



Fenland Local Development Scheme 2020 update

July 2020

The Fenland Local Development Scheme (LDS) was approved by Full Council at a meeting on 21 February 2019. This update was approved on **28 July 2020** and replaces the February 2019 version with immediate effect.

Preface

This Fenland Local Development Scheme (LDS) was approved by Fenland District Council on **28 July 2020** and came into effect immediately, replacing the previous LDS, dated 21 February 2019.

If you require any further information regarding the Scheme, please contact a member of the Neighbourhood Strategy (Planning Policy) Team at localplan@fenland.gov.uk

A 'live' update is published on our website (www.fenland.gov.uk/newlocalplan) each month. This sets out the current and next stages of preparation, with dates, of each of the documents included in this LDS.

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

Fenland Local Development Scheme 2019 to 2022

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a timetable which sets out the Development Plan Documents (DPDs) that a local planning authority intends to produce over the next few years. Such DPDs are also known as the Local Plans for an area.
- 1.2 This Fenland LDS sets out the timetable for any DPDs to be prepared in the period 2019 to 2022. It explains when Fenland District Council intends to reach key stages in the preparation of a new Local Plan.

The Local Plan and Supporting Documents

- 1.3 In summary, the framework of strategic planning in Fenland is:
 - **Development Plan Documents (DPDs):** These are documents (often referred to as 'Local Plans') that form part of the statutory development plan for the area and are subject to independent examination by a planning inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. For Fenland, as at October 2020, they comprise:
 - **The Fenland Local Plan –**
Adopted on 8th May 2014, it provides land use planning policies, allocates sites for development and identifies other areas designated for protection that will shape the growth and regeneration of the Fenland area over the next 15 years and beyond.
 - **Minerals and Waste Local Plans –**
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan. The Core Strategy was adopted on 19th July 2011 and the Site Specific Proposals Plan adopted on 22nd February 2012. Together these set out the framework and specific proposals for all minerals and waste developments until 2026. A new Minerals and Waste Plan is currently being prepared for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and was submitted for examination on 24 March 2020. A separate [LDS](#) has been prepared for the Minerals and Waste Plan.
 - **Neighbourhood Plans:** Local communities, including Parish and Town Councils, can 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 Plans) 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 they want to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and so it is not appropriate for this LDS to specify when or where they will be produced. Any NP that has been made (brought into legal force) becomes part of the statutory development plan. One Neighbourhood Plan has been made across Fenland, and a second is due to be made in August 2020. A few more Neighbourhood Plans are under preparation.
 - **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 Fenland Policies Map includes inset maps for some areas to show information at a larger scale. The Policies Map is updated each time that a DPD or Neighbourhood Plan is adopted/made.
 - **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. There is no requirement for this LDS to set out a timetable for the production of any SPDs, but for completeness and clarity they will be listed on the Fenland web site.

- **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. The latest Fenland SCI was adopted 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 local development scheme is being implemented and the extent to which policies in the Local Plan are being achieved.

Joint Working Arrangements and Joint Local Plans

- 1.4 No formal joint working arrangement or Joint Local Plans are currently being prepared, but long established informal joint working across Cambridge and Peterborough HMAs (including the Combined Authority) continues to proceed successfully.

2. Local Plan Timetable

- 2.1 Through monitoring of the Local Plan and as a result of changes to National Planning Policy, Fenland District Council decided to review the Fenland Local Plan at its meeting on 21st February 2019. An LDS was approved that set the timetable to 2022.
- 2.2 The Issues and Options Consultation was carried out in October 2019 in accordance with the LDS, which included a call for sites exercise.
- 2.3 However, in early 2020 due to the COVID- 19 Pandemic the production of the Local Plan was delayed, in addition, given the current economic uncertainty a second call for sites will be carried out in summer 2020, this is to ensure that all site previously submitted are still available and deliverable and also to offer the opportunity for additional land to be submitted and considered for inclusion in the Draft Local Plan (this additional call for sites does not form part of the statutory process and is not shown on the LDS timetable at Table 1).
- 2.4 An updated LDS was published in July 2020 which shows a revised timetable for the production of the Fenland Local Plan to the end of 2022.
- 2.5 There are a number of stages involved in the preparation of a DPD (Local Plan). This process allows for opportunities for the public to be involved, early resolution of objections, and an Independent Examination. The stages in producing a Local Plan, and the intended timescales of those stages for the review of the Fenland Local Plan, are set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Timetable for Production of Development Plan Document

Date	2019							2020												2021												2022											
	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Fenland					1															1								2		3			4					5	6				

No.	Stage	Description	Dates stage will/ is proposed to take place
1	Public Participation (Regulation 18)	Opportunities for interested parties and statutory consultees to consider the options for the plan before the final document is produced. This stage can involve one or more public consultation rounds. We intend two rounds for the Fenland Local Plan.	Issues and Option Consultation October 2019 Draft Local Plan Consultation February 2021
2	Pre-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.	October 2021
3	Submission (Regulation 22)	The Council submits the Local Plan to the Secretary of State together with the representations received at Regulation 19 stage.	January 2022
4	Independent Examination	Held by a Planning Inspector into objections raised at Regulation 19 stage on the Local Plan	From the day it is 'submitted'
5	Inspector's Report Issued	This will report whether if the Plan is 'Sound' or 'Not Sound'. The Inspector may make recommendations to make the plan 'sound'	October 2022 (estimate – could be earlier or later, and subject to the examination)
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.	November 2022 (estimate - could be earlier or later, and subject to the examination)