



NEWCASTLE·UNDER·LYME
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Local Development Scheme 2023-2026

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Introduction

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a three-year project plan which sets out what development plan documents the Council is intending to produce and when they will be delivered.

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.

Why is a Local Development Scheme produced?

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.

How does it link to the Statement of Community Involvement?

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.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Development Plan

Current Development Plan

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 (adopted 2009)
- 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

The documents listed above are available on the Councils Planning Policy website, under the 'Current Development Plan' page: <https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/planning-policy/current-development-plan>

Neighbourhood Development Plans

Neighbourhood Development Plans also form part of the development plan. 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/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning>

Although the LDS does not set a timeline for their production, the Neighbourhood Plan pages on the Councils website has a map of all designated neighbourhood areas and more information on each of the plans.

Approved or 'Made' Neighbourhood Development Plans as at September 2023

- Loggerheads Neighbourhood Development Plan (made 15 February 2019)
- Chapel and Hill Chorlton, Maer and Aston and Whitmore Neighbourhood Development Plan (made 21 January 2020)
- Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill Neighbourhood Plan (made 4 January 2022)
- Madeley Neighbourhood Development Plan (made 23 May 2022)

Neighbourhood Development Plans in development as at September 2023

- Audley Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Kidsgrove Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Keele Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Silverdale Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Bradwell, May Bank, Porthill and Wolstanton Neighbourhood Forum

Withdrawal of the Joint Local Plan

Between the years 2013 and 2020 the Borough Council of Newcastle-under-Lyme worked jointly with Stoke-on-Trent City Council to produce a Joint Local Plan. The document was subject to three rounds of public consultation during its development, but was not submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination. The Joint Local Plan was not adopted and it does not form part of the development plan for either Council. Whilst the Joint Local Plan has no status, some of the evidence base used to inform the plan contains important and still relevant information applicable to the two areas and may continue to be used or updated to inform the new Local Plan.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan

The new Local Plan for the Borough

On 13 January 2021, Cabinet resolved to produce a new Local Plan covering the borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme administrative 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.

The Local Plan will be divided into three key stages which will be subjected to public consultation:

- **Issues and Strategic Options (stage complete)**

The first version of the Local Plan set out the proposed vision and objectives for the plan and key options for the spatial strategy. It also set out the intended detailed policies that the plan would seek to provide. The consultation took place from Monday 1 November until Monday 24 January 2022.

- **First Draft Plan (stage complete)**

The second stage of the Local Plan set out a preferred spatial strategy, site allocations and detailed policies to guide future development. It was informed by evidence documents, joint working under the Duty to Cooperate and responses received to the first Issues and Strategic Options document. The consultation on the First Draft Local Plan took place between the 19 June and the 14 August 2023.

- **Final Plan (publication draft)**

The final Plan is the conclusion of all earlier stages of plan production, evidence and responses to the two consultations undertaken to date. This Plan is anticipated to be consulted on in the third quarter of 2024 and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate later the same calendar year.

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 2025, that the Plan is found sound by the Inspectorate and that the Council can move forward to adopt the Local Plan.

Evidence

A range of evidence is required to inform the content of policies and proposals in the Local Plan. Some evidence is produced in-house by the Council and a number of documents are produced by specialist external consultants on behalf of the Authority. The Council's planning policy team continually work on developing the evidence base at the same time as the Local Plan document. 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.

Sustainability Appraisal

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.

Habitats Regulation Assessment

A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) identifies whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on the protected features of certain sites, 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: 2020-2040

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. The Local Plan will set a framework for future sustainable development and will be used in conjunction with Neighbourhood Development Plan to guide development in the Borough.

Timetable of key stages:

Q 3	Q 4	Qs 1 & 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4
2022		2023			2024				2025*			
Prepare First Draft Local Plan			First Draft Plan consultation (at Regulation 18)	Prepare Publication Draft	Prepare Publication Draft	Publication Draft Plan consultation (at Regulation 19)	Submission to the Planning Inspectorate by end of calendar year	Examination				Adoption

*once the Local Plan is submitted for examination it 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 2025, that the Plan is found sound by the Inspectorate and that the Council can move forward to adopt the Local Plan.