

**Babergh District Council and  
Mid Suffolk District Council**

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**Joint Local Development Scheme**

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**July 2018**

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### **Introduction**

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the Council's timetable for adopting new planning documents which will help guide development in the Districts of Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council (BMSDC).

Since 2011 the production of an LDS has been guided by the requirements of s.111 of the Localism Act 2011 which amended s. 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and is further supported by the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

The LDS:

- Provides a brief description of all the Local Plan documents and Neighbourhood Plans to be prepared and the content and geographical area to which they relate.
- Explains how the different documents relate to each other and especially how they relate to the adopted and forthcoming Local Plan.
- Set outs the timetable for producing Local Plan Documents, giving the timings for the achievement of the following milestones:
  - publication of the document
  - submission of the document
  - adoption of the document
- Provide information on related planning documents outside the formal Local Plan, including the Statement of Community Involvement, Annual Monitoring Report and other strategies.

This LDS will update the Joint LDS adopted in March 2017.

Progress of the LDS is reviewed at least annually as part of the Annual Authority Monitoring Process.

## The Local Plan –

The following table provides a brief description of the Local plan documents and the main milestones as set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 for the production of each of the documents we intend to prepare over the next two years.

It is important that the Local Plan is kept up to date so that change is managed strategically and at the local level.

- **The Joint Local Plan (Table 1)**

The Joint Local Plan – description	Regulatory Stages						
	Evidence gathering and pre-preparation stage	Reg 18: Preparation of draft Local Plan Issues and Options and Consultation	Reg 18: Preparation of draft Local Plan Preferred Options and Consultation	Reg 19: Publication of draft Local Plan and Consultation	Reg 22: Submission	Reg 24: Examination in Public	Reg 26: Adoption
<p>The Council is undertaking a thorough review of its adopted policies and allocations which will result in a new joint Local Plan to guide development until 2036 and beyond across in Babergh and Mid Suffolk.</p> <p>The current development plan for BDC consists of the saved policies of the Local Plan (2006) and the Babergh Core Strategy 2011-2031 (2014). The current development plan for MSDC comprises the saved policies of the 1998 Local Plan, the Core</p>	(Including consulting on sustainability reports where applicable)	Opportunity for interested parties and statutory consultees to be involved at an early stage.	Plan is developed further with accompanying evidence base including preparation of an Infrastructure Delivery Plan and viability evidence.	The Council publishes the draft plan and supporting evidence base. There follows a period of at least six weeks consultation.	The Council submits the Local Plan to the Secretary of State along with the public representations received.	Conducted by independent Planning Inspector who will consider representations made at Reg 22 stage.	Subject to outcome of examination, the Council formally adopt the plan.

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<p>Strategy (2008), and the Core Strategy Focused Review (CSFR) (2012). The new Joint Local Plan will replace the Local Plans (saved policies) and the Core Strategies.</p> <p>The Plan will identify the amount and locations for accommodating growth in terms of new homes, jobs, community facilities and other supporting infrastructure.</p> <p>The Plan takes account of strategic county issues which require collaborative and, where appropriate, will be prepared through coordinated working with partners to inform and enable delivery.</p>							

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<p><b>The Joint Local Plan (Babergh and Mid Suffolk)</b></p> <p>The new Joint Local Plan for BMSDC will cover a 20-year period up to 2036 (aligned with the timescale for the Suffolk Coastal and Ipswich Local Plans). The new Plan will have regard to the Plans of the neighbouring authorities.</p> <p>The new Joint Local Plan will comprise a suite of BMSDC's strategic and development management policies together with site proposals. This will be illustrated by a Local Plan Policies Map.</p>	2016 - Spring 2017	Summer 2017	Autumn 2018	Spring 2019	Spring 2019 / Summer 2019	Summer 2019	Winter 2019 / 2020
		Consultation August to November 2017	Consultation December 2018 to January 2019	Technical consultation April 2019 to May 2019	Documents sent to Government for Examination May / June 2019	June 2019	February 2020

## Neighbourhood Planning

The Localism Act 2011 and the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012 placed greater emphasis on developing plans at the community level through a concept of neighbourhood planning. The Housing White Paper (2017) and the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 provides ongoing support.

Neighbourhood plans are produced by local communities and once completed (subject to examination and local referendum) they become part of the local authorities' development plan and have a significant influence on the future growth and development of the respective area.

The first stage of developing a neighbourhood plan is to designate a neighbourhood area. A number of parishes in BMSDC have now achieved this stage, as shown below. Once a neighbourhood area has been agreed, preparation of a neighbourhood plan can be carried out by a parish or town council, or in the case of unparished areas, a neighbourhood forum.

Details on the current status of Neighbourhood Plans is available on the Councils' website neighbourhood planning pages at:

<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-planning-in-babergh/> and

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-planning-in-mid-suffolk/>.

### Phasing of work for other Local Development Documents

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

The Statement of Community Involvement provides a first step in plan making as it outlines the processes for consultation and engagement during the production of future documents of all types.

The latest Joint Babergh and Mid Suffolk SCI was adopted in March 2014 and is currently under review (June 2018).

The Councils joint SCI (March 2014) sets out the framework for consultation and engagement with the community in making planning decisions.

The joint SCI responds to legislative changes including the Localism Act 2011, together with the resource constraints facing the public, private and voluntary sectors. The production of an SCI is in part governed and directed by guidance and requirements at the national level, with the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 introducing the requirement for SCIs to 'set out the local authority's policies for giving advice or assistance' in the preparation neighbourhood development plans and neighbourhood development orders.

- **Annual Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)**

The Joint BMSDC Annual Authority Monitoring Report, is published each year between May and July to demonstrate the progress of the objectives of the adopted Joint Local Plan(s).

- **Evidence Base**

The evidence base is a key feature of the Joint Local Plan and associated planning documents.

Evidence informs and ensures the development plan's proposals and policies are soundly based. To ensure this a number of specialist studies and other research projects are, or will be undertaken. These will also be important in monitoring and review, as required by the AMR.

Some documents will also be published that are not specifically for planning purposes but are important in informing the process (e.g. the Council's Joint Strategic Plan and other service strategies).

Each document will be made publicly available at the appropriate time in the process, on the Councils' website (<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/> and <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/>).

All documents will be made available at the relevant examination. These documents will be reviewed in the AMR to see if they need to be reviewed or withdrawn. Other documents may also be produced as needed during the process.

- **Integration with other Strategies**

The Local Plan has a key role in providing a spatial dimension for many other strategies and helping their co-ordination and delivery. The Council works closely with other public bodies and stakeholders to satisfy the duty to co-operate on strategic matters and the evidence base reflects collaborative working at the Suffolk level, with other authorities and stakeholders.