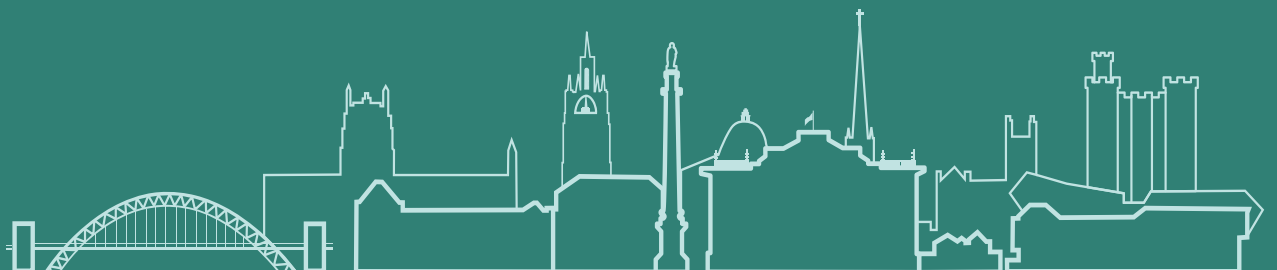


Local Development Scheme 2024 to 2029

January 2024



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Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Introduction | 4 |
| Purpose of the LDS | 4 |
| National Context | 4 |
| Local Plans | 4 |
| Development Plan Documents | 5 |
| Supplementary Planning Documents | 5 |
| Planning Reform | 5 |
| Current Local Plan | 6 |
| Status of the Local Plan | 6 |
| Local Plan Review | 7 |
| Moving Toward a New Local Plan: The Newcastle Plan | 8 |
| Newcastle Plan timetable | 9 |
| Other Planning Documents | 10 |
| Supplementary Planning Documents | 10 |
| Statement of Community Involvement | 10 |
| Community Infrastructure Levy | 10 |
| Neighbourhood Planning | 11 |
| Authority Monitoring Report | 11 |
| Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment | 11 |
| Duty to Cooperate | 11 |
| Programme Management, Timescales and Risks | 12 |
| Resources | 12 |
| Budget | 12 |
| Risks | 12 |
| Appendix 1: SPDs | 14 |
| Glossary | 15 |

Introduction

Every local authority is required to set out their vision and objectives for the future development of their city in a development plan, known as a local plan. The purpose of the local plan is to provide a positive strategy and policies to enable development such as new homes, employment, leisure, and infrastructure, whilst protecting and enhancing our environmental and historical assets. It is used to assess every planning application which is submitted to the local planning authority.

The council is required in accordance with section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011), to prepare a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The purpose of an LDS is to detail the documents which will form the development plan for their area, such as local plans, neighbourhoods plans and supplementary planning documents. This LDS will supersede the previous versions and it will cover the period 2024 to 2029. It will be regularly reviewed to keep it up to date.

Purpose of the LDS

The purpose of the LDS is to clearly set out which planning policy documents apply to Newcastle, and their status. It sets out progress on the local plan alongside details of a wider set of documents so that the local community and interested parties can keep track of progress and the wider plan making context.

National Context

The Localism Act 2011 allows local planning authorities to adopt their own LDS without approval from the Secretary of State. However, it maintains the requirements to produce an LDS and keep it up to date as set out by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Local Plans

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local planning authorities to produce a local plan for their area which can be reviewed in whole or in part to respond flexibly to changing circumstances. National planning policy places local plans at the heart of the planning system, so it is essential that they are in place and kept up to date. Local plans set out a vision and a framework for the future development of the area, addressing needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure – as well as a basis for safeguarding the environment, adapting to climate change, and securing good design.

They are also a critical tool in guiding decisions about individual development proposals, as local plans (together with any neighbourhood plans that have been brought into force) are the starting point for considering whether applications can be approved. It is important for all areas to put an up-to-date plan in place to positively guide development decisions.

Development Plan Documents.

Development Plan Documents (DPDs) are planning policy documents which make up the local plan. They help to guide development within a local planning authority area by setting out the detailed planning policies, which planning officers use to make their decisions on planning applications.

DPDs were introduced as part of the reforms made to the planning system through the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Supplementary Planning Documents

Supplementary planning documents (SPDs) should only be used where they can help applicants make successful applications or aid infrastructure delivery and should not be used to add unnecessarily to the financial burdens on development.

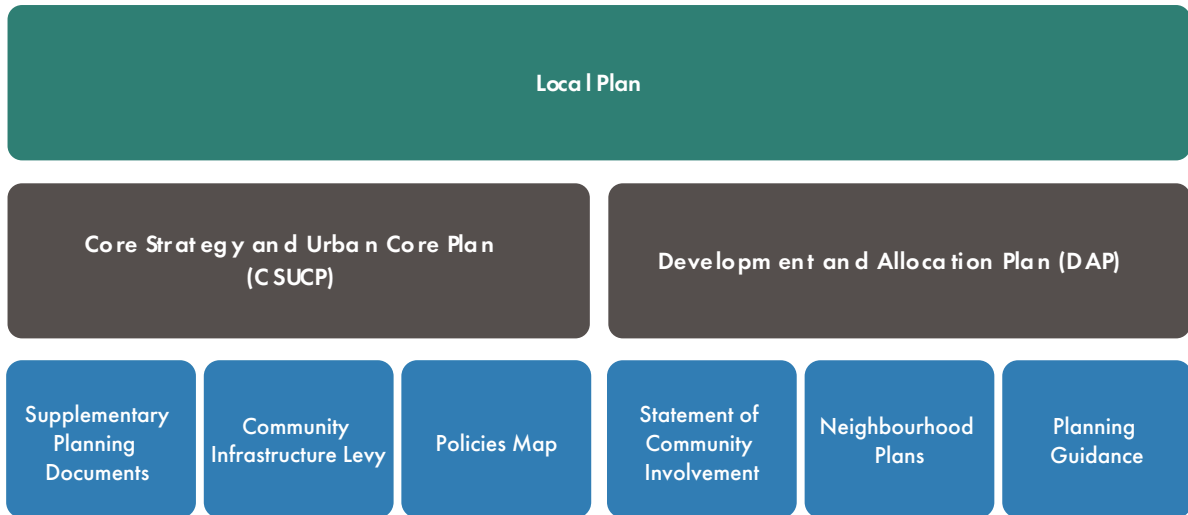
Planning Reform

On 25 July 2023, government published a consultation on proposals to make local plans (and minerals and waste plans) simpler, faster to prepare, and more accessible. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill sets out changes to the legislation that governs how plans are produced and through this consultation government are asking for views on certain proposals to implement these changes. This LDS has been prepared to be in accordance with current legislation and policy. If and when this changes, the council will update the LDS accordingly. As part of the proposed planning reforms SPDs will be replaced with Supplementary Plans. Further detail is to be prepared by the government on supplementary plans, but it is envisaged that they could be prepared to support regeneration and masterplanning of specific sites and for design codes.

Current Local Plan

The current local plan for Newcastle comprises of the following Development Plan Documents.

| Document Title | Status/ AdoptionG | eographical Area | Description |
|---|---|-------------------------|---|
| Planning for the Future Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan (CSUCP) | Adopted March 2015 Reviewed March 2020 | Newcastle and Gateshead | The CSUCP forms Part 1 of Newcastle's Local Plan. It sets the strategic framework and includes strategic policies for Newcastle and Gateshead, urban core policies and some site allocations. |
| Development and Allocations Plan (DAP) | Adopted June 2020 | Newcastle | The DAP forms part 2 of Newcastle's Local Plan. The document covers site allocations, designations and non-strategic detailed policies needed to support the strategic policies set out in the CSUCP. |



Status of the Local Plan

The current local plan, the CSUCP and the DAP will continue to form the statutory local plan and the legal basis for determining planning proposals.

Local Plan Review

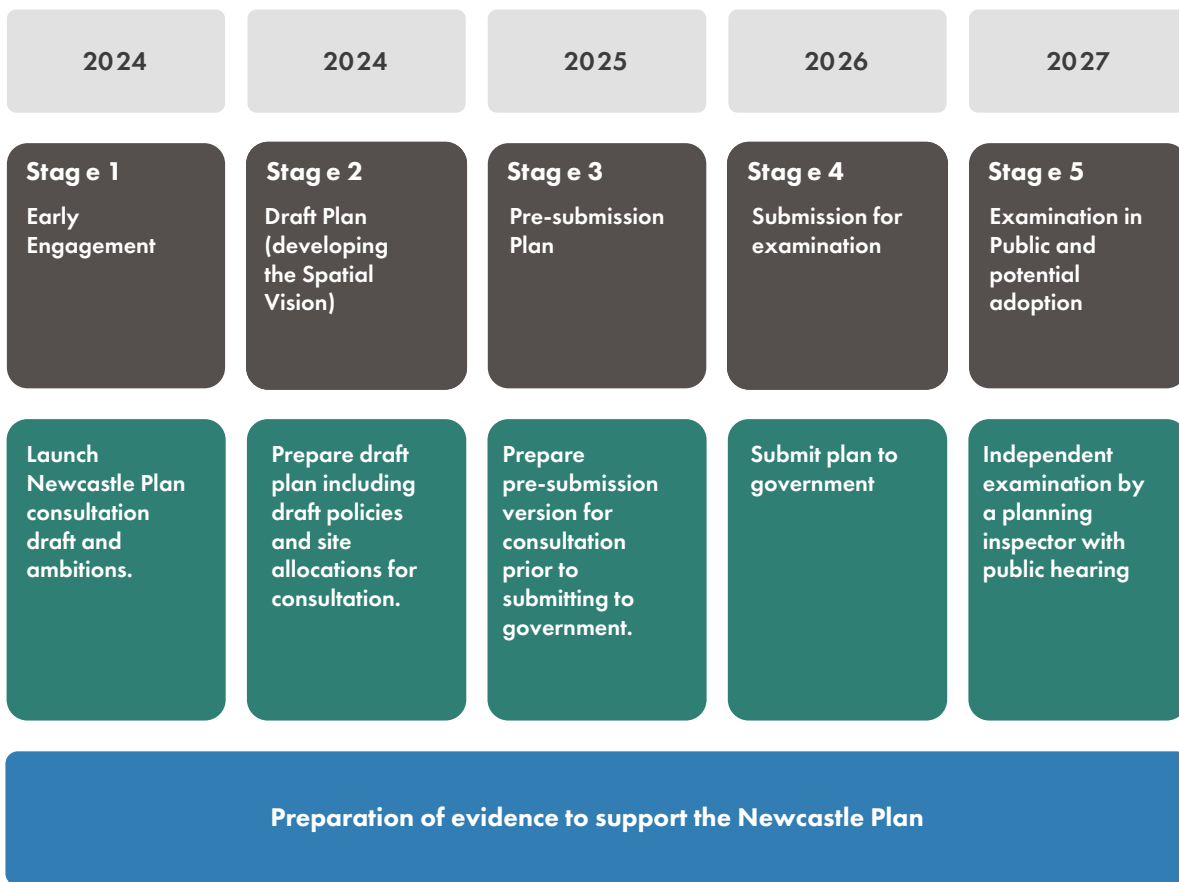
As local plans are required to be reviewed every 5 years and the CSUCP was adopted in 2015 we carried out a review of the CSUCP in 2020. It was concluded that the CSUCP is up to date and will remain up to date until 2025. In 2025 we will carry out a review of both the CSUCP and DAP in accordance with government guidance.

Moving Toward a New Local Plan: The Newcastle Plan

Newcastle is progressing with the preparation of a new local plan, which will be known as the Newcastle Plan. The Newcastle Plan will set out a long-term vision and ambitions for future developments in the city. The plan will outline policies to deliver homes, employment sites, leisure and cultural facilities and infrastructure, whilst also enhancing heritage and the natural environment. As shown below, the Newcastle Plan will cover the plan period 2024-2045 and will cover the entire geographical area of Newcastle upon Tyne.

| Newcastle Plan | |
|---------------------|--|
| Plan Period | 2024-2045 |
| Status | Development Plan Document (Local Plan) |
| Geographical Area | Newcastle upon Tyne |
| Replaces/Supersedes | Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan (CSUCP) Development and Allocations Plan (DAP) |
| Description/Scope | The Newcastle Plan will establish a spatial vision and development strategy to 2045. The plan will provide a positive strategy and policies to enable development such as new homes, employment, leisure, and infrastructure, whilst protecting and enhancing our environmental and historical assets. |

Newcastle Plan timetable



Other Planning Documents

Supplementary Planning Documents

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) provide additional detailed guidance on how the council's planning strategy and policies will be implemented for specific topics, areas, or sites. The council currently has 14 adopted SPDs, (Appendix 1). SPDs can be used as a vehicle to aid in the successful delivery of development or infrastructure, they do not need to be listed in a local authority's Local Development Scheme, so can be brought forward as circumstances change.

In addition to those existing SPDs listed in Appendix 1; the council are currently preparing SPDs on:

- Healthier Food Environments
- Nature: Landscape, Trees, and Biodiversity

We will be preparing a citywide design code in future which is likely to be adopted as a Supplementary Plan.

Statement of Community Involvement

The council has prepared a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which sets out the process of community involvement and engagement that the council will follow for each type of development plan document and development management decision, enabling the community to know how and when they can be involved in the planning process.

Community Infrastructure Levy

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge that local authorities can choose to levy on new developments. The money raised will help to pay for the infrastructure needed across the city because of growth, such as schools, strategic greenspace, flood defences, and strategic transport improvements.

CIL was adopted by the council in November 2016, and the charges are implemented across Newcastle's charging area. For further information please see our website.

Neighbourhood Planning

Neighbourhood planning was introduced through the Localism Act in 2011. Neighbourhood plans are community-led plans to guide future development, regeneration, and conservation of an area. They enable communities to set local (non-strategic) policies for their local area which are in general conformity with the local plan. In Newcastle three neighbourhood area boundaries have been agreed, Dinnington, Woolsington and Kingston Park. Dinnington Parish Council are in the process of preparing a neighbourhood plan for their area.

Authority Monitoring Report

The council is required to publish an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) containing information on the implementation of the Local Development Scheme (LDS), and the extent to which planning policies set out in the local plan documents are being achieved.

The AMR reports on a range of indicators and the progress of specific targets and is aligned to Newcastle's local plan. The AMR will be published annually on the council's website.

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment

Currently all policies and proposals contained within the local plan will be subject to a sustainability appraisal, a Strategic Environment Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment where appropriate. This involves scoping reports and assessments throughout the preparation of the local plan to ensure an iterative approach to consider policies.

How we assess the impacts of development, plans and policies, otherwise known as environmental assessment, is going to change with the introduction of Environmental Outcome Reports (EOR). [The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill](#) plus the accompanying [policy paper](#) produced by Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC), launched a new form of environmental assessment known as Environmental Outcome Reports (EOR). The intention is that Environmental Outcome Reports will replace the existing system of Sustainability Appraisals (SA), Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and make the process simpler, using more consistent data and focussed on measuring environmental effects against improving environmental outcomes.

Duty to Cooperate

How we engage with other local planning authorities and relevant bodies is changing under the current local planning reforms. The duty to co-operate will be repealed and replaced with a more flexible alignment test. Newcastle continues to work with neighbouring local authorities and other relevant organisations in the preparation of planning policy documents and will continue to work with them where appropriate.

Programme Management, Timescales and Risks

The council will use effective programme management techniques in the delivery of their local plan and producing the supporting evidence base. This section of the LDS explains the arrangements being made to ensure delivery of the programme set out earlier.

Resources

The preparation of the local plan will be led and coordinated by staff within the planning policy team supported by other teams and directorates across the council as appropriate.

Budget

The council expects to meet projected costs for future years from its budget. The council will need to meet the costs of the independent examination process in collaboration with the Planning Inspectorate to ensure that such costs are met at the appropriate times.

Risks

The timetable for the preparation of the local plan is challenging, but the council is committed to achieving the targets set out in this LDS. To this end, it has assessed the main potential risks in meeting those targets and has identified the contingency measures that may become necessary. The identified risks and contingency measures are as follows:

| Risks | Impact | Contingency |
|---|---|--|
| Significant changes to the planning system - publication of new Government legislation/guidance | Additional work to comply with new requirements | Assess as soon as practicable any revisions that may be necessary to the local plan programme |
| Handling higher than expected number of comments received at consultation stages | Increased time required to process consultation responses. Possible slippage | Consider additional staff resources/ tools needed during consultation |
| Loss of key staff within Planning Policy | Reduced capacity may cause slippage in local plan preparation | Recruit temporary staff if necessary Consider using consultants where specific expertise is required |
| Lack of in-house skills to undertake new areas of technical work | Potential impact on the quality and 'soundness' of planning documents | Consider using consultants where specific expertise is required |
| Documents not found sound | Absence of an up-to-date local plan triggers presumption in favour of sustainable development in the National Planning Policy Framework | Regular consultation with Planning Inspectorate at key gateway stages during publication of document |
| The Inspector may suspend the process should there be significant changes to the DPD which have not been consulted on | Changes may cause slippage in local plan preparation, may have to consider further consultation | Consultation on any changes made following publication prior to submission to Secretary of State |
| Inability for the Planning Inspectorate to meet timescale for examination and report | Examination and/ or report is delayed and key milestones not met | Close liaison with PINS to ensure problems identified |
| Unforeseen pressures on staff time due to other work | Staff diverted to other work may cause slippage | Manage staff workloads local plan to be priority |
| Legal Challenge | Possible quashing of local plan or requirement to repeat work | Ensure regulations complied with and processes audited Carefully consider Inspector's recommendations |
| Insufficient financial resources | Danger that the quality of evidence base is compromised | Monitor costs and budgets |
| IT systems unreliable or inadequate for consultation and examination processes | Potential delays in consultation administrative tasks | Invest early in IT systems Liaise with IT and Communications team |
| LDS programme too ambitious | Key milestones may not be met | Use experience to ensure programme is realistic |

Appendix 1: SPDs

- Archaeology and Development
- Designing for Community Safety in Newcastle upon Tyne
- Gosforth Conservation Area Management Plan
- Hot Food Takeaway
- Jesmond Dene Conservation Area Management Plan
- Leazes Conservation Area Management Plan
- Maintaining Sustainable Communities
- Newcastle Great Park Revised Master Plan
- Newcastle Upon Tyne Local List
- Planning Obligations
- Summerhill Conservation Area Management Plan
- Tall Buildings
- Trees landscaping and development
- Urban Design Framework for the Lower Ouseburn Valley

Glossary

| | |
|---|--|
| Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) | The AMR contains information on the implementation of the LDS and the extent to which planning policies set out in the local plan documents are being achieved. |
| Development Plan Documents (DPD) | DPDs are planning policy documents which make up the local plan. They help to guide development within a local planning authority by setting out the detailed planning policies, which are used to make planning decisions. |
| Local Plan | A local plan sets out local planning policies and identifies how land is used and helps determine what will be built where. |
| Local Development Scheme (LDS) | The LDS sets out which planning policy documents apply in the authority, and their status. It sets out progress on the local plan alongside details of a wider set of documents so that the local community and interested parties can keep track of progress and the wider plan making context. |
| National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) | The national framework acts as guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers, both in drawing up plans and making decisions about planning applications. |
| Neighbourhood Plan | Neighbourhood plans are community-led plans to guide future development, regeneration and conservation of an area. |
| Sustainability Appraisal (SA) | A social, economic and environmental appraisal of strategy, policies and proposals. |
| Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) | The SCI sets out the process of community involvement and engagement that the council will follow for each type of development plan document and development management decision. |
| Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) | Environmental assessment of policies, plans and programmes required under the European SEA Directive 2001/42/EC. |
| Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) | SPDs provide additional detailed guidance on how the Council's planning strategy and policies will be implemented for specific topics, areas or sites. |

