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Local Development Scheme

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Local Development Scheme

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Local Planning Authorities are required by legislation to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS) to provide a timetable for the preparation of a Local Plan or a Local Plan Review and any other Local Development Documents.
- 1.2 Local plans are the key to delivering sustainable development that reflects the vision and aspirations of local communities. They set the development strategy and policies for delivering the vision of the area. It is therefore appropriate that residents, businesses, stakeholders and developers are fully aware of how and when they will be produced. The national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) requires the LDS to be kept up-to-date and be made publicly available, so that local communities and interested parties can keep track of Local Plan Progress.
- 1.3 Having an up-to-date local plan is important because applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In this respect, local plans provide clarity for development proposals and a degree of predictability for the community.
- 1.4 This LDS covers a five-year period from December 2025 until December 2030 and sets out the documents the Council intends to prepare over this period. It identifies the stages the Local Plan will go through and the timetable for key activity. It replaces the previous LDS published in February 2025.
- 1.5 This document is divided into the following sections:

Development Plan Documents (DPDs)

Section 2 of this document provides an overview of the existing planning policy documents and guidance that cover the Borough.

Documents to be Prepared

Section 3 outlines the type and function of the documents that the Council will produce in forthcoming years.

Supporting Statement

Sections 4 and 5 make reference to the evidence base which will be used to inform emerging policy along with the Sustainability Appraisal

work that will be required. A programme for monitoring and reviewing documents, the political framework for approval, the resources available and an assessment of the risks associated with the delivery of the LDS are also identified.

- 1.6 The Council's Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) is produced annually and is required to assess DPDs progress against the targets and milestones in the LDS. Where the milestones have not been met, up-to-date information will be provided on the Council's website.

2.0 Nuneaton and Bedworth Development Plan Documents

Adopted Local Plan

- 2.1 At the time of writing, the DPDs for the area of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough constitute the following documents:
 - **Borough Plan: 2011 – 2031¹**

This provides the overall spatial vision and objectives, and spatial strategy for the Borough. It identifies the overall scale of development up to 2031 and contains development control policies to guide decision making.
 - **Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD: 2021 – 2037**

This allocates sites to meet the Borough's identified need. The DPD was formally adopted by Full Council on 18th January 2024.
 - **Warwickshire Minerals Local Plan 2018-2032**

This provides planning policies to guide future minerals development within the County. The Warwickshire Minerals Local Plan 2018-2032 was formally adopted on 22nd July 2022.
 - **Warwickshire Waste Core Strategy Adopted Local Plan 2013 - 2028**

This guides the future strategy and development of all new waste facilities in the County up to 2028. The Warwickshire Waste Core Strategy Adopted Local Plan 2013 -2028 was adopted on 9th July 2013.

¹ *The Borough Plan (2011-2031) will be superseded by the Borough Plan Review (2021 – 2039) once adopted, which is anticipated in December 2025.*

- 2.2 The Borough Plan Review was submitted for examination on 12th February 2024. Following a six week consultation on the Main Modifications between 2nd June and 14th July 2025, the Council has received the Inspectors Report and is due to recommend adoption of the Borough Plan Review at Full Council on 10th December 2025.
- 2.3 The latest National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (December 2024) states, at Paragraph 236, that where paragraph 234(b) applies, if the housing requirement in the plan to be adopted meets less than 80% of local housing need the local planning authority will be expected to begin work on a new local plan, under the revised plan-making system provided for under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (as soon as the relevant provisions are brought into force in 2025), in order to address the shortfall in housing need. This is the case for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough. Further guidance is awaited from the Government on the proposed new development plan system, and this is expected to be published towards the end of 2025. The timetable set out in Section 3 is based on current available advice.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

- 2.4 SPDs provide more detailed guidance on how a particular policy should be implemented or interpreted, or a site developed. SPDs do not form part of the Development Plan and as such they are not subject to an independent examination.
- 2.5 To date the Council has adopted the following SPDs:
- Affordable Housing SPD (2020).
 - Air Quality SPD (2020).
 - Concept Plan SPDs (for each of the strategic housing and employment allocations) (2020).
 - Health Impact Assessment SPD (2021).
 - Open Space and Green Infrastructure SPD (2021).
 - Planning for a Healthier Area – Hot Food Takeaways SPD (2020).
 - Shopfronts and Advertisements Design Guide Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) (1994).
 - Sustainable Design and Construction SPD (2020).
 - Transport Demand Management Matters – Parking Standards SPD (2022).
 - Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan SPDs (2022).
 - HSG2 Arbury Design Code SPD (2022).
 - First Homes Interim Policy Statement (2022).
 - Validation checklist (SPD) (2024).

2.6 Please note that limited weight can be afforded to the 1994 Shopfronts and Advertisements Guide SPG due to its age, however the SPG has not been formally revoked.

Other Relevant Documents

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

Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)

2.8 The purpose of an AMR is established in legislation and should provide annual updates on the following:

- Progress on the timetable and milestones for preparation of documents set out in the LDS.
- Progress and effectiveness of the Borough Plan, including details of policies and proposals which are not being implemented and the reasons for this.
- Information collected for monitoring purposes.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

2.9 The SCI sets out how the Council will engage, involve and consult stakeholders and the community in the plan-making process.

Policies Map

2.10 The Policies Map illustrates geographically how and where the policies and proposals in the Borough Plan apply across the Borough. The map will be revised following adoption of a new Borough Plan.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

2.11 CIL is a charge which can be levied by local authorities on new developments in their area. In 2020, consultants DAC were appointed by the Borough Council to develop a draft charging schedule of rates, based on updated viability analysis. The proposed charging rates were included in a Draft Charging Schedule, and this was consulted on in October 2020.

2.12 Further detailed analysis was undertaken following the consultation process to compare how the proposed CIL rates would compare with the existing 'section 106' (s106) arrangements by assessing different planning applications of various types and sizes. It was concluded that, for strategic scale developments, existing s106 processes would generate significantly more infrastructure funding than CIL, although

CIL may generate more funding for smaller scale developments. Given the administrative burdens and costs associated with CIL implementation, it was considered that CIL may not be beneficial when compared to existing s106 arrangements. On 26th of May 2021, the Council's Cabinet resolved that the CIL Charging Schedule should not be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination. The Council will continue to monitor emerging legislation and policy changes (e.g. the potential National Infrastructure Levy introduced as part of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023) and review whether a revised Levy approach is appropriate for the Council to pursue.

3.0 Nuneaton and Bedworth Local Development Programme

- 3.1 The section below details how the Council will deliver its future planning policy framework which comprises of DPDs. The timetable forecasts provided below are the best estimates available at the time of publication. Where the milestones have not been met, up-to-date information will be provided on the Council's webpages. Periodic updates will also be provided to the Council's Borough Plan Committee, which meets on a quarterly basis.

Borough Plan Review

- 3.2 The Council is at an advance stage with its Borough Plan Review, which, when adopted, will supersede the Borough Plan (2011-2031) which was adopted in 2019. Following three rounds of public consultation, the Borough Plan Review was submitted to the Secretary of State for Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (formerly Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) on 12th of February 2024 in accordance with Regulation 22(3) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The Examination in Public has been completed with three blocks of Hearings held in July, September and October 2024.
- 3.3 The below five stages summarise each stage of how local plans are 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.

3.4 The stages for the development of the emerging Borough Plan Review and an updated timetable for key milestones are set out in Table 1 below.

Key Milestones for Preparation of Borough Plan Review		
	Stage of Plan Making	Timetable
Regulation 18	Consultation on Issues and Options	June – August 2021
	Consultation on Preferred Options	June – July 2022
Regulation 19	Formal public consultation on proposed submission plan	September – October 2023
Regulation 22	Submission to Secretary of State	February 2024
Regulation 24	Examination of Local Plan	2024 - 2025
	Receipt of Inspector’s Report	October 2025
Regulation 26	Adoption of Borough Plan Review	December 2025

Table 1: Key Milestones for Preparation of Borough Plan Review.

3.5 The Borough Plan Review is accompanied by a Policies Map, which illustrates the main proposals, designations and area-based policies covering the Borough. The map will be reviewed as each additional new policy document is produced and as required by Modifications from the Planning Inspectors. A new policies map will be produced for any future review.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

- 3.6 Following the adoption of the Borough Plan Review, the current adopted SPDs will be reviewed and where necessary amended and consulted upon to bring the SPDs in line with the new adopted Borough Plan Review and the latest NPPF. If it becomes apparent that additional SPDs are required (i.e. to provide necessary clarity to adopted policies), further information will be provided on the Council's Planning Policy webpages.
- 3.7 The Council is also preparing SPDs that provide more detailed advice and guidance in relation to the implementation and interpretation of planning policies set out in DPDs. SPDs are not subject to examination but are subject to public consultation. Currently, the Council is progressing a Heritage SPD and a Town Centres SPD.

New Local Plan

- 3.8 As set out above, paragraph 236 of the latest NPPF (December 2024) requires the Council to commence work on a new Local Plan to address the substantial increase in the Government's calculation of local housing need and to address any other implications arising from the other changes to the national planning system and guidance.
- 3.9 The Planning Advisory Service (PAS) advice outlines that the new system will be in place by the end of 2025. In terms of LDS updates and timetabling, the latest guidance provides the following broad timescales²:
- Give 4 months' notice before starting plan making
 - Scoping and early participation stage – including requirements to 'notify' the public and stakeholders including statutory bodies and 'invite' participation; prepare or update the local plan timetable and give a minimum of four months' notice before the Council intend to formally commence the 30-month plan preparation timeframe through to adoption.
 - Months 1 – 23
 - Plan visioning and strategy development – including a requirement to undertake visioning about the future of the area and the first formal public consultation on the place.
 - Evidence gathering and drafting the plan.

² [Plan Making Reforms: Consultation on Implementation](#) February 2025

- Engagement, proposing changes and submission of the plan – including a requirement for the second public consultation on the plan.
- Months 24 – 30
 - Examination of the plan.
 - Adoption of the plan.

3.10 This LDS has been amended to reflect this advice, the stages of preparing the new Local Plan and key milestones, as are set out in Table 2 below.

Key Milestones for Preparation of New Local Plan³	
Stage of Plan Making	Timetable
Initial preparatory work pending the issue of further Government guidance, likely to include call for sites, initial stakeholder engagement and 4-month period giving notice to commence the new plan	2025 – Quarter 2 2026
Plan visioning and strategy development – including first formal public consultation on the plan, evidence gathering and drafting the plan; and engagement, proposing changes and submission of the plan – including a requirement for a second public consultation on the plan	Quarter 3 2026 – Quarter 3 2028
Submission and Examination	Quarter 4 2028 – Quarter 1 2029
Adoption	Quarter 1 2029

Table 2: Key Milestones for Preparation of New Local Plan.

Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD

3.11 The NPPF requires that Local Plans and Spatial Development Strategies should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least every five years and that Reviews should be completed no later than five years from adoption. The requirement under the DPDs monitoring targets is that a new Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Accommodation Assessment will need to be carried out within five years of adoption. Due to all of these requirements, an entire Review will need to be

³ The New Local Plan to be prepared under the revised plan making system provided for under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (as soon as the relevant provisions are brought into force) in order to address the shortfall in housing need.

completed by 18th January 2029. As the new Local Plan is progressed, there may be scope for some of the DPD to be combined. The Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Review will need to commence in 2026. Table 3 below sets out the proposed timetable.

Key Milestones for Preparation of Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD	
Stage of Plan Making	Timetable
Commencement/Scoping	Quarter 3 2026
Gypsy, Traveller and Show people Accommodation Assessment	Quarter 4 2026 ⁴

Table 3: Key Milestones for Preparation of Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD.

4.0 Evidence, resourcing and risk

Evidence Base

4.1 Development Plan Documents must be based on up-to-date, robust evidence for them to be considered sound. In preparing the policy documents there is a need to undertake technical research and other background work. This work will be undertaken by the Council, as well as external consultants on behalf of the Council where information of a specialist nature is required or where the time needed to undertake the work is not available in-house. All background/technical documents, alongside the policy document to which they relate, will be made available on the Council’s Planning Policy webpages. Details of the existing evidence base can be found on the Council’s Planning Policy webpages.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

4.2 Notwithstanding the emerging national policy planning reforms, existing legislation requires that all DPDs will be subject to a SA (which

⁴ In the event that a full Review is necessary and new sites are required, the LDS will be updated to reflect this.

incorporates SEA). The purpose of a SA/SEA is to assess the likely environmental, economic and social implications of the policies/ proposals in the documents. External groups and organisations are consulted on the SA and invited to contribute to the appraisal. The key stages of SA preparation are provided in Table 4 below.

Stage	Key tasks
<u>Stage A</u> – Development of the SA framework and production of Scoping Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives • Collect baseline information • Identify sustainability issues and problems • Develop the SA framework • Consult on the scope of the sustainability appraisal
<u>Stage B</u> – Appraisal of plan options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test the Plan objectives against the SA framework • Develop the plan options including reasonable alternatives • Assess the likely effects of each of the options • Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects • Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the plan
<u>Stage C</u> – Preparation of the final SA report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce the final SA report based on the final plan ('Publication' version), documenting the appraisal process
<u>Stage D</u> – Consultation on the SA report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult on the options/policies and SA report at the 'Publication' (Regulation 19) stage

Stage E – Post adoption monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and publish post adoption statement • Monitor significant effects of implementing the Plan • Respond to adverse effects
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Table 4: SA process.

4.3 SPDs are exempt from the requirements for SA. Unless significant environmental effects are likely to result from implementation of the SPD, SEA is not required.

Political Framework

4.4 Before submission to the Secretary of State for consideration, or formal adoption by the Council in the case of SPDs, each document in the planning policy framework will require political approval. The level of approval will be determined by the status of the document and the stage it has reached in the preparation process. The levels of approval required for each type of documents at different stages of their preparation has been set out in Table 5 below.

Document	Stage of Preparation	Level of Approval
Local Development Scheme (LDS)	Publication	Cabinet Full Council
Development Plan Documents (DPDs)	Issues and Options consultation Publication consultation Submission to Secretary of State Adoption	Cabinet Cabinet Cabinet & Full Council Cabinet & Full Council
Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)	Consultation on Draft SPD Adoption	Cabinet Full Council

Document	Stage of Preparation	Level of Approval
Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)	Publication	-

Table 5: Political Approval Framework.

Resources

- 4.5 The work associated with the production of the planning policy framework, as well as its monitoring and review will primarily be undertaken by the Council’s Planning Policy team, with contributions from other services within the Council as and when required. Input from the Council’s other services will be particularly valuable at the evidence gathering stage of policy development, to help ensure that the Council’s other Plans/Strategies are integrated into the planning policy framework. In preparing documents, specialist services provided by consultants will also be utilised where necessary.
- 4.6 The cost of producing the planning policy framework, including the existing Borough Plan Review, is currently being met through the existing service budget. Both staffing and budgetary resources will need to be monitored to ensure that there is adequate provision to enable the delivery of the LDS. Furthermore, a new Local Plan is required in line with the latest NPPF (December 2024), which means that, following adoption of the Borough Plan Review (2021-2039), the process of carrying out a further review will begin immediately.

Risk Assessment

- 4.7 This LDS has been drafted based on what is considered deliverable, based on information available at the time of drafting. Nevertheless, there are several risks which could jeopardise the Council’s ability to deliver the documents that make up the planning policy framework within the timeframes identified. The Council has however attempted to minimise the risks by putting in place mitigation measures. The risks, their rating (in terms of likelihood and impact), and the mitigation measures that have been put in place to moderate and manage the risks, are summarised in Table 6 below. The risk rating scores included are net risk scores and account for risk control and mitigation measures.

Risk	Likelihood (L)	Impact (I)	Rating (L x I)	Mitigation Measures
Internal Resources	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early identification of budget requirements. • Keep budget under review.
Staff Turnover (Loss of staff and difficulty to recruit replacements, reflecting national shortage)	3	2	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertise posts as soon as possible to minimise length of vacancy. • Appoint consultants.
Additional Unforeseen Work/Pressure on Staff Time	3	2	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work associated with delivery of DPDs and SPDs prioritised within work programme.
Lack of In-House Expertise for Specialist Areas of Work (E.g. Sustainable Appraisal, background work)	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employ consultants to undertake work. • Train staff where appropriate.
Capacity of External Organisations (Planning Inspectorate (PINs) and Statutory Consultees)	2	3	6	<p>Capacity of external organisations is outside the Council's control, but impact will be minimised by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sending organisations a copy of LDS to raise awareness of timetable. • Maintain Service Level Agreement with PINs. • Consult statutory consultees as early as possible.
New/Replacement Government Policies and Guidance (E.g. Planning for the Future White Paper, revised NPPF/NPPG)	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep up-to-date on emerging policies and guidance to enable early response to changes.
Political Decision Making	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early involvement of Members in preparation of documents to maximise support.
Significant Opposition to Policy or Proposal	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early and effective engagement in the consultation process (however it is unlikely that consensus will be reached between all stakeholders).
Timing of Committee Meetings (Dates of meetings only set on annual basis)	3	1	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where necessary special meetings can be called.
Soundness of DPDs	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents to be based on robust evidence. • Community engagement undertaken in line with the Statement of Community Involvement. • Sustainability Appraisal undertaken. • Carry out soundness self-assessment. • Work closely with PINs.
Legal Challenge	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure 2004 Act and associated regulations followed. • Implement audit trail of processes and procedures.

Table 6: Risks associated with delivery of the LDS.

Key to Scoring

Likelihood	Impact	Rating
1. Low	1. Low	1 - 4 Low (green)
2. Significant	2. Moderate	5 - 9 Medium (orange)
3. High	3. Serious	10+ High (red)
4. Very High	4. Major	

5.0 Monitoring and Review

- 5.1 Any changes in content of documents or timetable will be monitored through the AMR. In the event of work proceeding more quickly or slowly than programmed, adjustments will be highlighted in the AMR and the LDS will be amended as necessary.