



Warwick District Council

Local Development Scheme March 2024

1. Introduction

What is a Local Development Scheme?

- 1.1 This Local Development Scheme (LDS) has been prepared to give the local community and all interested parties information on:
 - the current planning policies that are being used for deciding applications within Warwick District; and,
 - the programme for reviewing these policies.
- 1.2 The Council is required to produce a LDS under the terms of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The LDS is a three-year programme of work and is reviewed regularly.
- 1.3 The Government is committed to seeing LDS's implemented and in particular to ensure the milestones set out are achieved. The Council will ensure that these targets are met through good project management and annual monitoring.

Warwick District's Local Development Scheme

- 1.4 The Planning Policy & Site Delivery team within the Council's Place, Arts & Economy service area of the Council, has prepared this LDS. The overall project manager is the Head of Place, Arts & Economy. Day to day management of the LDS will be by the Planning Policy & Major Sites Delivery Manager. In producing this LDS, the Council is committed to the following:
 - to make the LDS as clear as possible to understand; and,
 - to publish the LDS on the Council's website.
- 1.5 There are a number of commitments within the Local Plan (2011-2029) to review and/or update a variety of Development Plan Documents (DPD) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD). A number of these documents have already been adopted, some are under preparation or yet to commence and alternative approaches to developing policy on others has been followed. These commitments are due over the life of the Plan, and therefore the LDS needs to prioritise which to bring forward first, along with bringing forward documents that arise through other need.

2. Adopted Planning Policy Documents

- 2.1 The Warwick District Local Plan 2011-2029 was adopted in September 2017. This is the overarching policy document for the whole district and

sets out the Council's policies and proposals to support the development of the district through to 2029. It sets out a long-term spatial vision for how the towns, villages and countryside in the district will develop and change and how this vision will be delivered through a strategy for promoting, distributing and delivering sustainable development.

2.2 Table 1, below, sets out the documents that have been produced since the adoption of the Warwick District Local Plan 2011-2029 and when they were adopted.

Table 1: Planning Policy documents produced since the adoption of the Warwick District Local Plan 2011-2029

Title	Details	Target	Delivery
Residential Design Guide SPD	Sets out design standards for residential developments of all sizes throughout the District (note that this may be supplemented by major site-specific design guidance)	Adoption Q3 2018	Adopted Q3 2018
Parking Standards SPD	Sets out parking standards for residential, commercial and other developments	Adoption Q3 2018	Adopted Q3 2018
Air Quality SPD	A sub-regionally produced SPD that will set out the requirements with relation to Air Quality issues	Adoption Q4 2018	Adopted Q1 2019
Land East of Kenilworth Development Brief SPD	Site-specific development guidance for the major housing site allocations on the East of Kenilworth	Consultation Q4 2018	Adopted Q1 2019
Public Open Space SPD	Sets out the requirements for the provision of public open space within developments	Consultation Q4 2018	Adopted Q2 2019
Custom and Self-build SPD	Sets out guidance for the provision of self-build and custom build plots and how the authority intends to ensure the meeting of the required volume of plots	Consultation Q4 2018	Adopted Q2 2019
Affordable Housing SPD	Details the requirements to meet the affordable housing needs, including housing and tenancy mixes	Adoption Q1 2020	Adopted Q3 2020
Development Contributions SPD	Guidance that sets out developer contributions, including model Section 106 agreements	Adoption Q1 2020	Adopted Q3 2020

2.3 Warwickshire County Council is responsible for producing minerals and waste plans. These are specific topic-based Development Plan Documents

(DPD). Warwickshire County Council adopted a Waste Core Strategy in 2013. In July 2022 it also adopted the Warwickshire Minerals Local Plan 2018-2032. This Plan provides the overall strategy and general mineral policies along with a number of site allocations for the extraction of sand and gravel up to 2032. More information about these can be found at: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mwds>

3. Emerging Planning Policy – Priorities

- 3.1 The adopted Local Plan sets out a number of Development Plan Documents, Development Briefs and Supplementary Planning Documents that the Council committed to producing when preparing the Local Plan.
- 3.2 Table 2, below, sets out the priorities for the delivery of planning policy documents over the next 3 years. Whilst this section provides a high-level overview of the LDS priorities, the Warwick District Cabinet Report 'Local Development Scheme (LDS), 6th March 2024, sets out more detail on the progress to date of the delivery of items included in the LDS and sets out a rationale behind the LDS and the inclusion of documents that have not previously featured in it.
- 3.3 The two key priorities are the preparation of a South Warwickshire Local Plan and also the adoption of a Net Zero Carbon DPD.
- 3.4 The Council has committed to reviewing the Local Plan and in doing so has taken the decision to produce a joint **South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP)** with Stratford-on-Avon District Council. This plan will cover the geographic areas currently administered by the two councils. It will set strategic policies and a growth strategy for the combined area.
- 3.5 It is anticipated that the SWLP will come forward in stages, with a strategic Part 1 plan, followed by subsequent parts to the plan. Work has commenced on the preparation of this Plan and an initial Scoping and Call for Sites Consultation was undertaken in 2021 and an Issues and Options Consultation, including a further Call for Sites, in early 2023.
- 3.6 A detailed timetable for the delivery of the South Warwickshire Local Plan is set out on the SWLP website, under the 'Stages' heading: <https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/> . The next consultation stage is a Preferred Options, timetabled for late 2024. National changes to plan making are set out through the Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023, although full details relating to the new system are unlikely to be available until Autumn 2024. The Council will keep a close eye on these changes and guidance and will review the implications on its Plan Review.
- 3.7 A **Net Zero Carbon DPD** has been produced in response to the Council's Climate Change Action Programme. This document was submitted for its examination in October 2022 and has been through public hearings. The DPD has been the subject of a Main Modifications consultation and most recently a short consultation relating to changes in national policy and the

publication of a Written Ministerial Statement. It is anticipated that the DPD will be adopted in the first half of 2024.

- 3.8 Through the production of the Net Zero Carbon DPD, it was considered prudent, to support the implementation of the DPD, to produce additional supporting guidance in the form of an SPD. This SPD is therefore included within the LDS and its adoption is very much dependent upon the DPD being adopted and the timescales for that.
- 3.9 The **Canalside DPD** is a document that the Local Plan indicates that the Council will seek to adopt. Whilst notable progress was made on the delivery of this document, further consultation is required to progress it and a public examination would be required. In considering priorities, this has been deemed to be a lower priority than the other documents set out in this LDS. Therefore, whilst it remains on the LDS, there is no timetable set out for its adoption. When next reviewing the LDS, this will be re-visited and its priority and delivery will be considered in light of other priorities and staff capacity at the time.
- 3.10 Of greater interest from residents and members is the production of policy relating to student accommodation. The LDS includes a timetable for the delivery of a **Purpose-Built Student Accommodation DPD**. However, officers, with the input of members, will look at the scope of this document and consider if there would be any merit in producing a more limited SPD if it would address many of the issues of concern.
- 3.11 The LDS also includes the production of the following documents:
- University of Warwick Masterplan SPD
 - Old Town Regeneration SPD
 - Parking Standards SPD Update.
- 3.12 The need for the other two SPDs have become apparent when working with partners and Development Management colleagues. It is considered appropriate to develop a new masterplan to reflect the University’s vision to 2033 and beyond. It is also considered helpful to support the regeneration aims of part of Old Town in Leamington Spa to develop an SPD to guide development. The Parking Standards SPD update is proposed to be an update to specific parts of the SPD, to remove ambiguity and aid decision making.

Table 2: Emerging Planning Policy – Priorities over the next 3 years (2024-2026)

Title	Details	Delivery
South Warwickshire Local Plan	A strategic development document produced for South Warwickshire by the joint planning teams from Stratford District Council and Warwick District Council. The SWLP will incorporate matters relating to Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation	Adoption Q4 2027

Net Zero Carbon DPD	Setting out additional policy and requirements to minimise carbon emissions from new buildings aiming to ensure all new developments are net zero carbon in operation	Adoption Q2 2024
Purpose Built Student Accommodation DPD	Setting out the relevant policies for the development of purpose-built student accommodation in the District	Adoption Q1 2026
Net Zero Carbon DPD – SPD	Providing additional guidance to supplement the implementation of policies within the Net Zero Carbon DPD	Adoption Q2 2024
University of Warwick Masterplan SPD	To provide a framework for the preparation of the University’s development to 2031, which approved the level and broad location of growth on campus and agrees any mitigations such as transport and biodiversity through a Framework s106 to apply to future applications	Adoption Q4 2024
Old Town Regeneration SPD	To guide and support the regeneration of part of Old Town in Royal Leamington Spa	Adoption Q2 2025
Parking Standards SPD (Update)	To make specific updates to the SPD relating to how parking surveys are undertaken – to remove ambiguity	Adoption Q3 2024
Canalside DPD	Identify areas for regeneration and areas for protection and to set out a framework for development, working in harmony with the adopted Canal Conservation Area	No timetable – see below

3.13 The anticipated delivery plan for each of these priorities can be found at the end of this document. However, it must be noted that there are many variables that could affect the timetable for delivery.

4. Neighbourhood Plans

4.1 Neighbourhood Plans are brought forward by local Qualifying Bodies, often Town and Parish Councils. These Plans form part of the Development Plan for the area that they cover and add further local emphasis to the strategic policies of the adopted Local Plan. Following an independent Examination, Neighbourhood Plans undergo a local referendum to gauge public support. If supported the plan is ‘made’ and is used alongside the Local Plan and other relevant DPD/SPDs in determining planning applications.

- 4.2 10 Neighbourhood Plans have been adopted since 2016, 8 of which were made following the adoption of the Warwick District Local Plan. An up-to-date record of 'made' Neighbourhood Plans is maintained on our website: https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20444/neighbourhood_plans
- 4.3 Two other neighbourhood plans are known to be currently under preparation. These are Stoneleigh and Ashow and Cubbington. The latter is currently undertaking a Regulation 14 draft of their neighbourhood plan.

5. Monitoring

- 5.1 The Council is required to monitor both the implementation of the LDS and the extent to which its planning policies are being implemented. For the purposes of this report, the policies of the adopted Warwick District Local Plan (2011-2029) are monitored through the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR).
- 5.2 It should be noted that the AMR is not a Local Development Document (LDD) and therefore is not included within the LDS. The AMR for 2022/23 will, however, be published on our website in the near future.
- 5.3 Local Planning Authorities are also required to publish an annual Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) providing information on the contributions sought and received from developers for the provision of infrastructure, and the subsequent use of those contributions by the Council. Warwick District published an IFS for 2022/23 prior to the end of 2023 and this can be found on the Council's website.

6. Political Management of the Local Development Framework

- 6.1 The Council's decision making arrangements are set out in Table 3, below.

Table 3: Warwick District decision making process for planning policy documents

Document	To include	To be approved by
All Development Planning Documents except South Warwickshire Local Plan	Local Plan and all other DPDs that are subject to full public examination as required by the Act	Full Council following a recommendation by Cabinet
South Warwickshire Local Plan		Full Council following a recommendation by the Joint Cabinet Committee (*)
Statement of Community Involvement		Cabinet

Local Development Scheme		Cabinet
Supplementary Planning Documents	Supplementary guidance, development briefs and other documents identified in this and future LDSs as SPD	Cabinet
Authority Monitoring Report		Published on website
Custom and Self-build Progress Report		Published on website
Infrastructure Funding Statement		Published on website
* The Joint Cabinet Committee is made up of councillors for Warwick District and Stratford-on-Avon District Councils.		

7. Delivery Plan

Table 4: Local Development Scheme Delivery 2024-2026

Year	2024				2025				2026			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
South Warwickshire Local Plan				C	C			C			S	
Net Zero Carbon DPD	E	A										
Canalside DPD												
Purpose Built Student Accommodation DPD				C		S	E		A			
Net Zero Carbon DPD – supplementary guidance SPD		A										
University of Warwick Masterplan SPD		C		A								
Old Town Regeneration SPD			C	C		A						
Parking Standards SPD (update)		C	A									

Key:

C = Consultation

S = Submission for examination

E = Examination

A = Adoption

8. Contact details

- 8.1 For more information about any of the matters raised in this Local Development Scheme please contact:

Policy & Site Delivery Team,
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- 8.2 This document, together with all other Local Development Documents produced by Warwick District Council will be made available on the Council's website.