

Local Development Scheme

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Section 15(1) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act requires LPAs to prepare and maintain an LDS. Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) states that: *“The Local Development Scheme must be made available publicly and kept up-to-date. It is important that local communities and interested parties can keep track of progress. Local planning authorities should publish their Local Development Scheme on their website.”*
- 1.2 The LDS is effectively a project management document for the production of the Local Plan, which identifies and describes the documents that the Council intends to produce to make up the Local Plan. It provides an overview of the process of drafting them and identifies key milestones and timescales for their preparation.
- 1.3 The LDS serves two purposes:
 - i. it provides the starting point for the local community to find out what the council’s planning policies are for the area, by setting out all the documents that already form and supplement the Local Plan; and
 - ii. it sets out the programme for the preparation of new development plan documents, including timetables indicating when the various stages in the preparation of any particular document will be carried out.

2. Proposed update to the Local Development Scheme (LDS)

- 2.1 The council’s current LDS has not been updated for some time. Prior to the publication of the NPPF consultation in 2022, officers had prepared an amended LDS with the intention to publish aligned to progression of the plan. Given the implications of the NPPF consultation, it was not prudent to publish the LDS at that time. Following the publication of the NPPF and the ability to now progress a plan with more certainty, the LDS needs to be updated.
- 2.2 In respect of the Local Plan, there are two key stages prior to submission of a plan to the Inspectorate for examination. The ‘regulation 18’ stage (Reg 18) is effectively a draft version of the plan the public and other stakeholders are asked for their views on the plan and any alternative approaches to addressing the various issues which affect the borough.
- 2.3 The regulation 19 version (Reg 19) is our proposed plan – the plan that we will subsequently submit for examination and which we would be happy to adopt.
- 2.4 Careful consideration has been given to how we can accommodate 2 periods of consultation to allow submission of a plan by the government’s 30 June 2025 submission deadline, including conversations with the council’s KC and with DLUHC. As a result, it is considered that both Reg 18 and Reg 19 consultations can take place in time for a plan to be submitted.

- 2.5 In order to proceed, July 2024 is the earliest that a Reg 18 consultation could commence given the work to be done and restrictions resulting from elections in May. Whilst the proposal for a Reg 19 consultation means that the plan would need to be approved by Council in Feb 2025, there is a little scope for a later Reg 19 due to the requirement to submit by the end of June 2025.
- 2.6 Approval of changes to the LDS is a cabinet member decision. However, the proposed timeline has been discussed informally with group leaders and Cabinet prior to sign off by the Portfolio holder. It is anticipated that the LDS will have been published on the website by the time of the Development Plan Working Party meeting on 12th February and will be available at <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/stockport-local-development-scheme>

3. The Local Plan Timeline

- 3.1 For ease of reference the timeline for production of the Stockport Local Plan
- Consultation (regulation 18): Issues and Options (July – October 2017) (completed).
 - Draft Local Plan (July – August 2024)
 - Publication (regulation 19): March – April 2025
 - Submission: June 2025
 - Examination in public: Autumn/Winter 2025/2026
 - Adoption: Mid 2026

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none.

Anyone requiring further information should contact Steve Johnson by emailing steven.johnson@stockport.gov.uk