

New Forest District (Outside the National Park)

Local Development Scheme

May 2021



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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Local Development Scheme provides information about the production of the New Forest District Local Plan for the area outside the New Forest National Park (see Map on page 2, areas in orange and settlements in dark grey). The National Park Authority is responsible for producing the Local Plan for the National Park area.
- 1.2. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the Local Plan Review work programme and identifies when the public and other interested parties can get involved in the process of plan-making. It includes information about the content and production timetable for the Local Plan Review Part Two 2016-2036, updating the previous versions which addressed preparation of the Local Plan Part One.
- 1.3. Detailed timetabling and minor adjustments between full Local Development Scheme updates are published on the Council website¹.
- 1.4. The Local Plan is the most important part of the Development Plan for the district. The Development Plan is the statutory basis for deciding planning applications, provided that it is up-to-date. As at May 2021 the Development Plan for New Forest District (outside the National Park) comprises the following:
 - the Local Plan Part 1: Planning Strategy adopted July 2020
 - Saved policies from the following earlier Local Plans as listed in Appendix A of the Local Plan Part 1: Planning Strategy (2020)
 - the Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy adopted in October 2009
 - the Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Management adopted in April 2014
 - Policy DW-E12: Protection of Landscape Features – saved from the Local Plan First Review (2005).
 - the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan adopted by the Hampshire Minerals and Waste authorities in October 2013

¹ <http://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/16541/Local-Plan-Review>

- ‘Made’² Neighbourhood Development Plans for Hythe & Dibden Town or Parish Council areas.
- New Milton Neighbourhood Plan whilst being given weight in determining planning applications will be going to Referendum in early May 2021.

- 1.5. As at May 2021 Neighbourhood Plans are being prepared by Totton, Lymington and Pennington, Ringwood and Fordingbridge Town or Parish Councils. If ‘made’ these will also become part of the Local Development Plan

2. Context for the Local Development Scheme (LDS) update

- 2.1. From the outset in 2016 it was intended that the Local Plan Review would be prepared in two stages. Part One would establish a planning strategy, including housing target and strategic (larger) site allocations for planned development. Part Two would update a range of development management policies and review and supplement smaller site allocations.
- 2.2. The Local Plan Part One was adopted in July 2020. It was prepared in a period of national planning policy transition, notably in respect of calculating housing need and the setting of housing targets. The Plan was found sound (subject to agreed modifications) with no requirement for early review in the light of the new planning guidance in place at the time of Local Plan examination.
- 2.3. Shortly after the adoption of the Local Plan Part 1 the government published the ‘Planning for the Future’ White Paper to consult on further fundamental and wide ranging changes to the planning system and plan-making process. The Council paused work on the Local Plan Part Two until it became clearer whether further work on the Local Plan Part 2 would serve a useful purpose, rather than being overtaken by events. Various supplementary planning guidance was progressed instead.
- 2.4. A full government response to the White Paper consultation is due later this year. It has become clear that the way ahead is not fixed

² Adopted by a supportive local referendum, after review by an independent examiner.

and that of major reforms are progressed it would require significant changes to several pieces of existing legislation unlikely to be completed until later in this parliament.

- 2.5. Some important announcements on key reform elements have been made and these pave the way for a return to work on the Local Plan Part Two. In December 2020 government made a decision in relation to national policy for calculating housing need, with no material changes to the approach in place at the time the Local Plan Part 1 was examined (the changes made mostly affect major urban areas).
- 2.6. As there is no immediate 'housing need' policy compliance reason to undertake an early full local plan review and there are planning matters the Council wishes to address now, work on the Local Plan Part 2 will resume with a focus on the following matters.
 - The identification of additional smaller development sites to enable Local Plan Part One targets to be fully met
 - Opportunities in local town centres, in the light of significant changes to permitted development rights and the acceleration by the COVID pandemic of structural changes to retailing and high streets
 - Planning for climate change and sustainability, in the light of national policy commitments to accelerate progress towards achieving zero net carbon
 - Green infrastructure, nature recovery networks and landscape matters
 - Revisiting aspects of the Local Plan policy on affordable and specialist need housing, including to address the new 'First Homes' affordable housing tenure government will introduce shortly³.

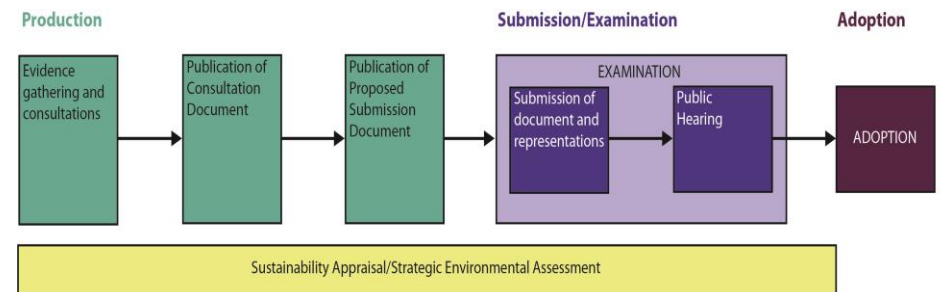
2.7. The Local Plan Part 2 review will be progressed in a manner that keeps open the option of amending the process to a full local plan review if necessary. This LDS will be updated further in that eventuality. In addition to the progress of possible planning reforms

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-current-planning-system/outcome/government-response-to-the-first-homes-proposals-in-changes-to-the-current-planning-system>

this provides scope to consider other strategically significant events which may justify or influence the shape of the next full local plan review, such as:

- Progress with the Solent Freeport proposals
 - Related but independent aspirations by the port operator to expand the Port of Southampton at Dibden Bay
 - Work the Council is involved in as part of the Partnership for South Hampshire on a subregional framework for meeting strategic development needs in Solent area.
- 2.8. The Local Plan Part Two will not necessarily update all the previous (pre 2020) Local Plan policies currently saved for continued use. This is a matter of scope that will be kept under review pending further announcements on government planning reform proposals to introduce standardised national policies for development management purposes.

3. Local Plan Part Two Review 2016-2036 approach and programme



- 3.1. Regulations set out the main requirements for preparing a Local Plan⁴. The process followed is shown in the illustration above.
- 3.2. Assuming the review progress to completion (rather than being rolled into a full local plan review if events merit doing so) it is intended that the **Local Plan 2016-2036 Part Two** will be published for public

⁴ Currently *The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012*

consultation early in 2023 and (subject to the Planning Inspectorate) examined and adopted by the end of 2023.

- 3.4 For areas where a Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared, the scope and content of the Local Plan Part Two will be scaled back to complement and leave room for community-led planning, whilst also ensuring that a sufficient and consistent planning framework is in place for the district as a whole.

4. Documents supporting the Local Plan

- 4.1 A range of existing SPD and other supplementary guidance supports the adopted Local Plan. Details are [published](#)⁵ on the Council website.
- 4.2 Whilst the Local Plan Review progresses, the Council will consider the merits of publishing parts of the emerging new policy as a Supplementary Planning Document or as informal guidance, where it would assist with the preparation and determination of development applications.

⁵ <https://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/1168/Planning-Policy-guidance>

