



The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Local Development Scheme

2023 - 2025

Effective from 1 January 2023

FOREWORD

This document rolls forward the Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS) to identify the Local Development Documents to be produced in the period 2023 to 2025.

It explains:

- The new Development Plan Documents (DPDs) the Council intends to produce.
- The subject matter and geographical area for each of the documents and
- The timetable for the preparation and the revisions of each DPD.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Planning Act 2008 and Localism Act 2011) requires a Local Planning Authority to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS). An LDS sets out a timetable for the production of new or revised planning documents (such as a Local Plan) by the Local Planning Authority.
- 1.2 Planning Practice Guidance¹ states that an LDS should specify (among other matters) the development plan documents (i.e. local plans) which, when prepared, will comprise part of the development plan for the area. It encourages Local planning authorities to include details of other documents which form (or will form) part of the development plan for the area, such as Neighbourhood Plans. It adds that the LDS must be made available publicly and kept up-to-date so that local communities and interested parties can keep track of progress. The LDS will be published on the Council's website.
- 1.3 This Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's planning work programme for the next three years. It outlines what documents the Council will be working on and a timetable for the production of these documents. It is intended to take effect from 1 January 2023 and updates the LDS adopted by the Council in October 2019. We will continue to review and roll forward this document on a regular basis to take account of progress, monitoring and the latest Government policy and guidance.

2. Justification for the Work Programme

- 2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2021) states that the development plan must include strategic policies to address each local planning authority's priorities for the development and use of land in its area, including in local plans that may also contain non-strategic policies. The development plan for an area comprises the combination of

¹ Plan-making, Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 61-003-20190315

strategic and non-strategic policies which are in force at a particular time.

2.2 It is important that this work programme is realistic and 'fit for purpose'. The timetables set out in this document therefore reflect:

- The resources available to meet the work programme;
- The timing of elections, and the need to work around these for consultation events;
- The need to produce a robust and relevant evidence base, in partnership with neighbouring authorities where appropriate;
- The need to satisfy the Duty to Cooperate, as required by the Localism Act 2011;
- The need to undertake a detailed Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment on our plans;
- Continued changes to national planning policy and legislation.

3. What documents have we already prepared?

Current Development Plan Documents

3.1 As of 30 November 2022, adopted Development Plan Documents for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead are:

- Borough Local Plan 2013-33 (adopted February 2022).
- Joint Central and Eastern Berkshire Minerals & Waste Plan (adopted November 2022)
- Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale Neighbourhood Plan (Made 2014)
- Hurley & Walthams Neighbourhood Plan (Made Dec 2017)
- Eton and Eton Wick Neighbourhood Plan (Made Sept 2018)
- Old Windsor Neighbourhood Plan (Made Dec 2019)
- Horton and Wraysbury Neighbourhood Plan (June 2020)
- Windsor Neighbourhood Plan (May 2021)

- Saved South East Plan Policy NRM6: Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (2009)

Current Supplementary Planning Documents/Guidance

3.2 As of 30 November 2022, the following SPDs and SPGs had been adopted.

TITLE OF SPD	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	ADOPTION DATE
Affordable Housing PPG	Provides additional detail and guidance on how the Council will interpret and apply its approach to affordable housing. Not fully consistent with the BLP and national policy so has reduced weight.	
Cookham Village Design Statement	Describes the character and setting of Cookham's three settlements in order to provide guidance to assist those seeking to make changes to their property or land	May 2013
Datchet Design Guide SPD	The Design Guide will support and encourage design excellence in Datchet and provide guidance to council members, officers, developers and local communities on how to make Datchet a distinctive and attractive place.	February 2021
Landscape Character Assessment SPG	Provides a structured approach to identifying the character and distinctiveness of the landscape, allowing these special qualities to be better understood and reflected in decision making.	September 2004
Maidenhead Waterways Framework Planning Brief	Provides a framework for future planning decisions along the water corridor stretching from the Cliveden Reach of the River Thames near Cookham, through Maidenhead, to Bray Marina. Its purpose is to aid the restoration of the waterway, including the achievement of the emerging Maidenhead Waterway Project.	June 2009

Planning obligations and developer contributions SPD	Prepared in two parts: the developers Guide setting out the Council's justification for contributions to be sought and the "Infrastructure and Amenity requirements" providing details of specific contributions from different types of development. Includes downloadable S106 Calculator and sustainability appraisal.	April 2014
Sustainable design and construction	The SPD provides detailed advice on improving the sustainability performance of buildings and spaces. It covers a range of areas including energy efficiency, renewable energy, water and waste management, materials, biodiversity and pollution, and be applicable to the full range of building types	June 2009
Thames Basin Heath SPA	The SPD sets standards for how new residential developments will be expected to avoid and mitigate impact on the SPA.	July 2010
West Street Opportunity area SPD	The SPD sets out the Council's vision for the WSOA and incorporates a Design Framework to proactively guide and promote the comprehensive redevelopment of this key site within Maidenhead Town Centre.	August 2016
Borough Wide Design Guide	The SPD sets out in detail what the Council considers to be design excellence in the Royal Borough. The Design Guide will help guide a major step change improvement in the quality of new development and places created across the Royal Borough and provide guidance to council members, officers, developers and local communities	June 2020

3.3 The Council will continue to apply these SPDs until they are replaced by new SPDs, or they become out-of-date as a result of new national/regional policy.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

- 3.4 The RBWM SCI was adopted in September 2016 but was updated in My 2020 with temporary Covid-19 amendments. This can be found at <https://consult.rbwm.gov.uk/file/5656006>.

4. What documents will be prepared?

- 4.1 This LDS identifies that over the period 2023 to 2025, the Council will progress a Development Plan Document entitled the 'Traveller Local Plan'. The Traveller Local Plan will allocate sites to meet the future accommodation needs of the Traveller communities and include any appropriate relevant policies to guide any planning applications that come forward. The first stage, an Issues and Options Paper, was published for consultation in 2019. A detailed timetable is set out in Appendix A.
- 4.2 As the Council has recently adopted a new Borough Local Plan and a Minerals and Waste Local Plan, it is not proposed to update these within the next three years, but this will be kept under review.
- 4.3 The Datchet Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2033 was submitted to the Council on 18 July 2022 and a Regulation 16 consultation was undertaken between 5 September and 17 October 2022. The plan is currently undergoing its examination and if successful, it will be subject to a referendum in 2023. If the majority of those who vote are in favour of the plan, then it will come into force as part of the development plan. Two other groups are currently looking to produce Neighbourhood Plans, namely Cookham Parish Council and a prospective Maidenhead Neighbourhood Forum.
- 4.4 It is proposed that a number of new and updated Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) will also be progressed over the next three years. Three of these SPDs are currently in the process of preparation, namely
- Building Height and Tall Buildings SPD
 - South West Maidenhead Development Framework SPD
 - Sustainability and Climate Change SPD

Please see the Council's website for updates on the progress of SPDs.

Appendix A

Timetable for production of Development Plan Documents

DOCUMENT TITLE	SUBJECT MATTER AND GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	CHAIN OF CONFORMITY	CONSULTATION	PUBLICATION OF SUBMISSION DRAFT DPD	SUBMISSION AND EXAMINATION OF DPD (INDICATIVE)	ADOPTION OF DPD (INDICATIVE)	POLICIES IT WILL REPLACE
Traveller Local Plan	<p>Sets pitch/plot targets, and allocates sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, informed by the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment</p> <p>Covers the whole of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead administrative area.</p>	Conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS).	<p>Regulation 18 Draft Plan or Preferred Options consultation</p> <p>Autumn 2023</p>	<p>Publication of Regulation 19 Pre-Submission Plan</p> <p>Late Spring/early Summer 2024</p>	<p>Submission</p> <p>Late Summer/early Autumn 2024</p> <p>Hearing period</p> <p>Late 2024</p> <p>Main Modifications consultation</p> <p>Early 2025</p>	Summer 2025	None

