

East Cambridgeshire District Council



East Cambridgeshire Local Development Scheme

April 2022

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Preface

This East Cambridgeshire Local Development Scheme (LDS) was approved by East Cambridgeshire District Council at a meeting of its Council on 21 April 2022 and came into effect immediately. It replaces the previous LDS, dated 22 October 2020.

If you require any further information regarding the Scheme, please contact a planning policy officer of Strategic Planning Team on (01353) 665555 or by email to planningpolicy@eastcamb.gov.uk

This LDS is produced under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

East Cambridgeshire Local Development Scheme 2022 to 2023

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a timetable which sets out the Development Plan Document(s) (DPDs) that a local planning authority intends to produce over the next few years. Such DPDs are also often more commonly known as Local Plan(s) for an area.
- 1.2 This East Cambridgeshire LDS sets out the timetable for East Cambridgeshire for the period 2020 to 2023. It explains when the Council intends to reach key stages in the preparation of a new Local Plan. This LDS replaces the East Cambridgeshire LDS which was adopted in October 2020, albeit in reality it is very similar in content to the October 2020 version but with a very slight update to the timetable in Table 1.

The Local Plan and Supporting Documents

- 1.3 National planning policy is headlined by the 'National Planning Policy Framework' (NPPF). Locally, the East Cambridgeshire planning policy framework comprises more than just DPDs (Local Plan).
- 1.4 In summary, the local set of documents comprises the following:
- **Development Plan Documents (DPDs):** These are documents (often referred to as 'Local Plans') that form part of the statutory development plan for the area. They are prepared by the relevant plan-making authority and are subject to independent examination by a planning inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. For East Cambridgeshire, as at April 2022, they are the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan (April 2015), and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Adopted July 2021). This LDS explains that the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2015) is in the process of being partially updated.
 - **Policies Map:** This is a map on an Ordnance Survey base for the whole of a local planning authority's area which shows where policies in the development plan apply. The Policies Map may include inset maps for particular areas to show information at a larger scale. The Policies Map is updated each time that a relevant document (i.e. a DPD or a Neighbourhood Plan) is adopted.
 - **Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs):** These can cover a wide range of issues on which the planning authority wishes to provide guidance to supplement the policies and proposals in its DPDs (Local Plan). They do not form part of the statutory development plan and are not subject to independent examination. The District Council can decide to produce an SPD on any appropriate subject whenever the need arises. There is no requirement for this LDS to set out a timetable for the production of any SPDs.
 - **Neighbourhood Plans:** Local communities, including Parish and Town Councils, can now prepare Neighbourhood Plans (NPs) putting in place policies to guide the future development of their area. Any NP must be in general conformity with 'strategic policies' in DPDs (Local Plan) and with national policy. NPs are not able to propose lower levels of development than those set out in up to date Local Plans but could propose higher levels, or offer other detailed policy proposals. It is up to local communities to decide if it wants to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and so it is not appropriate for this LDS to specify when, or for where, they will be

produced. Any NP, if adopted, has the same status as a DPD. At the time of writing, three Neighbourhood Plans (Sutton, Fordham, Witchford) have been completed in East Cambridgeshire. Others are under preparation.

- **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI):** This is a document that explains how the local planning authority will engage the community in the preparation, alteration and review of planning documents, and in development control decisions. It is required to specify how and at what stages people will have the opportunity to be involved in planning for their area. A refresh of East Cambridgeshire's SCI was published in July 2018.
- **Authority's Monitoring Report (AMR):** This is a report which must be produced by the local planning authority (on an annual basis) to explain how the LDS and other planning policies are being implemented and the extent to which policies in the Local Plan are being achieved.

1.5 Further details on the adopted East Cambridgeshire documents can be found in Table 2 and Table 3 in this LDS, and on our website (<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/planning-policy>).

Joint Working Arrangements and Joint Local Plans

1.6 The District Council has a good track record of joint working with other authorities, and has especially close ties with other Cambridgeshire districts.

1.7 However, there are no plans to establish formal joint working arrangements or a joint committee (under section 29 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) with any other local planning authority, but the District Council will fulfil its responsibilities under the duty to co-operate requirements of s33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, and be open to the possible production of joint evidence studies, and, if appropriate, the preparation of a joint plan or SPDs.

2.0 Local Plan Timetable

2.1 There are a number of stages involved in producing a DPD (Local Plan). This process allows for opportunities for the public to be involved, early resolution of conflicts/objections, and an Independent Examination. The stages in producing a Local Plan, and the intended time of those stages for the new Local Plan, are set out in Table 1.

3.0 Subject Matter and Geographical area of the emerging Single Issue Review of the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan (DPD)

3.1 To meet the requirements of section 15 (2)(b) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, it is confirmed that the subject matter of the emerging Single Issue Review of the 2015 Local Plan (DPD) for East Cambridgeshire will cover:

- An update to Policy GROWTH1
- Consequential update to the supporting text associated with GROWTH1
- Updated explanatory text to explain the Single Issue Review
- If necessary, consequential update to other policies (or supporting text) in the Local Plan which arise from the updating of Policy GROWTH1

3.2 Whilst not forming part of the Local Plan, there may be consequential amendments to the Policies Map, to reflect the amendments arising from above.

3.3 The Local Plan (as amended by the Single Issue Review) will continue to cover the whole administrative area of East Cambridgeshire.

Table 1: Timetable for Production of a new Development Plan Document

	2020				2021								2022								2023															
	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A
East Cambridgeshire Local Plan				1			2										2				3	4	5*				6*									

No.	Stage	Description	Dates each stage is proposed to take place
1	Consult on a sustainability appraisal (SA) scoping report	The SA scoping report sets out the sustainability objectives proposed to be used to appraise the economic, social and environmental effects of the emerging Local Plan policies. The SA scoping report is subject to consultation.	Dec 2020 (COMPLETED)
2	Public participation (Regulation 18)	Opportunity for interested parties and statutory consultees to consider the options for the plan before the final document is produced. This stage may involve one or more public consultation rounds, each for a minimum 6 weeks. We intend two rounds for the forthcoming Single Issue Review Local Plan.	March-April 2021 (COMPLETED) January-February 2022 (COMPLETED)
3	Proposed-Submission Publication (Regulation 19)	The Council publishes the draft Local Plan which is followed with a 6 week period when formal representations can be made on the Local Plan (or, in the forthcoming case, representations can be made in relation to the elements being proposed for change in the Single Issue Review).	May – July 2022
4	Submission (Regulation 22)	The Council submits the Local Plan to the Secretary of State together with the representations received at Regulation 19 stage.	July 2022
5	Independent Examination (including likely Hearing sessions) and Inspector's Report	Held by a Planning Inspector into objections raised on the Local Plan. The Inspector's Report will determine whether the Plan is 'sound' or 'not sound'. The Inspector may make recommendations (including recommended modifications) to make the plan 'sound'	From date of Submission to December 2022 (*estimate: dates set by Inspector)
6	Adoption of DPD (Local Plan)	Final stage, the Council will formally need to adopt the Local Plan and it will then be used in making planning decisions.	January or February 2023 (*estimate: date depends on completion of stage 5 – it could be slightly earlier or later than Jan-Feb 2023)

Table 2: Adopted Development Plan Documents in force in East Cambridgeshire (as at April 2022)

Document title	Status	Geographical area	Role and content	Adoption Date
East Cambridgeshire Local Plan	DPD	Administrative area of East Cambridgeshire	Sets out the vision, objectives and overall strategy for the spatial development of East Cambridgeshire up to 2026, together with detailed planning policies and site allocations. Prepared by East Cambridgeshire District Council	Adopted April 2015
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan	DPD	Administrative areas of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	<p>The Minerals and Waste Local Plan, prepared jointly by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council, sets the framework for all minerals and waste developments until 2036. It sets out policies to guide mineral and waste management development and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure a steady supply of minerals (construction materials e.g. sand and gravel) to supply the growth that is planned for the area • enable us to have new modern waste management facilities, to manage our waste in a much better way than landfill <p>It will be used by developers when putting forward proposals and by councils when considering planning applications.</p>	Adopted July 2021

Table 3: Adopted ('Made') Neighbourhood Plan Documents in force in East Cambridgeshire (as at April 2022)

Document title	Status	Geographical area	Role and content	Adoption (or 'Made') Date
Fordham Neighbourhood Plan	NP	Fordham Parish Council area	The Fordham Neighbourhood Plan sets out a local blueprint for how Fordham should develop sustainably in the best interest of the village, in the context of the wider Local Plan. Detailed policies and allocations in the neighbourhood plan will help to deliver this.	'Made' on 18 December 2018
Sutton Neighbourhood Plan	NP	Sutton Parish Council area	Sutton Neighbourhood Plan has a vision for the parish where its unique character is appreciated and cherished, the quality of the environment is maintained and continues to improve, the opportunities presented to all, young and old, to live and prosper continue to be enhanced, and the life led by its residents remains a healthy and happy one. Detailed policies and allocations in the neighbourhood plan will help to deliver this.	'Made' on 30 May 2019
Witchford Neighbourhood Plan	NP	Witchford Parish Council area	The Witchford Neighbourhood Plan sets out a local blueprint for how Witchford should develop sustainably in the best interest of the village, in the context of the wider Local Plan. Detailed policies and identification of sites in the neighbourhood plan, such as Local Green Spaces, will help to deliver this.	'Made' on 21 May 2020