

North Northamptonshire Council

Local Development Scheme
(LDS)
2022 - 2025

*Final Version for adoption by Full Council
31 March 2022*



**North
Northamptonshire
Council**

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) requires local planning authorities to prepare, maintain and publish a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The purpose of the LDS is to enable the local community to identify the timetable for the preparation of planning documents prepared in their area. This will be the first LDS prepared by North Northamptonshire Council.
- 1.2 The new North Northamptonshire Council came into effect on 1st April 2021. Immediately prior to this an LDS was prepared and adopted by each of the sovereign authorities, the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning & Delivery Unit, and Northamptonshire County Council on Minerals and Waste matters.
- 1.3 This LDS covers a three-year period and sets out details of the Development Plan Documents (DPDs) that North Northamptonshire Council intends to produce, and the timetable for their production. It also includes an assessment of the roles and responsibilities of those involved in their production; a reflection on the relationship with Neighbourhood Plans and other documents; and an assessment of risks and contingencies as part of the programme to adoption.
- 1.4 The LDS will be kept up-to-date on the Council's website to allow local communities and other interested parties to keep track of the Council's progress, aware of critical phases of plan preparation, and alert to when the key stages will occur.

2 North Northamptonshire Development Framework – Current Position

2.1 The North Northamptonshire Development Framework currently comprises the following:

Development Plan Documents

- North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) (Part 1 Local Plan) - adopted July 2016
- Part 2 Plan for the Borough Council of Wellingborough - adopted February 2019
- Part 2 Local Plan for Corby – adopted September 2021
- Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan for Kettering Borough – planned for adoption December 2021
- Kettering Town Centre Area Action Plan - adopted July 2011
- Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan – adopted July 2011
- Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Update – adopted July 2017
- Saved Policies from the East Northamptonshire District Local Plan – adopted 1996
- Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Update - adopted July 2017

Other Development Framework Documents

- North Northamptonshire Statement of Community Involvement – agreed by the Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel for consultation 21st October 2021, the results of which to be discussed on 24th March 2022
- North Northamptonshire Annual Monitoring Report – published annually
- Other local plan specific Annual Monitoring Reports for Development Plan Documents – published annually
- Local Development Scheme (this document)

2.3 The preparation of new documents will bring with it the need to review and update the content of this Local Development Scheme (LDS) however, changes to the content of documents or minor alterations to supporting mechanisms will not necessarily demand a review of the LDS.

Related Strategies

2.4 The Council sits on groups formed to influence the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Strategy. New local plans, most notably the North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan, will need to be in general conformity with the content of the Arc Spatial Strategy. The Council's Corporate Plan, due to be considered for approval by Full Council on 1st December 2021 will influence Local Plans prepared by the Council.

3 Development Plan Documents – Future Position

North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy

- 3.1 The North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) was adopted in July 2016 and will cover the period 2011-2031. It was prepared by the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit and adopted by the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee. The JCS is the strategic Part 1 Local Plan for the area, providing strategic allocations and the strategic direction for development across the North Northamptonshire area.
- 3.2 The Joint Core Strategy will be reviewed/updated through the preparation of what will be called the North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan will focus on strategic matters which will, as a minimum, meet the requirement set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, to have a plan that addresses the strategic priorities for the area. It is proposed that the statutory plan period should be 2021-2041, with the vision extended to 2050 to align with the Arc Spatial Framework.

East Northamptonshire District Wide Local Plan Part 2

- 3.2 The East Northamptonshire District Wide Local Plan Part 2, like the Part 2 Local Plans for Corby and for Kettering Borough, is a legacy document in its final stages of preparation, planned for adoption by North Northamptonshire Council. All the Part 2 Local Plans will be intrinsically linked with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, to read as one Local Plan.
- 3.3 The Part 2 Local Plan for East Northamptonshire was Submitted to the Secretary of State in March 2021. The Examination hearing sessions are expected to be held in February 2022.

North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Policy

- 3.4 A Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) for North Northamptonshire was published in March 2019. Members have indicated the desire that addressing gypsy and traveller accommodation needs should be considered on a North Northamptonshire basis. As such, with the results of the GTAA forming the basis for that policy development. It is proposed to commission specialist consultants to undertake further survey work to better define identified need and undertake interviews with those families who did not take part in the first survey, but a proportional need was assumed. Specialist consultants will report on their updated findings, whilst also undertaking an exercise to make recommendations on a series of initiatives aimed at delivering against that need. Options for making provision could include existing site extensions, site intensifications, potential enforcement of sites occupied by non-travellers, and new site provision.
- 3.5 The projected timescale for the North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Policy proposes progress with evidence gathering and

background work, before undertaking early stakeholder and community involvement in June 2022.

Other Development Plan Documents

- 3.6 Once an approach has been developed for how the Council should progress in preparing the North Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan, and any other Development Planning Documents, then a review of this LDS will be undertaken.

Neighbourhood Plans

- 3.8 The Localism Act 2011 introduced rights and powers to enable communities to get directly involved in planning for their area. Neighbourhood planning allows communities to come together through a parish council or formal neighbourhood forum and produce a neighbourhood plan. Neighbourhoods can decide what they want to consider in their neighbourhood plans. They may allocate land for development or influence the type and design of development that comes forward. Neighbourhood plans must however be in general conformity with National Policy and the strategic planning policies already adopted by the Borough Council. They should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies. They are also subject to an independent Examination and need to be approved by a majority vote in a local Referendum, before they can be Made (adopted).
- 3.9 North Northamptonshire Council has a large number of “made” neighbourhood plans within its area, and a significant number at various stages in their preparation. The Council will continue to support those Neighbourhood Plan Groups in the preparation of their Plans.
- 3.10 Any further “made” Neighbourhood Plans will also form a part of the Development Plan and will be used to assess and determine planning applications within the Plan’s designated area.

4. Other Documents

Statement of Community Involvement

- 4.1 A Draft North Northamptonshire Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was presented to the Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel on 21st October 2021. At this meeting, Members made comment on the draft document, and endorsed it for public consultation. The SCI will be the first to be adopted by North Northamptonshire Council. The intention is that it set out the programme of community engagement in the preparation of local planning documents, minerals and waste matters and in considering planning applications for the area. It sets out how the community can become involved in influencing Local Plans and planning applications ranging from minor development proposals such as house extensions, to major housing, employment and retail schemes, and to minerals and waste plans and applications.

Community Infrastructure Levy and Planning Obligations

- 4.2 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a standard pre-set charge which local planning authorities are empowered, but not required, to charge on all new developments over a minimum size. However, planning obligations through S106 Agreements remain a key means for ensuring that developments pay for infrastructure to make a development proposal acceptable in planning terms. None of the previous sovereign authorities prepared a CIL levy for their areas. The Government has resolved to remove pooling restrictions previously imposed limiting 5 planning obligations towards a single piece of infrastructure. Further guidance on these topic areas was published by the Government on 2nd September 2019, and further reforms to CIL are under review by Central Government. The Council will continue to monitor the situation before determining any further actions necessary.

Supplementary Planning Documents

- 4.3 Supplementary Planning Documents are not required to be identified in the Local Development Scheme. It is however worth noting that Supplementary Planning Documents have been adopted on an areawide basis, largely by the former sovereign authorities.

North Northamptonshire Council Monitoring Report

- 4.4 A North Northamptonshire Council Monitoring Report to measure progress made in delivering the policies contained within the Joint Core Strategy will continue to be published. Monitoring reports previously published by the former sovereign authorities on their various Development Plan Documents will continue to be reported annually. These reports all measure the effectiveness of adopted policies within specific Development Plan Document.

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

- 4.5 Achieving sustainable development is at the heart of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and planning system in general. Development Plans must be in general conformity with the NPPF. Therefore, the proposed Development Plan Documents will have to be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment). This will ensure that the social, economic and environmental effects of policies and allocations are understood, and fully taken into consideration. This is particularly important in the appraisal of reasonable options.
- 4.6 Development Plan Documents must also comply with the requirements of the European Community's Habitats Regulations on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Directive 92/43/EEC, May 1992). An Appropriate Assessment will be prepared for each Development Plan Document, and along with the Sustainability Appraisal, will be subject to testing at the Examination into the Plans.

5 Delivery and Implementation

Resources

- 5.1 In preparing the Development Plan Documents, the Council's Planning Policy Team will lead in the production of each of the documents. It also recognises the need to use consultant expertise to assist in producing various elements of the technical background work. The Council has retained sufficient budget for the work necessary to prepare the Development Plan Documents and will consider the need for a Planning Reserve within future budget allocations to account for the higher costs necessary to progress Plans through Examination.
- 5.2 Following the formation of the new authority, a strategy of service transformation is being carried out, including within the Growth and Regeneration service area, in which the Planning Policy function sits. This LDS will be a reference point when considering how the service area is structured.
- 5.3 The Planning Policy team will continue to work with its partners on issues of delivery and implementation. Including continued discussions with infrastructure delivery partners, developers, and seeking funding support from government bodies Eg. Department for Transport and Homes England.

Risk Assessment

- 5.4 Production of the Development Plan Documents requires consideration of the potential risks involved in their preparation. In preparing this LDS, it was found that the main areas of risk relate to the following aspects:
 - **Staff turnover, retention and service restructure** – The Council officers will continue to work flexibly within the teams to ensure that resources are directed to areas where the greatest priorities require them. Plan preparation is a priority within the work programme. This will help to ensure that any loss of staff whilst positions are filled do not have a significant impact on timetables. Service restructure can be positive in resetting the focus of work priorities, but it is recognised it can also be unsettling for staff. It should also be recognised there is a shortage of qualified experienced town planners in the marketplace.
 - **Duty to Cooperate** – The Council will engage with other authorities and organisations to ensure it satisfies the Duty to Cooperate and prepares a Statement of Common Ground.
 - **Budget pressures** – The Council has identified a requirement to make quite significant efficiency savings over the next 3 years. It is reviewing how those savings can best be achieved, and the service maintained or improved. The Planning Policy is expected to contribute towards these savings. Helpfully, the budget is regularly monitored to plan and project for any efficiency opportunities and potential unexpected additional costs likely to be incurred in producing the Development Plan Documents.

- **Capacity of the Planning Inspectorate (PINS)** – Advanced notification of timetables will be provided to the Planning Inspectorate to assist them in ensuring a suitable Inspector is available, and arrangements that should any Examinations need to be held virtually, that the Council is able to respond to make provision for this.
- **Developing the Plans at Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel, and through Executive/Council** – Officers work closely with all Members, but in particular the Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration. Effort is made to inform them of progress in preparing the Development Plan Documents, and to they have access to all the background information necessary to develop an understanding and foster a spirit of ownership of the content of each Plan.
- **Soundness of the Plans** – The Council will seek to minimise any risk to the assessment of “soundness” by informing The Planning Inspectorate of the on-going process and working alongside the Council’s designated planning solicitor throughout the process.
- **Legal Challenge** – As above, and in addition as each Plan develops the Council will work closely with its designated planning solicitor to reduce the risk of a successful legal challenge.
- **Programme Slippage** – The timetables set are considered challenging but also achievable. To seek to reduce the risk of slippage, the programme will be regularly monitored, and contingencies explored to keep the timetables on track. There will be the potential for slippage caused by factors out of the Council’s control.

Monitoring and Review

- 5.5 The North Northamptonshire Annual Monitoring Report will monitor the progress of the LDS on an annual basis, reporting by December each year. An annual monitoring report will be prepared to report on the delivery of policies for each of the Development Plan Documents once each document is adopted.
- 5.6 The LDS will be reviewed within a minimum of three years from the adoption of this document.

Schedule of proposed Development Plan Documents to be prepared and agreed by North Northamptonshire Council

Document title	Status	Responsible authority	Brief description	Chain of conformity	Early stakeholder + community involvement	Consultation on Publication Plan	Date for submission to S. of S.	Proposed date for adoption
North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan	DPD	NNC	Policy framework providing the strategic direction and strategic allocations for North Northamptonshire	To conform with National Policy	Issues/Scope, Options and Draft March 2022 – June 2023	November - December 2023	April 2024	September 2025
East Northamptonshire District Wide Local Plan Part 2	DPD	NNC	Policy framework containing land allocations and site-specific proposals for the former East Northamptonshire Council area	To conform with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy	January - March 2017	February – March 2021	March 2021	December 2022
North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Sites Allocation Policy	DPD	NNC	Identify projected need for gypsy and traveller accommodation and will seek to allocate land to provide sufficient pitch numbers to meet the identified need.	To conform with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy	Early engagement June 2022 Draft April 2023	September 2023	February 2024	December 2024
North Northamptonshire Council Policies Maps	DPD	NNC	Illustration of policies and proposals on ordnance survey base.	To conform with all DPD documents	Continuously updated			

Title: North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan

<p>Document details</p>	<p>Role and subject The North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan will provide the strategic framework for development and make strategic scale allocations for the area. It will be the strategic Part 1 Local Plan, providing the big picture for development for the period 2021-2041, with the spatial vision potentially extending to 2050 to align with the planned Oxford-Cambridge Arc Strategic Framework.</p> <p>Geographical coverage The administrative unitary area of North Northamptonshire</p> <p>Status Development Plan Document</p> <p>Chain of conformity Emerging Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework and National Policy</p>	
<p>Timetable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early stakeholder and community engagement - Options - Draft Plan for consultation - Publication consultation - Submission to S of S - Examination - Adoption 	<p>March 2022</p> <p>November 2022</p> <p>June 2023</p> <p>November 2023</p> <p>April 2024</p> <p>September 2024</p> <p>September 2025</p>
<p>Arrangements for production</p>	<p>Organisation leading the process Northamptonshire County Council</p> <p>Management arrangements The North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan will be prepared, consulted upon, and managed by the Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel, reporting into the Executive. Adoption of the Plan will be considered by Full Council.</p> <p>Resources required to produce the DPD Planning Policy Team, Growth and Regeneration Planning Policy budget</p> <p>Approach to involving stakeholders and the community Refer to the North Northamptonshire Statement of Community Involvement (under review in December 2021).</p>	

Title: North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Policy

<p>Document details</p>	<p>Role and subject The North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Policy, when adopted, will form part of the statutory North Northamptonshire Development Plan. This document will explore projected need for gypsy and traveller accommodation throughout North Northamptonshire. It will seek to allocate land to provide sufficient pitch numbers to meet need identified through the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) for North Northamptonshire, published in March 2019.</p> <p>Geographical coverage The administrative unitary are of North Northamptonshire</p> <p>Status Development Plan Document</p> <p>Chain of conformity North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy</p>	
<p>Timetable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early stakeholder and community engagement - Draft Plan for consultation - Publication consultation - Submission to S of S - Examination - Adoption 	<p>June 2022</p> <p>April 2023</p> <p>September 2023</p> <p>February 2024</p> <p>June 2024</p> <p>December 2024</p>
<p>Arrangements for production</p>	<p>Organisation leading the process North Northamptonshire Council</p> <p>Management arrangements The North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Policy will be prepared, consulted upon, and managed by the Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel, reporting into the Executive. Adoption of the Plan will be considered by NNC Full Council.</p> <p>Resources required to produce the DPD Planning Policy Team, Growth and Regeneration Planning Policy budget</p> <p>Approach to involving stakeholders and the community Refer to the North Northamptonshire Statement of Community Involvement (under review in December 2021).</p>	

Title: East Northamptonshire District Wide Local Plan Part 2

<p>Document details</p>	<p>Role and subject The East Northamptonshire District Wide Local Plan Part 2, when adopted, will form part of the statutory North Northamptonshire Development Plan. The document will cover the whole of the former East Northamptonshire District area with the exception of issues addressed in the Joint Core Strategy. The Part 2 Local Plan will include the identification of sites for housing, employment, recreation, green infrastructure and other land uses. In addition, it will consider a masterplan for the Rushden East Sustainable Urban Extension identified as a broad location by Policy 33 of the Joint Core Strategy.</p> <p>Geographical coverage The administrative Unitary area of North Northamptonshire</p> <p>Status Development Plan Document</p> <p>Chain of conformity North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy</p>	
<p>Timetable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early stakeholder and community engagement - Draft Plan for consultation - Publication consultation - Submission to S of S - Examination - Adoption 	<p>Ongoing January – March 2017 November 2018 – February 2019 February – March 2021 March 2021 March 2022 December 2022</p>
<p>Arrangements for production</p>	<p>Organisation leading the process North Northamptonshire Council</p> <p>Management arrangements The East Northamptonshire District Wide Local Plan Part 2 will be prepared, consulted upon, and managed by the Executive Advisory Panel, reporting into the Executive. Adoption of the Plan will be considered by NNC Full Council.</p> <p>Resources required to produce the DPD Planning Policy Team, Growth and Regeneration Planning Policy budget</p> <p>Approach to involving stakeholders and the community Refer to the North Northamptonshire Statement of Community Involvement (under review in December 2021).</p>	

Title: North Northamptonshire Policies Maps

<p>Document details</p>	<p>Role and subject The policies maps will illustrate on an Ordnance Survey base map all the policies and proposals contained in development plan documents and any saved policies. It will reflect the Key Diagram in the Joint Core Strategy/Strategic Plan, and it will contain Insets showing the proposals within specific areas (e.g. sites subject to development allocation; Part 2 Local Plans; Area Action Plans; or sites to which policies apply for protection and/or enhancement).</p> <p>Geographical coverage The maps will cover the administrative unitary area of North Northamptonshire.</p> <p>Status Development Plan Document</p> <p>Chain of conformity North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy</p>
<p>Timetable</p>	<p>The Policies Maps will be revised, where necessary, to reflect the up-to-date plan for the area whenever a Development Plan Document is adopted or a 'saved' policy ceases to be part of the Local Plan.</p>
<p>Arrangements for production</p>	<p>Organisation leading the process North Northamptonshire Council</p> <p>Management arrangements The Proposals Maps will be prepared, consulted upon, and managed by the Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel, reporting into the Executive. Adoption of policies that appear on the Proposals Maps will be considered by NNC Full Council.</p> <p>Resources required to produce the DPD Planning Policy Team, Growth and Regeneration Planning Policy budget</p> <p>Approach to involving stakeholders and the community Refer to the North Northamptonshire Statement of Community Involvement (under review in December 2021).</p>

