

# **North East Lincolnshire Local Development Scheme**

**Adopted 12 March 2025**



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Working in partnership

## Local Development Scheme 2025

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**Section 1 Introduction**

- 1.1** Local planning authorities are required under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) to prepare a Local Development Scheme which sets out a Council's commitment to the production of planning policy documents and a timetable for their production. A Local Development Scheme must be made available publicly and kept up to date to ensure communities and interested parties can keep track of progress.

## **About this Local Development Scheme**

- 1.2** The Council commenced a review of the current Local Plan (adopted in March 2018) in 2021 and remains committed to having an up to date local plan in place. This Local Development Scheme supersedes the 2023 version and reflects the transitional arrangements set out in the revised National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) which requires councils to submit plans for examination by 31 December 2026.
- 1.3** This Local Development Scheme sets out the timetable for the production of new documents that will form the Development Plan for the whole of North East Lincolnshire. It includes a programme of activity for the preparation of the replacement Local Plan to the end of 2027 and progress against the key milestones will be monitored. Should delays be incurred the timetable will be updated and reported in the next iteration of the Local Development Scheme.

**Section 2 The current adopted development plan**

- 2.1** The current adopted development plan is the North East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2013 to 2032 which was adopted in March 2018. (Find out more about the adopted Local Plan on our [Planning policy webpage](#).)

## **Supplementary Planning Documents**

- 2.2** The adopted Local Plan is supported by a number of existing adopted Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) all of which were subject to public consultation.
- 2.3** Current adopted Supplementary Planning Documents are:
- Wind energy - adopted June 2019
  - Stallingborough Interchange employment site - adopted September 2020
- 2.4** Find out more about Supplementary Planning Documents and read the adopted documents on our [Supplementary planning documents webpage](#)
- 2.5** Additionally part of the Lincolnshire Wolds falls within the North East Lincolnshire borough boundary, and has a management plan that is adopted by all local councils within the area. It is a material consideration for planning applications and can be viewed on the [Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty website](#).

### **Section 3 Other relevant documents**



## **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)**

- 3.1** The first Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in 2006 and was updated in 2013 and again in 2020. The current North East Lincolnshire Statement of Community Involvement (2020) sets out the council's approach to public and key stakeholder participation in all planning matters, including the preparation of the local plan, supplementary planning documents and arrangements for consultations on planning applications. As it is now approaching five years since its adoption, the Council must undertake another review of the document. The programme for this work is included in Section 5 Preparation timetable.

## **Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment (SA and HRA)**

- 3.2** The Local Plan documents (including evidence base) will be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal, which will also incorporate the requirements of the EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessments. The Sustainability Appraisal will help identify and evaluate what effects the document and proposed plans are likely to have on social, economic and environmental conditions of an area, and help to ensure that the plan takes account of sustainable development objectives.
- 3.3** The first part of this work was to prepare a Scoping Report. This set established the scope of the SA work and set out the framework for the remaining stages of the sustainability appraisal work. The Scoping Report was subject to consultation with specific statutory bodies (Environment Agency, Highways England and Historic England).
- 3.4** The UK Conservation (Habitats & etc.) Regulations as amended result in an Appropriate Assessment being required for all plans likely to have a significant effect on a European site. Habitats Regulations Assessments, including Appropriate Assessment as necessary, will be undertaken as part of the Local Plan review.
- 3.5** This work will be carried out at key stages of the Local Plan review and will accompany consultation drafts of the plan for public comment.

## **North East Lincolnshire Council Plan**

- 3.6** The 'Council Plan'<sup>1</sup> sets out the Council's priorities and vision for North East Lincolnshire and is updated annually. The local plan is responsible for delivering those of a spatial nature.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/your-council/council-plan-vision-and-aims/>

## Authority monitoring report

- 3.7** The Council will publish monitoring information on its website on an annual basis relating to the previous monitoring year (running from 1 April to 31 March). This will provide updates on the status of the Local Development Scheme timetable, Local Plan key milestones, any neighbourhood planning and borough-wide statistics on planning topics such as housing, employment, environment and transport.
- 3.8** Further monitoring information is available on the [North East Lincolnshire Data Observatory](#).

## Policies map

- 3.9** The Council is required to produce a Policy Map which shows the location of development proposals in all current, adopted development plan documents on an ordnance survey base map. This currently includes five policy maps which accompany the adopted 2018 Local Plan:
- Plan area
  - Urban area inset maps
  - Town centre inset maps
  - Inset maps
  - Minerals

## Neighbourhood plans

- 3.10** At the time of publication there are no adopted Neighbourhood plans in the North East Lincolnshire area nor have any Neighbourhood Forums been designated.

**Section 4 Risk assessment**

- 4.1** The timings set out in this Local Development Scheme are indicative and based on assumptions. It may be necessary to make further amendments to the timetable. An assessment of potential risks has been undertaken and details of their impact and likelihood alongside mitigation measures are set out below.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Changes to, or new legislation or national planning policy	High	High Additional work required to ensure compliance, including evidence base document updates May result in work carried out having to start again	Keep up to date on emerging national context and respond to changes early Respond to proposed policy shifts highlighting potential local consequences
Evidence base work takes longer than expected	Medium	Medium Slow progress causes slippage in the programme Evidence base challenged or undermined	Recruitment of specialist officers or consultants Staff to undertake additional training
Volume of work greater than anticipated, for example higher level of representations than expected, or significant interest in preparing Neighbourhood Plans	Medium	High Causes slippage in the programme Cost implications	Ensure timetable is realistic with some flexibility built in Monitor progress against the Local Development Scheme Consider additional resources or reprioritise work
Local Plan review programme to ambitious	Medium	Medium Key milestones in programme not met	Ensure Local Development Scheme is realistic Monitor progress against the Local Development Scheme timetable
Failure to recruit and retain qualified, well-motivated staff	High	High Reduced capacity causing slippage in the programme or failure to prepare documents	Take prompt action to fill vacancies with staff with required skills Pay recruitment or retention incentives Consider use of consultancy or agency staff

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Insufficient budget to finance the project	Medium	Medium Work cannot be progressed Objectives on quality compromised	Budget and costs to be kept under review
Spatial planning team required to do other unforeseen work	High	High Diverts members of the team from the Local Plan review and causes slippage in the programme	Ensure the Local Plan review remains a corporate priority Identify key staff to be 'shielded' from other work Increase the size of the team Involve members of staff from the wider planning team
Failure to secure agreement of full council to Local Plan review	Low	High Delays in decision making Causes slippage in the programme	Build sufficient flexibility into the strategy and timescales The impact of elections cannot be predicted and mitigation is limited Work closely with all elected Members to raise awareness of the Local Plan, and to secure an up to date plan that complies with National Planning Policy Framework
Problems arising from joint working, compliance with the duty to cooperate and Statement of Common Ground	High	High Causes slippage in the programme	Close working with other authorities and council departments to detect issues early in the process
Planning Inspectorate unable to meet the timescale for the examination and/or reporting	Medium	Medium Examination and/or report is delayed Key milestones in programme not met Deadlines under the transition arrangement not met	Maintain regular contact with the Planning Inspectorate to ensure early warning of any problems
Submitted document fails the test of soundness or duty to cooperate at examination	Low	High Document cannot be adopted without additional work	Develop sound technical evidence base. If necessary, go back to an earlier stage, revise the plan and re-submit

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
			Seek advice from Planning Inspectorate and be prepared to make modifications Consider the need for an external health check before document is submitted
Legal challenge	Medium	High Adopted document quashed Additional workload	Ensure procedures, legislation and regulations are complied with throughout the process Close working relationship with council's legal team and external legal support are required

**Table 4.1 Risk assessment**

## **Section 5 Preparation timetable**

## Local Plan timetable

- 5.1** The Council is committed to a review of its current Local Plan. Work on the review commenced in 2021.
- 5.2** Table 5.1 Local Plan review project plan outlines the process, role and content of each element of the review. Table 5.2 Local Plan key stages sets out the timetable for the Local Plan review, identifying key milestones.

Subject and content	<p>North East Lincolnshire Local Plan</p> <p>Matters to be reviewed include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. future development in the Borough to 2042</li> <li>2. conformity of adopted policies with national policy</li> <li>3. the natural environment</li> <li>4. climate change, flooding and energy</li> <li>5. design and amenity</li> <li>6. employment, housing and, town and local centres</li> <li>7. infrastructure and biodiversity</li> <li>8. health and wellbeing</li> <li>9. minerals and waste</li> </ol>
Status	Local Plan (Development Plan Document (DPD))
Chain of conformity	To conform with the National Planning Policy Framework
Geographical coverage	Borough-wide
Lead officer	Spatial Planning Manager (Equans)
Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Head of Development Services</li> <li>2. Assistant Director Regeneration</li> </ol>
Political management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local Plan Oversight Board</li> <li>2. Scrutiny Panels</li> <li>3. Cabinet resolution for each statutory public consultation</li> <li>4. Cabinet and Full Council resolution for submission and adoption</li> </ol>
External resources	LUC is engaged to provide Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations advice
Community engagement	Engagement with stakeholders and members of the community takes place in accordance with the requirements set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 <sup>2</sup> , as amended, and the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.



Table 5.1 Local Plan review project plan

Key stage	Timing
Local Plan review commenced	An assessment using the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) Toolkit was carried out in 2019 to identify which areas of the adopted Local Plan needed updating, if any. Initial decision to commence a review made in June 2020. However, due to the Governments proposed reforms to national planning policy this work was paused. In October 2021, the council's Cabinet agreed that work on the review should be restarted.
Identifying the scope of the review <b>Complete</b>	A Scoping and Issues Paper was prepared and published for an initial informal stage of public engagement to establish the scope of the local plan review and to identify the issues that need addressing. The engagement period ran from Monday 16 September to Monday 7 November 2022.
Sustainability Appraisal <b>Complete</b>	A Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was published for consultation with prescribed statutory bodies. This consultation ran from Friday 6 February to Friday 17 March 2023.
Publication (Regulation 18) <b>Complete</b> Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment ( <b>Complete</b> )	A Draft Local Plan with Options was published as part of the first formal consultation stage, along with a Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment. The consultation period ran for an eight week period from Monday 15 January to Friday 8 March 2024.
Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment	Relevant appraisals and assessments will be carried out throughout the Local Plan review process.
Evidence gathering	Spring / summer 2025
Publication (Regulation 18)	Autumn 2025
Publication of a local plan (Regulation 19 and 20)	Summer 2026
Submission of plan for examination (Regulation 22)	December 2026
Examination (Regulation 24)	Commences at the point that the Local Plan is submitted

2 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/767/contents/made>

Key stage	Timing
Main modifications consultation	To be confirmed by the Inspector
Receipt and publication of Inspector's report (Regulation 25)	Spring 2028
Adoption (Regulation 26)	Summer 2028

Table 5.2 Local Plan key stages

### Indicative timetable for the Statement of Community Involvement review

**5.3** As has already been identified the current Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is now requiring review to ensure it is still effective. The programme for this work is set out below:

Event/activity	Date
Carry out Planning Advisory Service Toolkit based review	Spring 2025
Identify any minor changes required and update SCI, including discussions with Members	Spring / early summer 2025
Finalise any minor changes and adopt Statement of Community Involvement	Summer 2025

Table 5.3 Statement of Community Involvement review

**5.4** If the review finds that more substantive changes are required to the SCI there will be a requirement to carry out a public consultation on these changes. In this case the indicative timetable below will be followed.

Event/activity	Date
Carry out Planning Advisory Service Toolkit based review	Spring 2025
Identify any minor changes required and update SCI, including discussions with Members	Spring / early summer 2025
Consultation on proposed changes	Summer / early autumn 2025
Finalise changes and adopt Statement of Community Involvement	Autumn 2025

Table 5.4 SCI review including consultation

**5.5** Progress on the SCI review will be reported as part of the monitoring process.

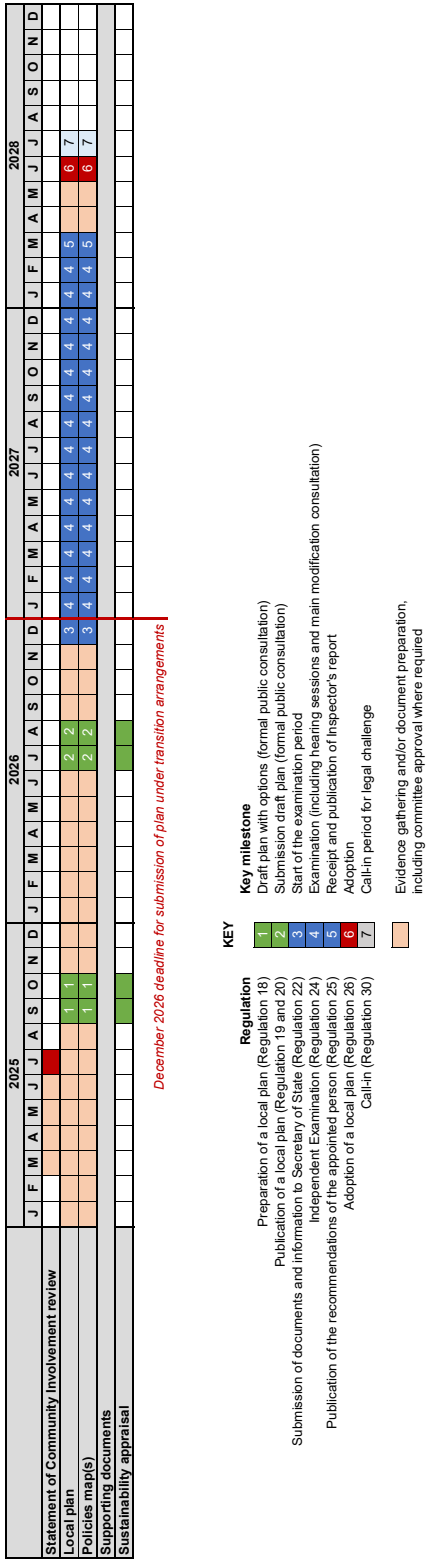


Figure 5.1 Timetable overview

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