

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

Local Development Scheme

2021-2024

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Local Development Scheme 2021-2024

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a three-year project plan which sets out what development plan documents the Council are producing and when they will be delivered.
- 1.2. Complex documents such as the Local Plan take a number of years to produce. The LDS shows the anticipated key milestones in the production of the Local Plan such as the stages it will be subject to public consultation and when this is predicted to occur.

2. Why is a Local Development Scheme produced?

- 2.1. A Local Development Scheme is required to be produced under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The document must be publicly available and should be kept up-to-date. This enables local communities and other interested parties to keep track of progress.

3. What is included in a Local Development Scheme?

- 3.1. The LDS must report on which development plan documents (dpd's) are to be produced. This includes the Local Plan, but some authorities may choose to undertake a number of documents such as Area Action Plans or Site Allocation dpd's in addition to the central strategy or Local Plan. The LDS can also report on Supplementary Planning Documents which are used to support dpd's, although this is not mandatory.
- 3.2. Whilst Neighbourhood Development Plans will become part of the development plan framework after referendum, they are produced by local communities led by Parish Councils or Neighbourhood Forums. As such, the Local Planning Authority cannot set a timeline for their production in the LDS. However, the Council will continue to support neighbourhood planning groups to progress their Neighbourhood Plans. For more details on Neighbourhood Plans in the Borough, please see the relevant pages of the website: <https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/all-services/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning>

4. How does it link to the Statement of Community Involvement?

- 4.1. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how the Council intend to engage with local communities, businesses and other interested parties when developing and reviewing planning documents and determining planning applications. The SCI contains more detail on how we will consult on the Local Plan at each key milestone.

The development plan for Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough

5. Current Development Plan

- 5.1. The Development Plan for the borough currently consists of a number of documents and some selected saved policies. These are as follows:
- Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Core Spatial Strategy
 - Saved Policies of the Newcastle under Lyme Local Plan (Adopted 2003)
 - Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire (2015-2030), produced by Staffordshire County Council
 - Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent waste Local Plan (2010-2026), produced by Staffordshire County Council
- 5.2. All documents, including a document which contains the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan saved policies are available on the Councils Planning Policy website, under the 'Current Development Plan' page¹.
- 5.3. The made Neighbourhood Plans also form part of the current development plan. These are listed in section 6.
- 5.4. It is likely more Neighbourhood Development Plans will be subject to referendum over the three year lifespan of the LDS, and therefore for current information about Neighbourhood Plans and for a list of the Neighbourhood Development Plans which form part of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Development Plan framework, please check the planning policy pages of the website under the 'Current Development Plan' page.

6. Neighbourhood Development Plans

- 6.1. Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Forums have the opportunity to produce Neighbourhood Plans for their area. The Borough Council has a duty to support communities producing neighbourhood plans, and the Council is keen to encourage more groups to produce local planning policies to help guide and shape development in their area. Whilst the LDS does not set a timeline for production, the Neighbourhood Plan pages of the Councils website have a map of all designated neighbourhood areas and more information on each of the plans. As of March 2021 there are two made Neighbourhood Plans and a number in development.
- 6.2. Made Neighbourhood Development Plans as of March 2021
- Loggerheads Neighbourhood Development Plan (made 15 February 2019)

¹ <https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/all-services/planning/planning-policy/current-development-plan>

- Chapel and Hill Chorlton, Maer and Aston and Whitmore Neighbourhood Development Plan (made 21 January 2020)

Neighbourhood Development Plans in development as of March 2021

- Audley Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Kidsgrove Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Keele Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Madeley Neighbourhood Development Plan

Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan

7. The Local Plan for the Borough

7.1. On 13 January 2021, Cabinet resolved to produce a new Local Plan for Newcastle-under-Lyme authority area. In order to deliver this as efficiently as possible, the Local Plan is the only document included in the three year project plan. The Local Plan will include the spatial strategy for development, strategic and detailed local planning policies and site allocations.

7.2. The Local Plan will be divided into three key stages which will be subjected to public consultations:

- **Issues and Strategic Options**

7.3. The first version of the Local Plan sets out the proposed vision and objectives for the plan and key options for the spatial strategy. It also sets out the intended detailed policies that the plan will provide. This is scheduled for consultation in autumn 2021.

- **Publication Draft**

7.4. The second stage of the Local Plan scheduled for consultation in autumn 2022 will contain the preferred spatial strategy, site allocations and detailed policies to guide future development. It will have been informed by final evidence documents, joint working under the Duty to Cooperate and the responses to the first Strategic Options document.

- **Final Plan**

7.5. The final Plan is the conclusion of all earlier stages of plan production, evidence and responses to the two consultations which will result in the final version of the Local Plan. This is anticipated to be consulted on in summer 2023 and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate later that year.

7.6. Following these key milestones the Local Plan is subject to Independent Examination by the Planning Inspectorate. This stage is difficult to accurately estimate in terms of timescale because it is not in the Councils control. It is hoped that the Examination can be concluded

in year 2024, that the Plan is found sound by the Inspectorate and that the Council can move forward to adopt the Local Plan.

8. Evidence

- 8.1. A range of evidence is required to inform the content of policies and proposals in the Local Plan. Some evidence is produced in house and a number of documents are produced by specialist external consultants. The policy team continually work on developing the evidence base at the same time as the Local Plan document. Once evidence has been approved by the Council it is added to the Council's website. Policies in the Local Plan will make clear which evidence has been used to inform the wording of the policy. The full evidence library will also be subject to independent scrutiny once the Local Plan has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination.

9. Sustainability Appraisal

- 9.1. The Local Plan is supported by sustainability appraisal which meets the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. The process of sustainability appraisal is iterative, beginning with a scoping report which identifies the criteria to assess the sustainability of each policy and proposal including any site allocations. At key stages of consultation on the Local Plan, the plan will be supported by an appraisal of the sustainability of proposed policies and of reasonable alternative options. This demonstrates the Council has met the SEA Directive as decisions made accord with the objectives of sustainable development.

10. Habitats Regulation Assessment

- 10.1. A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) identifies whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on the protected features of a European site, also known as 'habitats sites' in the National Planning Policy Framework, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This fulfils the obligations of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Along with the Sustainability Appraisal, the HRA is produced at each key stage of plan production.

Local Development Scheme

Development Plan Document: Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan

Plan Period: 2021-2040

Coverage: District wide

Role and Content: It is intended that the Local Plan will set out strategic and detailed policies including allocating sites for development. Once adopted, it will form the single comprehensive set of local planning policies for the Borough and will replace all documents listed as currently part of the Development Plan in section 5, except for Neighbourhood Plans which will be used alongside the new Local Plan to guide development. The Local Plan will set a framework for the future sustainable development of the District. It will be used in conjunction with made Neighbourhood Plan to guide development in the Borough.

Timetable of key stages:

| Spring | Summer | Autumn | Winter | Spring | Summer | Autumn | Winter | Spring | Summer | Autumn | Winter |
|---|--------------|---|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--------|
| 2021 | | | | 2022 | | | | 2023 | | | |
| Statement of Community Involvement update | Prepare Plan | Issues & Strategic Options consultation | Prepare Publication Draft | | | Publication Draft consultation | Prepare Submission draft | Submission Plan consultation | Review consultation responses | Submission to the Planning Inspectorate | |