Knowsley Council

Local Development Scheme

March 2025

Effective from 1 March 2025

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# Introduction

* 1. Successive governments have proposed reforms to the planning system and made multiple changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). As part of this process the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) gained Royal Assent in October 2023 and establishes a new system for the preparation of Local Plans, which will be introduced by secondary legislation.
	2. In September 2023 the Government consulted on proposed changes to the plan making system being introduced through the LURA. The proposals include:
* A 30-month timescale for local plan production;
* Incorporating three ‘gateway’ checks by the Planning Inspectorate or similar body;
* The production of a suite of National Development Management Policies;
* the replacement of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process with a new Environmental Outcomes Report;
* Design Codes; and
* The introduction of Supplementary Plans and the loss of Supplementary Planning Documents.
	1. On 12 December 2024 the Government confirmed that it would adopt the changes to the plan making system, and the new system would be in place in Summer/Autumn 2025.
	2. At the time of writing, in the absence of secondary legislation, the details and the practical measures that enable the law to be enforced and operate in daily life of the LURA are unclear. Nevertheless, the Deputy Prime Minister has asked that all local planning authorities produce an updated Local Development Scheme.
	3. The Deputy Prime Minister stated the LDS should include clear, realistic, and specific dates for consultation and submission of the local plan. The Deputy Prime Minister made clear the intention to make rapid progress towards universal local plan coverage both through support and using Government’s powers of intervention when needed.

# Local Development Scheme

* 1. The LDS is a project plan required by law[[1]](#footnote-1) that sets out the timetable for the production of development plan documents (i.e. local plans) which, when prepared, will comprise part of the development plan for the area. This LDS supersedes previous versions.
	2. In keeping with Planning Practice Guidance[[2]](#footnote-2) once produced the LDS must be made available publicly and kept up to date. It is important that local communities and interested parties can keep track of progress. Local planning authorities should publish their LDS on their website and provide up-to-date and accessible reporting on it in the Local Plan Monitoring Report to keep communities informed of plan making activity.

# Development Plan Documents

## Local Plan

* 1. The adopted development plan for Knowsley Council comprises more than one document which collectively form the Local Plan and set out the policies and proposals for new development across the Borough up to 2028, namely:
* Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy - sets out the overall vision, objectives, and strategy for how the borough will develop between 2010 and 2028, including strategic sites. This plan was adopted in January 2016.
* Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Plan – adopted in 2013 the Joint Waste Plan provides a range of policies and site allocations aimed at supporting a sustainable waste management framework for the Liverpool City Region for the period up to 2027; and
* Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan – upon adoption of the Local Plan Core Strategy 39 policies in the Unitary Development Plan were “saved” to provide detailed policies to support the Core Strategy.
	1. The Joint Waste Plan is currently undergoing a review, and the outcome will be reflected in a future update to this LDS. Over recent years the Council has kept under review the policies in the Local Plan and reported the findings in the Local Plan Monitoring Report. However, the plan making landscape has changed recently with the publication of the new NPPF in December 2024 and the Council is required to produce a new Local Plan.

## New Local Plan

* 1. The LDS is required by law to specify the subject matter and geographical area to which each development plan document is to relate[[3]](#footnote-3). Table 1 below satisfies this requirement.

Table 1: Knowsley Local Plan subject matter and geographical area

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content** | * A spatial vision for the Borough.
* Identification of a development strategy that will meet identified development needs for housing, employment and other uses.
* Criteria-based policies which will form the primary consideration in the determination of planning applications.
* Allocation of land to deliver development needs and maintain supply.
* Designations where land is proposed to be safeguarded or where specific policies apply.
 |
| **Status** | Development Plan Document – Local Plan. |
| **Coverage** | Borough of Knowsley. |
| **Plan Period** | 15 years  |
| **Conformity with national policy** | Central government policy and guidance, including the National Planning Policy Framework, National Planning Practice Guidance and Planning Legislation.  |
| **Conformity with local policy** | The Council’s Plans and Strategies, including the Knowsley 2030, Knowsley Council Plan, Climate Emergency Action Plan, Net Zero Delivery Plan 2022-2025. |
| **Policies Map** | To be amended to reflect the policy content of the new Local Plan. |
| **Appraisal and Assessment**  | Relevant appraisals and assessment will be carried out throughout the production of the new Local Plan e.g. Environmental Outcomes Report, Health Impact Assessment. |

* 1. The timetable for the production of a new Local Plan will be directly related to the finalised legislation, further updates to national planning policy and associated practice guidance. This is expected to emerge throughout 2025 but leaves the Council currently unable to fully establish a precise project structure and detailed programme for the project. Nevertheless, the Government have said that the new plan making system will take effect in Summer/Autumn 2025; the earliest practicable start date for a new local plan would therefore be October 2025. However this date is subject to change when more information becomes available.

## Policies Map

* 1. The Policies Map identifies sites allocations and areas of planning constraint, such as Green Belt and other local and national designations. The policies map is updated as new development plan documents are prepared or revised to provide a clear visual illustration of the application of policies across the area. Accordingly, the Policies Map was last updated in 2016 with the adoption of the Local Plan Core Strategy. However, as explained in Table 1 the council will have regard to whether amendments or additions to the Policies Map are required as part of the plan making process.

## Supplementary Planning Documents

* 1. The Local Plan is supported by a number of existing and proposed Supplementary Planning Documents which set out the details for implementing the policies int he Local Plan. These can be viewed at https: [Supplementary planning documents | Knowsley Council](https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/planning-and-development/planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents) The Council are in the process of producing a new Housing Delivery SPD, the timetable for this is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Housing Delivery SPD production timetable – key milestones

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Scoping and drafting SPD | February 2025 |
| Public consultation (4 weeks as per Statement of Community Involvement) | March 2025 |
| Incorporate comments, where necessary and finalise draft SPD | April to May 2025 |
| Adoption | June 2025 |

## Neighbourhood Plans

* 1. Neighbourhood Plans can form part of the development plan. There is currently one proposal to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan in Knowsley. The designation of the Halewood Town Council boundary as a Neighbourhood Area was agreed by Knowsley Council in November 2019. However, no timescale has subsequently been identified by Halewood Town Council to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan.

## Spatial Development Strategy

* 1. The Combined Authority of the Liverpool City is currently working on a Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) in partnership with each the constituent Local Authorities. These are Knowsley, Halton, Liverpool, Wirral, St Helens and Sefton.
	2. Once adopted the SDS will form part of the development plan for the Liverpool City Region. This LDS does not need to set out the timescales for the preparation of the SDS preparation as that is a matter for the Combined Authority. However, progress on the SDS will have a bearing on the production of a new local plan as it will provide strategic policies that will form part of Knowsley’s development plan.
	3. Three stages of engagement have been undertaken in the SDS and it is expected further engagement will be undertaken later this year. Further information can be found at: [Spatial Development Strategy | Liverpool City Region Combined Authority](https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/sds)

**For more information log on to**

[**www.knowsley.gov.uk/** **planning-and-development/planning-policy**](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/LocalPlan)

You can also get this information in other formats. Please phone Customer Services on (0151) 443 4031 or email **customerservices@knowsley.gov.uk**



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1. [Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/section/111/enacted) (as amended) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Plan-making - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making) Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 61-003-20190315 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/section/15) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)