

Doncaster Local Development Scheme

February 2024



City of
Doncaster
Council

Introduction

- 1.1. Doncaster's [Local Plan](#) sets out how Doncaster Borough will grow and develop from 2015 to 2035. It identifies where and how new jobs, homes and services will be located. Its policies guide investment and development, encourage sustainable and inclusive economic growth, protect the environment and promote social inclusion.
- 1.2. The Local Plan forms a key part of the statutory "development plan" and informs decisions on planning applications. Other parts of the development plan include the [Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Plan](#) and various [Neighbourhood Plans](#).
- 1.3. This **Local Development Scheme (LDS)** is required by the [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](#). It sets out current and planned planning policy documents, the relationship between them, document preparation and monitoring arrangements.

Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) October 2023

- 1.4. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act will introduce a new Plan-making system. Local Plans will potentially be very different from our current Plan, being limited to only locally specific content that will sit alongside a new set of 'national development management policies' that will apply across England. The new plan making process will be more digital and streamlined with different evidence requirements. The Act will require that local authorities prepare Local Plans within a statutory timeframe of 30 months.
- 1.5. The [reforms](#) are likely to be implemented from late 2024, with most authorities able to start production of plans in 'waves', selected by the Government, from May 2024. New regulations for the process will be published separately for consultation, potentially in Autumn 2024. Other reforms to the planning system are expected, including the revision of the National Planning Policy Framework and national Development Management Policies (possibly in Autumn 2024), both of which may also impact on the operation of the current Local Plan.

Local Plan Review

- 1.6. The current Local Plan covers the period from 2015 to 2035 and was adopted in September 2021. Due to the relatively recent adoption of the Plan, the Council considers that the Local Plan is up to date and does not require updating. However, the Council is [monitoring](#) the Plan's implementation and this will include considering whether there is a need to undertake a review of the need to update the Local Plan, mindful of the following.
- 1.7. [Regulation 10A](#) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended 2017) requires all Local Planning Authorities to complete a review of the need to update their Local Plan policies within five years after adoption. For Doncaster, this means it will need to do this by September 2026 (and, if concluded there was a need to do, subsequently update the Plan).
- 1.8. However, the Government has indicated that the regulation, policy and guidance to enable the preparation of local plans under the new Plan-making system of LURA 2023 will not be available until at least Autumn 2024 (and this is likely to be dependent on the timings and outcome of a general election expected to take place in 2024). In the meantime, local authorities are expected to continue to prepare and update their plans under the current

guidance, but against a deadline for submitting plans for examination under the current legal framework of 30 June 2025. This deadline is therefore before the deadline of September 2026 that review of Doncaster's Local Plan (i.e. review of its need to be updated) should be completed. Unless the transitional deadline of 30 June 2025 is extended it is impossible to prepare another Local Plan under the existing Plan making system – this is because the Council would not have sufficient time to update its evidence base, prepare an updated plan, consult on it and submit it for examination (even if the Council had already determined at the date of this LDS that a Local Plan update is required).

- 1.9. For these reasons the next Doncaster Local Plan will be prepared under the new Local Plan making system. As part of the new system, the existing complex requirement for plans to be reviewed at least once every 5 years and updated as necessary will be replaced by a clearer requirement for planning authorities to commence an update of their local plans and minerals and waste plans every 5 years. Once the timetable for a revised / new Local Plan becomes clear, a timetable will be included in a future version of the LDS.

Planning Policies

1.10. The statutory development plan for Doncaster currently comprises of:

- The [Local Plan](#), adopted in September 2021. There is currently no formal timetable for an update as the current Plan is considered up-to-date.
- The [Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Plan](#) which sets out the overall approach to managing waste across the three local authority areas, over a 15-year period up until 2026. This plan was adopted in March 2012. The Council has agreed to progress an update of the Joint Waste Plan with the other South Yorkshire planning authorities (to additionally include Sheffield City). Evidence base work on this is at an early stage and a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by all 4 Authorities with each now seeking their own respective decision-making routes to formally approve plan-inception.
- [Neighbourhood Plans](#) for Armthorpe, Auckley, Bawtry, Burghwallis, Edenthorpe, Edlington, Rossington, Sprotbrough and Tickhill. These Plans sit alongside the Local Plan and provide more locally specific planning policies to help determine planning applications. A number of other Neighbourhood Plans are at various states of preparation including Barnburgh & Harlington (Plan area designated), Stainforth (Regulation 14 consultation completed) and Thorne/Moorends (Regulation 14 consultation completed but progress dependant upon preparing further evidence base which may require further consultation).

Supplementary Planning Documents

- 1.11. **Supplementary Planning Document (SPDs)** give further explanation to policies and are a material planning consideration in the determination of planning applications. However, they do not form part of the Development Plan and carry less weight. Table 1 sets out the current SPDs that the Council has adopted at the time of writing.

Table 1: Currently Adopted Supplementary Planning Documents

	Date of Adoption
Biodiversity Net Gain	September 2022
Flood Risk	August 2023
Technical and Developer Requirements	August 2023
Loss of Community Facilities and Open Space	August 2023
Local Labour Agreements	August 2023

1.12. At the time of writing the Council is consulting on a ‘Rural Development SPD’ (consultation period ending 29 February 2024).

Transitional Developer Guidance

1.13. Following adoption of the Doncaster Local Plan, the Council’s previous SPDs were revoked. In the interim period before all new SPDs to support the Local Plan are put in place, the Council has published [Transitional Developer Guidance \(August 2023\)](#) to inform the determination of planning applications. It specifically provides guidance on certain elements of design, backland and infill and equestrian development. This informal guidance is not SPD and nor will it be adopted as such.

1.14. The former [South Yorkshire Residential Design Guide](#) and the former [Carr Lodge SPD](#) have also been revoked as SPDs but are retained as informal guidance. These documents can be treated as a material consideration in decision-making but with only 'limited' weight.

Statement of Community Involvement in Planning

1.15. The Council’s [Statement of Community Involvement](#) (SCI) sets out how and when we will involve the community and stakeholders in the preparation of the local planning policy documents (as well as the determination of planning applications). The Council’s current version of the SCI was adopted in November 2023.

Project Management / Risk Assessment

1.16. Any future timetable for local planning policy preparation will be based on a number of defined assumptions, for example the availability of Council and stakeholder resources to prepare the plan, as well as the Council’s own decision making process.

1.17. Project management support has also historically been sought from the Planning Advisory Service.

Annual Monitoring Report

1.18. The Local Plan’s Annual Monitoring Report helps to review the effectiveness of the Local Plan’s objectives and policies, to identify its strengths and any weaknesses, and to help review whether it needs to be updated. The latest version is available [online](#).

Further Information

1.19. Full information about Doncaster’s planning policies, Neighbourhood Plans, and latest information on the Local Plan is available at: www.doncaster.gov.uk/localplan