



Breckland Local Plan Update Local Development Scheme

November 2023

1. Introduction

Background

- 1.1 The government requires local planning authorities to prepare a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS is a five-year project plan, and this version covers the period 2020-2025. The purpose of an LDS includes setting out the timetable for the delivery of Council produced planning policy documents. These are often referred to as Development Plan Documents or Local Plans. During the period 2021-2025, the Council intends to complete a Full Update of the whole Plan. The Review will affect the whole of Breckland District.
- 1.2 This LDS contains a timetable for the delivery of the review to inform local people and stakeholders of the key milestones in their production.
- 1.3 The latest version of the LDS was published in September 2022 and reflects the decision of the Cabinet on 25 July 2022 on the Local Plan Partial Review.

2. The Existing Development Plan

- 2.1 Development Plans are an important part of the English planning system and are needed to guide the local decision-making process for land uses and development proposals.
- 2.2 At September 2021, the Development Plan for Breckland comprised:

Breckland Local Plan and associated Policies Map (September 2023)
- 2.3 Following the completion of the single policy update of the Breckland Local Plan (2019), Breckland District Council adopted the Breckland Local Plan on September 21 2023, and is now in the process of undertaking a Full Update of the Plan. The current Local Plan sets out the framework for development within the District until 2036. It includes a spatial vision, objectives, and key policies. It also includes an associated 'Policies Map' that sets out the geographical extent of key designations and site-specific proposals set out in the local plan.

Further information on the Local Plan can be found at the following link:

<https://www.breckland.gov.uk/adoption>

- ***Core Strategy and Development Control Policies (2009) (Saved policies)***
- ***Thetford Area Action Plan (2012) (Saved policies)***

Further information on these plans can be found at the following link:

<https://www.breckland.gov.uk/previous-local-plan>

- ***Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2036 (January 2018)***
- ***Croxton, Brettenham and Kilverstone Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2036 (January 2019)***
- ***Mattishall Neighbourhood Plan 2017 – 2036 (November 2017)***
- ***Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan 2016 - 2036 (May 2019)***
- ***Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan 2016 - 2036 (December 2019)***
- ***Yaxham Neighbourhood Plan 2016 – 2036 (June 2017)***
- ***Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan 2019 - 2036 (November 2021)***
- ***New Buckenham Neighbourhood Plan 2017 -2036 (July 2022)***

2.4 The Localism Act (2011) provides the opportunity for communities to prepare Neighbourhood Plans to guide further development that they may wish to see in their communities. Neighbourhood Plans, once adopted, form part of the Development Plan for the area and are used in the determination of Planning Applications. Neighbourhood Plans are prepared by Town and Parish Councils to address key local priorities. Their key milestones are specific to each document. The regulations do not require neighbourhood plans to be included within the LDS.

2.5 Neighbourhood Development Plans are prepared by Town and Parish Councils and the plans are subject to consultation, independent examination, and referendum. The plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted local plan and should have regard to any emerging Local Plan.

2.6 A neighbourhood area has to be designated for a Neighbourhood Development Plan to be produced. In total, 13 Parish Councils (1 joint with 3 parishes) have designated Neighbourhood Areas. To date, 8 Neighbourhood Plans have been made and the remaining 7 are at various stages of preparation.

Further information on these neighbourhood plans can be found at the following link:

<https://www.breckland.gov.uk/article/4284/Neighbourhood-Plans>

Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-2030 (July 2016)

2.7 The adopted Norfolk Minerals and Waste Development Framework contains the following three minerals and waste planning policy documents and a policies map. These documents contain policies for use in making decisions on planning applications for mineral extraction and associated development and waste management facilities, and in the selection of specific site allocations in Norfolk:

- Core Strategy and Minerals and Waste Development Management Policies Development Plan Document 2010-2026 (adopted September 2011)
- Minerals Site Specific Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) (adopted October 2013, amendments adopted December 2017)
- Waste Site Specific Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) (adopted October 2013)

- Revised PDF policies map and the revised interactive policies map which includes the Site-Specific Allocations and an interactive map of Mineral Safeguarding Areas.

2.8 The County Council is preparing a Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review, to consolidate the three adopted plans into one Local Plan, ensure that the policies within them remain up-to-date and to extend the plan period to the end of 2036.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/minerals-and-waste-planning-policies/norfolk-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-review>

Other Planning Documents

2.9 In addition to the above components of the Development Plan, there are other key planning documents that the Council can produce. These include:

- Supplementary Planning Documents – these set out further information, interpretation or clarification regarding existing planning policies and are produced and adopted by the Council in accordance with government requirements
- Planning policy guidance – these set out further information, interpretation or clarification regarding existing planning policies but have not been produced to meet government Supplementary Planning Document requirements
- Statement of Community Involvement – a procedural document that sets out the methods for consultation and engagement with the public and stakeholders. This includes consultation and engagement during the production of Local Plans, the production of Neighbourhood Development Plans, and the Development Management process.
- Authority Monitoring Reports – a procedural document, produced on an annual basis that monitors performance against the Local Plan.

2.10 In Breckland, the Planning Team are currently preparing a supplementary planning document on Design (Landscape and Settlement Character Assessment)

2.11 The Council also prepares two additional documents: a Statement of Community Involvement detailing how people will be involved in the planning system; and a Monitoring Report that considers how effectively the Local Plan policies are being implemented.

3 Overview of Local Development Documents to be produced

Full Update (2021 – 2046)

3.1 Breckland Council is preparing a full update of the 2023 Local Plan. This will cover the period 2021 – 2046. The Full Update must, under the current process, follow these statutory stages:

- The first stage of plan-making (Regulation 18 Notification) requires the notification to interested parties of the proposed subjects to be included in the Local Plan, and to invite comments.
- Identification and consultation on the scope of the Plan by identifying issues and opportunities, and translating these into aims, objectives, and an overall vision for the District and each of the larger settlements.
- Appraisal of a range of policy and site options and publication and consultation on preferred choices for inclusion in the First Draft Local Plan consultation document. This includes all alternative options considered to enable people to see why a particular approach has been chosen.
- Regulation 18 also includes preparation and consultation on Plan including Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment, and Equality Impact Assessment work.
- Regulation 19 is where the proposed policies and site allocations are published in a Final Draft Local Plan document.
- Following consultation, the Final Draft Local Plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination.
- Regulations 22-26 of the Local Planning Regulations involve the submission of the Draft Local Plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination, the examination hearings and subsequent consultation on any required changes to the Plan before it can be adopted for use - if it is found to be 'sound' by the Inspector.

Future Resources and Timetable

3.2 In accordance with the NPPF local plans should be reviewed every 5 years. This needs to be balanced with the fact that both the process for preparing and content of the Plan will change over the next 2 – 3 years and the timetable should be flexible enough to take account of these changes. Over the next year it is likely that the Council will have better information on the implications of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (2023) and possible changes to both the content and preparation process of local plans including greater digitisation and methods of community engagement and a reduced preparation process. It is currently understood that the Full Update of this Plan can continue under the present regulations if it is submitted for examination by June 2025. Any changes will be fed into a review of the Local Development Scheme as required.

4 Timetable and Resources

4.1 The timetable for full update needs careful consideration. Critical factors in agreeing timetables are as follows:

- Available financial resources.

- Available staffing resources.
 - It is critical that the Council sets a timetable that is supported by both an appropriate and committed financial and staff resource to minimise risks to delivery.
- 4.2 It is critical that the Council sets a timetable that reflects possible changes to the planning system and does not commit to potentially abortive and costly work too early in the preparation process or seek to progress the Update too quickly. This needs to be balanced with the current expectation in the NPPF that requires Plans to be reviewed every 5 years (November 2024).
- 4.3 The production of the new Local Plan will follow the full statutory processes, including the preparation of a Sustainability Appraisal, public participation, and other regulatory requirements. The Local Plan will be subject to Examination by an independent Inspector.
- 4.4 The documents that Breckland Council proposes to prepare are as follows:
- (1) The new Local Plan
 - (2) Policies Maps
 - (3) Statement of Community Involvement, and
 - (4) 5 Year Housing Land Statement in accordance with the requirements of the NPPF.
- 4.5 Appendix 1 sets out the timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan Updates.

Availability of the LDS

- 4.2 The Council is required by the regulations to make the LDS available to the public. Copies are available for inspection at the Council's offices in Dereham. The LDS is also available to view on the Planning Policy pages of the Council's website [www.breckland.gov.uk].

Appendix 1: Timetable

Coverage: District Wide		Full Update
Governance: Local Plan Working Group / Cabinet / Full Council		
A	Commencement of Preparation	Q3 2021
	<i>Time Taken</i>	1 month
B	Scoping of the Review	Q2 2021
	<i>Time Taken</i>	3 months
C	Prepare revised local development scheme (Cabinet approval)	November 2023
	<i>Time Taken</i>	2 months
D	Prepare and consult on Statement of Community Involvement (Cabinet approval)	July 2022
	<i>Time Taken</i>	2 months
E	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and preparation (including consultation) (Prepared externally)	Q1 2022 -Q3 2026
	<i>Time Taken</i>	Throughout process
F	Collation of evidence base	Q3 2021 -Q4 2024
	<i>Time Taken</i>	3 years
G	Prepare Call for Sites (Working Group and Cabinet)	Q4 2021
	<i>Time Taken</i>	2 months
H	Consult on Call for Sites and processing of responses	April 2022 – December 2022
	<i>Time Taken</i>	7 months
	<i>Processing of Call For Sites</i>	Throughout Regulation 18 process
I	First Conversation Consultation (Issues and Options) preparation and Cabinet approval (Regulation 18)	July 2022 – December 2022
	<i>Time Taken</i>	6 months
J	First Conversation Consultation (Issues and Options) consultation	March - May 2023
K	Processing of responses (Regulation 18)	Throughout Regulation 18 process

Coverage: District Wide		Full Update
L	Continuing Regulation 18 Consultation (online, workshops, drop in events)	May 2023 - December 2023
	<i>Time Taken</i>	8 months
M	Regulation 18 Consultation (Development Strategy Options / Settlement Boundary Principles / Call For Sites (Preparation, Cabinet approval and consultation)	October 2023 – February 2024
	<i>Time Taken</i>	5 months
N	Preferred Options and draft Plan preparation and Council approval (Regulation 18)	December 2023 - March 2024 -
	<i>Time Taken</i>	4 months
O	Preferred options and draft Plan consultation and processing of responses (Regulation 18)	April 2024 – September 2024
	<i>Time Taken</i>	6 months
P	Publication Draft Council preparation and approval for Submission (Regulation 19) (working Group and Cabinet	July 2024 - December 2024
	<i>Time Taken</i>	6 months
Q	Publication Draft consultation and processing of responses (Regulation 19)	January - March 2025
	<i>Time Taken</i>	6 weeks
R	Approval of Submission Draft (working Group and Cabinet	Aril 2025
	<i>Time Taken</i>	1 month
S	Submission for examination (Regulation 22)	May 2025
	<i>Time Taken</i>	1 month
T	Examination / Modifications (Regulations 23, 24)	Q4 2025 – Q3 2026
U	Adoption (Regulation 26) (Council)	Q4 2026