

# Local Development Scheme 2021

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## Introduction

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a project plan, which sets out details of key planning policy documents which the local authority seeks to produce over the next three years. The LDS outlines opportunities for public and stakeholder involvement, as well as periods of evidence gathering and plan preparation. A Local Development Scheme is required under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011). The legislation states that Councils must prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme specifying:

- the documents which are to be Local Development Documents (LDDs) and Development Plan Documents (DPDs);
- the subject matter and geographical area of each document;
- which documents (if any) are to be prepared jointly with one or more other local planning authorities;
- any matter or area in respect of which the authority have agreed (or propose to agree) to the constitution of a joint committee; and,
- the timetable for the preparation and revision of the documents.

The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) states that the LDS must specify (among other matters) the documents which, when prepared, will comprise the Local Plan for the area. It must be made available publically and kept up-to-date. It is important that local communities and interested parties can keep track of progress. Local planning authorities should publish the LDS on their website.

The LDS will come into effect on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Figure 1 (see page 5) outlines an indicative timetable for the preparation of documents within the LDS.

## Existing Policy Context

Major changes were made to the planning system through the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012, which was subsequently updated in February 2019. The NPPF sets out how local planning authorities should produce planning documents that will guide the development and use of land within a local authority area. The NPPF requires each local authority to produce a local plan for its area.

The Bromsgrove District Plan (2011-30) was formally adopted by Bromsgrove District Council in January 2017, following an independent examination in public and receipt of the Inspector's Report into the examination of the plan, concluding that the plan was judged to have been found 'sound'. The adoption of the District Plan superseded all policies contained within the previous Bromsgrove Local Plan 2004 and became the statutory development plan for the District.

The District Plan comprises: a vision and strategic objectives for the development of the District over the course of the plan period; strategic policies including site allocation policies to meet the development needs of Bromsgrove and, where relevant, adjacent authorities; and, development

management policies which guide more detailed development proposals. The adopted plan also includes a Key Diagram and Policies Map, representing the policies and proposals in the plan visually.

Under the Localism Act 2011, Neighbourhood Plans can be produced by a Parish Council, or an organisation or body designated as a Neighbourhood Forum to provide more detailed guidance on specific local issues. Neighbourhood plans are subject to independent examination and a local referendum. If ultimately approved by referendum then the Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' and the Council must bring the Neighbourhood Plan into force as part of the development plan for the local authority. As it is the decision of Parish Councils or Neighbourhood Forums to decide whether to produce a Neighbourhood Plan, it is not appropriate for the LDS to specify when or how they will be produced.

## **LDS 2021 – Proposed Development Plan Document**

### **Bromsgrove District Plan Review**

The adopted Bromsgrove District Plan (2011-30) provides a spatial strategy specific to the needs of Bromsgrove. It contains a set of policies for delivering the overall strategy and identifies strategic allocations for development through the production of a policies map. This map illustrates broad locations for strategic development and land-use designations.

The plan includes a requirement to undertake a Plan Review, to be completed by 2023 at the latest. It is imperative that the Plan Review is informed by an up-to-date evidence base, including further consideration of housing needs assessment in the context of not only Bromsgrove's local needs but also those arising from the adjacent West Midlands conurbation. As detailed in Policy BDP3 of the adopted District Plan, land is currently identified to provide for 4,700 dwellings of the overall 7,000 dwellings requirement for the plan period of 2011-30. A deficit of 2,300 dwellings therefore remains to be provided for to meet Bromsgrove's objectively assessed housing need under the adopted plan. The Plan Review will extend to a new time horizon, possibly up to 2040 and will plan for the new development requirements for that period. Significant progress has been made and it is still the aim to progress the Plan Review to adoption at the earliest opportunity.

### **Plan Preparation and Supporting Evidence**

Progress on the Plan Review to date has comprised of two separate comprehensive consultation periods.

- September 2018 - Bromsgrove District Plan Review 'Issues and Options'
- September 2019 - Bromsgrove District Plan Review 'Review Update and Further Consultation' and Call for Sites.

The Call for Sites process has resulted in over 400 possible development sites across Bromsgrove District being brought to the Council's attention and understandably this has increased the time it will take to progress to a Preferred Option version of the Plan. As can be seen from the timetable the next significant stage is the Preferred Option which has been timetabled in for early 2022.

Work on the evidence base has also progressed significantly with key pieces of work underway, ready to inform the decisions taken when putting together the Preferred Option. It is hoped that this evidence will begin to be published over the autumn of 2021.

### **Timetable**

The following chart (Figure 1) indicates the timetable for the production of the District Plan Review, including supporting evidence base documents, as referred to above. This chart identifies the key indicative dates in the process. A further summary profile of the Plan Review is contained in Appendix1.



## Appendix 1 – Summary Profile of Bromsgrove District Plan Review

Bromsgrove District Plan Review		
Document Details	Role and Content	<p>Will review, update and extend the time horizon for the District Plan, setting out the vision, spatial strategy and core policies for the spatial development of the District. Will include strategic allocations to accommodate outstanding Bromsgrove local development needs to possibly 2040, additional needs for the extended time horizon of the Plan as well as potential unmet needs from adjoining local authority areas.</p> <p>A Policies Map will need to accompany the BDPR, which will illustrate geographically the policies in the plan and replace the current Policies Map associated with the existing BDP.</p>
	Status	Development Plan Document
	Position in chain of conformity	General conformity with National Planning Policy Framework
	Geographic coverage	District wide

## Glossary

**Adoption:** The point at which the final agreed version of a document comes into force.

**Local Development Scheme (LDS):** Sets time-scales for the preparation of key documents including Local Development Documents and Development Plan Documents.

**Local Plan:** The plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the community. In law this is described as the Development Plan adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

**Development Plan Documents:** The key planning documents at the local level subject to independent examination.

**Examination in Public:** Independent inquiry into the soundness of a draft Local Plan chaired by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.

**Inspectors Report:** a report produced by the inspector following the Examination in Public which details the inspectors findings in relation to the plan.

**Localism Act 2011:** An Act to make provision about the functions and procedures of local and certain other authorities.

**Local Development Scheme:** This document is a project plan for the production of local planning policy documents.

**National Planning Policy Framework:** Document setting out the Government's economic, environmental and social planning policies for England, published February 2019.

**National Planning Practice Guidance:** The government launched its Planning Practice Guidance on 6 March 2014. The website brought together many areas of English planning guidance into a new online format, linked to the National Planning Policy Framework.

**Neighbourhood plans:** A plan prepared by a Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum for a particular neighbourhood area (made under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

**Policies Map:** A map that shows the spatial extent of adopted planning policies and proposals affecting Bromsgrove District.

**Publication:** Point at which a draft Local Plan is published prior to its Submission to the Secretary of State for Examination. Also known as a 'Proposed Submission' stage.

**Preferred Option Development / Evidence Publication:** the element of local plan preparation where the Council prepares the preferred option or 'draft plan.' This involves the collection and analysis of technical evidence and previous consultation responses and call for sites submissions. As evidence becomes available the Council will publish it on the website.

**Preferred Option Publication:** Point at which the preferred option or draft plan is published for consultation.

**Submission Plan Development:** the element of local plan preparation where the Council prepares the Submission This involves the collection and analysis of technical evidence and previous consultation responses.

**Submission Plan Publication:** The point at which the submission plan is published for its statutory period of representations / consultation.

**Submission:** The point at which a Local Plan is submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination along with representations received at Publication Stage.

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