

East Cambridgeshire District Council



East Cambridgeshire Local Development Scheme 2019

October 2019

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Preface

This new LDS of October 2019 replaces the previous LDS dated October 2017.

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@eastcambs.gov.uk

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

East Cambridgeshire Local Development Scheme

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 known as Local Plan(s) for an area.
- 1.2 This East Cambridgeshire LDS sets out the timetable for East Cambridgeshire for the next few years. An LDS explains when the Council intends, if at all, to reach key stages in the preparation of a new Local Plan. This LDS replaces the East Cambridgeshire LDS which was adopted in October 2017.

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 planning policy related documents comprises the following:
 - **Development Plan Documents (DPDs):** These are documents (often referred to as 'Local Plans') that usually form the bulk 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 October 2019, they are the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan (April 2015), and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and Minerals and Waste Site Specific Proposals DPDs.
 - **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 DPDs 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 DPD (including a Minerals and Waste DPD and a Neighbourhood Plan) is adopted. East Cambridgeshire has a Policies Map.
 - **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 the 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 (parish councils) 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, when adopted, has the same status as a DPD, and collectively form the 'development plan' for the area. At the time of writing, two Neighbourhood Plans have been completed in East Cambridgeshire, but more are under production. The completed ones are listed below.

Fordham Neighbourhood Plan - 18 December 2018

Sutton Neighbourhood Plan - 30 May 2019

- **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:** This is a report which must be produced by the local planning authority (usually on an annual basis) to explain how the LDS is being implemented and the extent to which policies in the Local Plan are being achieved.

1.5 Further details on the documents referred above can be found on our website, whilst a summary of the main ones are listed in Table 2 below.

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 keep open 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 If East Cambridgeshire intends to commence preparing a new DPD (Local Plan), then there are a number of stages involved. This process allows for opportunities for the public to be involved, early resolution of conflicts/objections, and an Independent Examination.

2.2 However, at present, and following a formal review of the 2015 Local Plan in October 2019, East Cambridgeshire District Council has determined not to commence a new DPD (Local Plan) for the present time. It intends to undertake a further review in the next 1-2 years, and make a decision at that stage as to whether or not to commence preparation of a new Local Plan.

2.3 When a decision has been taken to commence a new Local Plan, it will likely follow the stages set out in Table 1 below.

3.0 Subject Matter and Geographical area of a future East Cambridgeshire Local Plan (DPD)

3.1 To meet the requirements of section 15 (2)(b) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, when preparation of a new Local Plan is commenced, this LDS must set out what subject matter it will include, what geographical area it will cover and what existing policies are to be replaced. However, as no DPD (Local Plan) is due to commence, then this LDS remains silent at this stage on this requirement.

Table 1: Key Stages for Production of a new Local Plan Document

No.	Stage	Description	Actual dates stage 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.	No date set
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 new Local Plan.	No date set
			No date set
3	Proposed-Submission Publication (Regulation 19)	The Council publishes the Local Plan which is followed with a 6 week period when formal representations can be made on the Local Plan.	No date set
4	Submission (Regulation 22)	The Council submits the Local Plan to the Secretary of State together with the representations received at Regulation 19 stage.	No date set
5	Independent Examination (including likely Hearing sessions) and Inspector's Report	Held by a Planning Inspector into objections raised on the Local Plan.	No date set
		The Inspector's Report will determine whether the Plan is 'sound' or 'not sound'. The Inspector may make recommendations to make the plan 'sound'	
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.	No date set

Table 2: Adopted Development Plan Documents for East Cambridgeshire (as at October 2019)

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	Adopted April 2015
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
Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (including development control policies)	DPD	Administrative areas of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	Document setting out the strategic vision, objectives and core development control policies to guide minerals and waste development over the period to 2026	Adopted July 2011*
Minerals and Waste Site Specific Proposals	DPD	Administrative areas of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	Document setting out site specific proposals for minerals and waste development over the period to 2026 and supporting site specific policies.	Adopted February 2012*

**please note that the Minerals and Waste DPDs are currently at an advanced stage of being replaced by a new single Minerals and Waste Local Plan. That Plan is being prepared by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council.*