are anticipated further changes for example to how Local Housing Need should be calculated. Depending on the timing of these changes (and court decisions arising from such changes) proposed changes and/or modifications to the plan may be required.	Changes in Government policy are monitored to identify early likely changes and if early work can be undertaken to meet any anticipated changes.
<b>Devolution and sub-regional spatial planning</b>	The Government's devolution of power from Whitehall to local areas is resulting in powers being devolved potentially including planning powers which require resources and governance arrangements. In addition, Government is requiring city region to prepare industrial strategies which will provide part of the evidence for local planning.	The Council will continue to be closely integrated into and contributing to the strategies at the city region. Changes therefore to the devolution of planning powers will be unlikely to require significant changes in the immediate local planning strategy.
<b>Response to consultations</b>	An unprecedented high response to a consultation about a particular issue(s) may require additional time resource given to their assessment,	A more flexible planning service will allow re-allocation of resources to progress the Local Plan accordingly and

	further evidence base being prepared and/or redrafting of the plan that was not previously envisaged.	to reflect any changes required as a result of consultation.
<b>Legal challenge</b>	Before adoption of the Local Plan, there is a period of six weeks for any legal challenge to be made. If the Local Plan is subject to such a challenge, the decision of the Courts could result in part or the entire plan being quashed and significant delay to having an adopted Local Plan in place.	Legal advice will be sought at key points throughout the Local Plan process.
<b>Major Infrastructure Proposals</b>	The Government or other infrastructure providers may propose infrastructure proposals that require inclusion within a local plan which has an effect on the policies and proposals of the emerging plan.	Early liaison with infrastructure provider will enable early understanding of where, when and how the infrastructure will affect the local plan.
<b>Potential change arising from advice and best practice</b>	The Local Plan process is reviewed against best practice and outcomes of plans elsewhere. This may result in additional or a review of evidence base matters and, depending on the scale of the work, impact on the timetable.	Any additional work that is likely to delay the Local Plan timetable will be scrutinised for relevance and legal advice sought if needed.
<b>Changes in governance priorities</b>	Within the preparation period of the local plan, political representatives of the borough may change with varying priorities.	There will be early engagement with new council members to ensure any change in priorities are identified early and can be taken account of early within the plan's preparation.