



# **Local Development Scheme**

**Timetable for Plan-making to 2050**

**April 2026**

# 1. Introduction

## What is the Local Development Scheme?

The Local Development Scheme or LDS is a work programme that provides information about the Local Plan/Development Plan Documents (DPDs) that Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC) will produce. The LDS sets out the subject and geographical area that each DPD will cover and the timetable for its preparation and revision.

## Why do we need a LDS?

Local Plans are important planning documents because they affect how land is used. It is therefore appropriate that residents, businesses, stakeholders and developers are fully aware of how and when they will be produced. The LDS provides information and certainty: it sets out which Local Plans Stratford-on-Avon District Council will produce, and the anticipated timescale for their preparation, enabling everyone to be ready for when the Council consults on a planning document (see Section 4).

## Hasn't the Council already published an LDS?

Because Local Plans must be prepared in accordance with the published LDS it is important to keep it up-to-date and publish on a regular basis an accurate timetable to reflect the current and anticipated work programme. The LDS is available [www.stratford.gov.uk/lds](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/lds).

## What is the Development Plan?

The Development Plan is the name for the collection of planning documents (also known as local development documents or LDD) that shape development and manage land use in a particular area (see Section 2). It is a legal requirement to produce and keep up-to-date a Development Plan. It contains the policies and proposals against which planning applications are determined.

## What is the National Planning Context?

All plans must be consistent with Government planning policy and guidance set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>. Local Plans should distinguish between strategic and non-strategic planning policies. Councils should also assess whether a Local Plan needs to be updated at least every 5 years. There is flexibility as to how plans are prepared, and Local Plans can also be prepared by Councils individually or jointly working together.

## How do I check whether the Development Plan is up-to-date?

The Council published its review assessment of the adopted Core Strategy in April 2021 and a further review is scheduled for Cabinet and Council consideration in April 2026. The 2021 assessment concluded that the Core Strategy remains up-to-date and as such, it does not need to undertake a review of Core Strategy. Notwithstanding this, although a review is not required, the Council has taken the decision to replace the Core Strategy in any event. Find out more about the review assessment at [www.stratford.gov.uk/corestrategy](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/corestrategy).

The review of the Core Strategy is being undertaken as part of the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) in partnership with Warwick District Council (WDC) (see below). Find out more about the SWLP at <https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/>.

## 2. Plan-making in Stratford-on-Avon District

### Who has responsibility for plan-making?

In non-unitary areas such as Stratford-on-Avon District, the responsibility for preparing the Development Plan is split between the three tiers of local government.



### What is Warwickshire County Council's plan-making role?

The County Council covering the whole of Warwickshire is responsible for producing minerals and waste plans that relate to minerals extraction and the use of land for landfill and incineration. More information is available at <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mwds>.

### What is Stratford-on-Avon District Council's plan-making role?

Local Plans prepared by Stratford-on-Avon District Council cover all other aspects of development and land-use including housing, employment, retail, leisure, recreation and community. It is these documents that will be used to determine the vast majority of planning applications, whether householder extensions or large-scale housing development. Importantly, the Local Plans set the strategic context for any Neighbourhood Plans. More information is available at [www.stratford.gov.uk/planningpolicy](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/planningpolicy). Local Plans can be prepared for the whole District, for parts of the District or jointly with neighbouring Districts.

### What is the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP)

The SWLP is the name for a suite of Local Plans that Stratford-on-Avon District Council is preparing jointly with Warwick District Council in order to fulfil our plan-making role (as set out above). SWLP documents will cover the wider South Warwickshire area, and in due course, replace the existing SDC Core Strategy and existing WDC Local Plan. The SWLP will run to 2050 in order to better address infrastructure, climate and biodiversity challenges. Joint governance arrangements are in place to deliver the SWLP. More information is available at <https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/index.cfm>.

### What is the plan-making role of Town and Parish Councils within Stratford-on-Avon District?

Town and parish councils can produce a Neighbourhood Plan for their area, identifying where the community thinks new development should be built. However, unlike county and district planning functions, Neighbourhood Plans are not compulsory and where a Neighbourhood Plan is not produced, the Local Plan will continue to form the basis of planning decisions. Neighbourhood Plans can only set out non-strategic policies. More information about Neighbourhood Plans, including an up-to-date list of which neighbourhood plans have been or are being prepared is available at [www.stratford.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplans](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplans).

### 3. Documents Prepared Solely or Jointly by Stratford-on-Avon District Council

#### Existing Local Plan Documents

- *Core Strategy* - establishes the vision and development strategy for Stratford-on-Avon District to 2031, including strategic policies and allocations. Adopted 11 July 2016 and available at [www.stratford.gov.uk/corestrategy](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/corestrategy).
- *Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)* - a charge on development to help pay for the provision of infrastructure. Although not a Local Plan *per se*, the CIL Charging Schedule is examined by an independent Inspector. Adopted 11 December 2017 and available at [www.stratford.gov.uk/cil](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/cil).

#### Emerging Local Plan Documents

- *South Warwickshire Local Plan* - a single Local Plan for South Warwickshire replacing the existing SDC Core Strategy and WDC Local Plan, in due course. The SWLP is being prepared in parts. The timetable for subsequent parts is still to be determined. Find out more at <https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/>.
- *Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)* - the SWLP will be accompanied by an up-to-date CIL Charging Schedule for each District to ensure that the necessary infrastructure can be delivered. The timetable for reviewing CIL aligns with the submission, examination and options of the SWLP.
- *Site Allocations Plan* - including self-build and reserve housing sites and built-up area settlement boundaries. Find out more at [www.stratford.gov.uk/siteallocations](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/siteallocations).

**Note that the Site Allocations Plan (SAP) will be withdrawn from the LDS on the date that the South Warwickshire Local Plan Publication (Regulation 19) document commences public consultation and will no longer be progressed as a Development Plan document by the Council.**

**As such no timetable is provided for the continuation of the SAP.**

#### Supplementary Planning Documents

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) provide more detailed advice and guidance on the implementation and interpretation of planning policies set out in the Local Plan. Because SPDs do not form part of the Development Plan they are not subject to an independent examination.

##### Existing SPDs

- *Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath Framework Masterplan SPD* - sets out environmental, social, economic and design principles for the new community at Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath. Adopted 11 July 2016 and available to view at [www.stratford.gov.uk/gh-spdp](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/gh-spdp).
- *Long Marston Airfield Framework Masterplan SPD* - sets out environmental, social, economic and design principles for the new community at Long Marston Airfield. Adopted 26 February 2018 and available at [www.stratford.gov.uk/lma-spdp](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/lma-spdp).
- *Canal Quarter Regeneration Zone Framework Masterplan SPD* - sets out environmental, social, economic and design principles for the new Canal Quarter in Stratford-upon-Avon. Adopted 16 July 2018 and available at [www.stratford.gov.uk/canalquarter-spdp](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/canalquarter-spdp).
- *Development Requirements SPD (Parts A-W)* - detailed guidance on a range of planning topics including design, parking and affordable housing. Adopted in stages from December 2018 and available at [www.stratford.gov.uk/devreq-spdp](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/devreq-spdp). More recent sections cover topics such as climate change (Part V) and Gypsy and Travellers (Part W). The section on Open Space (Part L) was updated in April 2024.
- *Stratford-upon-Avon Gateway Site Framework Masterplan SPD* - guides the regeneration of the Gateway site, located to the northwest of Stratford-upon-Avon town centre, to deliver a high-quality redevelopment scheme, including a World Shakespeare Centre. Adopted 22 April 2024 and available to view at [Stratford-upon-Avon Gateway Masterplan | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](http://Stratford-upon-Avon Gateway Masterplan | Stratford-on-Avon District Council)

- [Wellesbourne Innovation Campus Masterplan SPD](#) – guides the University and planners in achieving environmental, social, economic and design objectives as they seek to develop the site for design and research and educational purposes. Adopted 22 April 2024 and available to view at [Wellesbourne Innovation Campus Masterplan SPD | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

## Other Documents

Alongside Local Plans, SPDs and this LDS, the Council also prepares:

- *Policies Map* – illustrates geographically how and where the policies and proposals in the Local Plan apply across the District. The map will be revised following adoption of a new Local Plan. Available via the Local Plan links above.
- *Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)* – monitors the delivery of planning policies and includes information about development. Published at least annually at [www.stratford.gov.uk/amr](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/amr).
- *Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)* – sets out how the Council will engage, involve and consult stakeholders and the community in the plan-making process. Available at [www.stratford.gov.uk/sci](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/sci). The SCI was last updated in February 2024.
- *Other Planning Guidance* – guidance on a range of topics to be read alongside planning policy – most recently a planning advice was adopted in June 2024 to provide clarification on how the Council will assess development proposals involving the loss of public houses (pubs). Available at [Other Planning Guidance | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

## 4. Preparation of Planning Policy Documents

### How are plans prepared?

The policies and proposals in each plan are based on an analysis of the technical evidence informed by comments received from stakeholders and the community. The Council also undertakes a Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA), as appropriate, to ensure that the plan contributes to sustainable development. The production of each plan is not a one-off event. There are various stages of preparation and consultation which need to be undertaken in accordance with the regulations and legal requirements.

### How will Local Plans be prepared?

- *Preparation Stage (Regulation 18)* – Scoping/preparation work and draft version of the plan including community and stakeholder engagement/public consultation.
- *Publication Stage (Regulation 19)* – Opportunity for stakeholders and the community to say whether they think the draft plan and its preparation is 'sound' and fit for purpose.
- *Submission Stage (Regulation 22)* – plan is formally submitted to the Secretary of State for examination by an independent planning inspector.
- *Examination Stage (Regulation 24)* – Inspector chairs an examination in public to check that all legal requirements have been met and that the plan is consistent with the NPPF.
- *Adoption Stage (Regulation 26)* – Following receipt of the Inspector's Final Report, if the plan is found 'sound', it will then be formally adopted and implemented by the Council.

### How will CIL Charging Schedule be prepared?

- *Draft Charging Schedule (Regulation 16)* - consultation bodies notified that draft Charging Schedule and accompanying documents have been published and representations can be submitted.
- *Submission Stage (Regulation 19)* – Draft Charging Schedule submitted to the Secretary of State for examination by an independent CIL Examiner.
- *Examination Stage (Regulation 20)* - The Examiner chairs an examination in public to check that all legal requirements have been met.
- *Adoption Stage (Regulation 28)* – Following receipt of the Inspector's Final Report, if the CIL Charging Schedule is approved, it will then be formally adopted by Council who will decide on 'an effective date' on which the CIL Charging Schedule will come into force.

### How will Supplementary Planning Documents be prepared?

- *Draft Stage (Regulation 13)* – Preparation work and draft version of the SPD, including community and stakeholder engagement/public consultation. Responses received will then be used to inform the content of the final version of the SPD.
- *Adoption Stage (Regulation 14)* – The SPD will then be formally adopted and implemented by the Council.

### How can residents get involved?

Responding to public consultations (usually a period of 4 to 6 weeks) is the best way for residents to get involved in shaping the content of the plan. The Council notifies individuals and organisations on its Planning Policy Database at the start of any public consultation as well as updating its website and publishing notices in local newspapers. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) provides more detail on how the Council will engage and consult when making its plans and taking planning decisions. The SCI is available at [www.stratford.gov.uk/sci](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/sci).

If you would like to be included on the Planning Policy Database and kept informed of future planning policy consultations, please contact the Local Plans Team via the details at the end of this document.

## 5. Schedule

The following schedule sets out the indicative timetable for the preparation of the Development Plan documents. More detail is set out in Section 6.

	2026												2027												2028			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
<b>South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP)</b>																												
<i>Publication (Reg.19)</i>	EC	EC	EC	EC	P	PC	PC																					
<i>Submission (Reg.22)</i>								RA	RA	RA	RA	P																
<i>Examination (Reg. 24)</i>													EIP	EIP	EIP	EIP	EIP	EIP	EIP	EIP	IR							
<i>Adoption (Reg. 25)</i>																					P	PC	PC	RA	RA	A		

	2026												2027												2028		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
<b>Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Review</b>																											
<i>Draft Charging Schedule (Reg.16)</i>	EC	EC	EC	EC	EC	EC	EC	P	PC	PC																	
<i>Submission (Reg.19)</i>																											
<i>Examination (Reg. 20)</i>													P*	P*	P*												
<i>Adoption (Reg. 28)</i>																											A

\*Submission scheduled between December 2026 to February 2027

### Key:

EC	Evidence Collection
P	Publish
PC	Public Consultation
RA	Representations Analysis
EIP	Examination in Public
IR	Inspectors Report
A	Adoption

### Notes

The above timetable shows the periods within which the various stages of plan preparation and milestones will occur. For example, formal Adoption by Council can occur at any point within the 'Adoption' period shown.

Please visit the relevant plan webpage for expected committee dates and up-to-date progress information. Webpage addresses can be found in Section 6 of the LDS.

Please note: the timing of the examination stage are set by the Planning Inspectorate. These timescales will therefore determine final date of adoption. Hearings are normally held between 9 and 14 weeks after submission.

## 6. Local Plan Profiles

This section provides more detail on each of the local plan documents.

<b>Title:</b>	<b>South Warwickshire Local Plan Part 1</b>
<b>Plan Period</b>	2025 - 2050
<b>Geographical Coverage</b>	Stratford-on-Avon District and Warwick District
<b>Role and Subject</b>	<p>The SWLP is being prepared in parts (i.e. as a number of separate plans that are read as a whole) as opposed to a single document. The benefit of this approach is to enable a more focused content to each plan that can be prepared more quickly and kept up-to-date more easily.</p> <p>Part 1 of the Plan will provide a policy framework for the delivery of sustainable development across the South Warwickshire area up to 2050. Part 1 sets out the Spatial Growth Strategy and strategic policies for the area to deliver sustainable development, including any strategic allocations. (i.e. how much development will go where) and key development principles.</p> <p>Part 2 of the Plan will complement Part 1 and will contain the remaining detailed policies, or those policies deemed specific to a local area. There are some exceptions to this, however, and several policy topics that would typically fall within Part 2 of the Plan have been transferred to this Part 1.</p> <p>Commencement of subsequent parts does not need to wait until adoption of Part 1.</p>
<b>Conformity</b>	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF); County Minerals Plan, County Waste Plan
<b>Local Plan Policies to be Replaced</b>	TBC but will include Core Strategy Policies CS.15 and CS.16
<b>Key Public Consultation</b>	<p>Scoping and First Call for Sites: May-June 2021</p> <p>Issues &amp; Options and Second Call for Sites: January-March 2023</p> <p>Preferred Options and Focussed Call for Sites: January-March 2025</p> <p>Publication: June-July 2026</p> <p>Main Modifications (if required): November-December 2027</p>
<b>Submission, Examination &amp; Adoption</b>	<p>Submission: December 2026</p> <p>Examination Hearings: January-September 2027</p> <p>Adoption: March 2028 (subject to receipt of Examiners Report)</p>
<b>Staff Management</b>	SWLP Team
<b>Corporate Management</b>	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Place and Economy; SWLP Advisory Group; Overview and Scrutiny Committee; The Joint Cabinet Committee; Full Council
<b>Internal Resources</b>	Support as appropriate from Development Management, Housing Services, Internal Customer Services including DTP and printing, Corporate Support, Legal, Democratic Services
<b>Find out More</b>	<a href="http://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp">www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp</a>

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule review</b>
<b>Geographical Coverage</b>	Stratford-on-Avon District
<b>Role and Subject</b>	The SWLP will be accompanied by an up-to-date CIL Charging Schedule for each District to ensure that the necessary infrastructure can be delivered. The timetable for reviewing CIL aligns with the submission, examination and options of the SWLP.
<b>Conformity</b>	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
<b>Local Plan Policies to be Replaced</b>	Will replace current Stratford-on-Avon CIL Charging Schedule (adopted 2017)
<b>Key Public Consultation</b>	Draft Charging Schedule: September-October 2026
<b>Submission, Examination &amp; Adoption</b>	Submission: December 2026-February 2027 Examination Hearings: January-September 2027 Adoption: March 2028 (subject to receipt of Examiners Report)
<b>Staff Management</b>	Local Plans Team
<b>Corporate Management</b>	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Place and Economy; Overview and Scrutiny Committee; The Cabinet; Full Council
<b>Internal Resources</b>	Support as appropriate from Development Management, Housing Services, Internal Customer Services including DTP and printing, Corporate Support, Legal, Democratic Services
<b>Find out More</b>	<a href="#">CIL Review   Stratford-on-Avon District Council</a>

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Site Allocations Plan</b>
<b>Plan Period</b>	To 2031
<b>Geographical Coverage</b>	District-wide
<b>Role and Subject</b>	Specific allocations and policies relating to development and the use of land
<b>Conformity</b>	Stratford-on-Avon District Core Strategy, National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), County Minerals Plan, County Waste Plan
<b>Local Plan Policies to be Replaced</b>	n/a
<b>Key Public Consultation</b>	Preferred Options: October-November 2020 Revised Preferred Options: June-July 2022
<b>Submission, Examination &amp; Adoption</b>	<b>The Site Allocations Plan (SAP) to be withdrawn from the LDS on the date that the South Warwickshire Local Plan Publication (Regulation 19) document commences public consultation and will no longer be progressed as a Development Plan document by the Council.</b> <b>As such no timetable is provided for the continuation of the SAP.</b>
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<b>Internal Resources</b>	Support as appropriate from Development Management, Housing Services, Internal Customer Services including DTP and printing, Corporate Support, Legal, Democratic Services
<b>Find out More</b>	<a href="https://www.stratford.gov.uk/planning-building/site-allocations-plan.cfm">https://www.stratford.gov.uk/planning-building/site-allocations-plan.cfm</a>

If you have any queries regarding this document please contact the Local Plans Team. If you find the text in this document difficult to read, we may be able to supply it in a format better suited to your needs.

Telephone: 01789 260225

Email: [planning.policy@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

Write to: Local Plans Team, Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HX