

Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council

Joint Local Development Scheme 2023-2026

November 2023



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1. Introduction

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the Councils' timetable for adopting new planning documents which will help guide development in the Districts of Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council (B&MSDC). This LDS covers the period 2023 to 2026.

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 (as amended).

The LDS:

- Provides a brief description of all the Local Plan documents (the Joint Local Plan), Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedules 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 forthcoming Joint Local Plan.
- Sets out the timetable for producing these documents, including their publication, submission in the case of Local Plan documents and the CIL Charging Schedules, and adoption of the document.
- Provides an overview of Neighbourhood Planning.
- Provides information on other related planning documents outside the formal Local Plan, being the Statement of Community Involvement and Authority Monitoring Report.

This LDS will update and replace the Joint LDS adopted in October 2022. Progress of the LDS is reviewed at least annually as part of the Authority Monitoring Process.

2. Planning Context

Prior to the adoption of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 1 Development Plan Document (DPD), the current adopted Local Plan Documents for Babergh District Council are the saved policies of the Babergh Local Plan (2006) together with the Core Strategy and Policies DPD (2014).

For Mid Suffolk District Council these are the saved policies of the Mid Suffolk Local Plan (1998) together with the Core Strategy DPD (2008), Core Strategy Focused Review DPD (2012) and Stowmarket Area Action Plan DPD (2013).

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have been working together on a Joint Local Plan, which was submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government in March 2021 for independent examination. This Local Plan was intended to replace all earlier Local Plan and Development Plan Documents mentioned above.

In December 2021 as part of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Examination, the Inspectors undertaking the Examination wrote to the Councils setting out a proposed way forward for the Joint Local Plan, splitting the Plan into two Parts. The Part 1 Plan has been subject to Main Modifications consultation and further Examination Hearings, and an Inspectors' Report was received by the Councils in September 2023. The Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 1 is planned for adoption in autumn 2023, replacing a number of adopted Local Plan policies. A focused Part 2 Plan will follow the Part 1 Plan and is anticipated to be adopted in 2026.

For minerals and waste matters, Suffolk County Council are the authority responsible for the production of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan, which forms part of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Development Plans. The Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan was adopted in July 2020. More information can be found on the Suffolk County Council website (www.suffolk.gov.uk).

Neighbourhood Plans are key planning documents that also form part of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Development Plan. As of 1st November 2023, there are 17 made (adopted) Neighbourhood Plans in Babergh and 17 in Mid Suffolk.

3. Documents to be prepared during 2023 to 2026 – an overview

The chart below illustrates the main milestones, as set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), for the production of each of the documents the Councils intend to prepare over the next three years. The tables later in the document set out each stage of plan preparation and the amount of time the Councils expect each stage to be completed. The LDS is kept under review to reflect any changes in local circumstances and/or Government policy.

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LDS Timetable 2023-2026

Document	2023		2024				2025				2026			
	Autumn Sep- Nov	Winter Dec- Feb	Spring Mar- May	Summer Jun-Aug	Autumn Sep- Nov	Winter Dec- Feb	Spring Mar- May	Summer Jun-Aug	Autumn Sep- Nov	Winter Dec- Feb	Spring Mar-May	Summer Jun-Aug	Autumn Sep- Nov	Winter Dec
Joint Local Plan Part 1														
Joint Local Plan Part 2														
Housing SPD														
Biodiversity and Trees SPD														
Wellbeing and Health SPD														
Intensive Livestock and Poultry SPD														
Air Quality SPD														
Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD														
Design – Part A: Sustainable Construction SPD														
Design – Part B: Local Design Codes SPD														
Natural and Historic Environment SPD														
Guidance to Marketing for Employment and Community Uses SPD														
Authority Monitoring Report														
Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedules														

	Document preparation
	Councillor approval
	Public consultation
	Submission to Secretary of State
	Hearing sessions
	Inspector's / Examiner's Report
	Publish modifications
	Document adoption

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4. Local Plan Documents

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan 2018-2037

The Councils' Joint Local Plan Examination concluded in September 2023, with the publication of the Inspectors' Report. The Joint Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State in March 2021.

Examination hearings took place in June, September and October 2021. An Exploratory Meeting was held in December 2021, and it was proposed that the Joint Local Plan be split into two parts. Consultation on Modifications to the Joint Local Plan took place between March and May 2023 with further examination hearings in June 2023. Adoption of the Joint Local Plan Part 1 is programmed for autumn 2023.

The Part 1 Plan will set out the vision and objectives for development in the two Districts. It will contain a set of strategic and local policies to guide development in the period to 2037.

The focused Part 2 Plan, which will focus on key matters including:

- an up-to-date settlement hierarchy;
- a spatial distribution of any housing allocations;
- housing requirement figures for Neighbourhood Plan areas;
- site allocations;
- up-to-date settlement boundaries reflecting commitments and allocations;
- open space designations with a relevant development management policy;
- an up-to-date assessment of need for accommodation for Gypsies, Travellers, Travelling Showpeople and Boat Dwellers, together with relevant development management policies and, if necessary, allocations to provide for this need.

The Part 2 Plan is programmed to reach a focused Issues and Options consultation in spring 2024, with Preferred Options anticipated during the autumn of 2024 and Pre-Submission consultation during the spring of 2025. Submission of the document to the Secretary of State, for Examination, is anticipated during the summer of 2025 with adoption programmed for the autumn of 2026.

5. Neighbourhood Planning

Neighbourhood Plans once made (adopted) following a 'yes' vote at a Referendum, are part of the District's Development Plan. There are currently 36 Neighbourhood Plan areas in Babergh and 28 Neighbourhood Plan areas in Mid Suffolk either with made Neighbourhood Plans or in the process of working towards this.

For an up-to-date position regarding Neighbourhood Plans, please visit:

[Neighbourhood Planning in Babergh](#)
[Neighbourhood Planning in Mid Suffolk](#)

6. Supplementary Planning Documents

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) build upon and provide more detailed guidance on policies in an adopted Local Plan document. The SPDs are to follow adoption of a Part 1 Joint Local Plan. They cannot introduce new planning policies into the Development Plan, but they are a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

They are produced in accordance with regulations and are subject to public consultation. Whilst not required to set out SPDs, this LDS sets out those which the Councils intend to produce over the next three years as follows:

- Housing;
- Biodiversity and Trees;
- Wellbeing and Health;
- Intensive Livestock and Poultry;
- Air Quality;
- Renewable and Low Carbon Energy;
- Design – Part A: Sustainable Construction;
- Design – Part B: Local Design Codes;
- Natural and Historic Environment; and
- Guidance to Marketing of Employment and Community Uses.

Any additional SPDs that the Councils decide they wish to produce will be reported to the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Full Council meetings and may or may not require an amendment to the LDS.

7. Other Local Development Documents

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

The Joint Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for Babergh and Mid Suffolk was adopted in February 2019. In response to COVID-19 restrictions, an addendum to the SCI was produced and adopted in November 2020. The Councils will keep the SCI and addendum under review.

Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)

The Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) is published each year, normally towards the end of the calendar year, to demonstrate the progress of the objectives of the adopted Local Plan and focuses on a monitoring period from 1st April to 31st March.

8. Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedules

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a fixed rate payment that councils can charge on new buildings in their area. This is in order to offset the impacts of additional homes and businesses on facilities such as:

- public transport infrastructure;
- schools;
- open spaces; and
- health centres (infrastructure).

CIL also enables sustainable growth.

Section 106 (S106) legal agreements will be used alongside CIL to secure onsite infrastructure and other provisions that are not infrastructure (for example affordable housing).

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils adopted CIL Charging Schedules on 20th and 21st January 2016 respectively, charging CIL on all relevant planning permissions granted and all relevant permitted developments from 11th April 2016.

The Councils are currently undertaking a review of these Charging Schedules.

9. Documents to be prepared during 2023 to 2026 – detailed profiles

Details of the documents Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils (B&MSDC) intend to produce in the next three years follow in the tables below. The timetable for the production of documents reflects previous experience.

Joint Local Plan Part 1

Title	Joint Local Plan Part 1
Subject and Scope	<p>This document will set out the vision and objectives for development in Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts. It will contain a set of strategic and local policies to guide development in the period to 2037.</p> <p>A Part 2 document will address matters not covered in the Part 1 document and provide the opportunity to update any matters as appropriate.</p>
Status	Local Plan Document.
Chain of conformity	Must be in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework.
Geographic coverage	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts.
Initial document preparation	January 2016 – August 2017.
Councillor approval – Issues and Options	August 2017.
Consultation on Issues and Options and Sustainability Appraisal	August – November 2017.
Councillor approval – Preferred Options	July 2019.
Consultation on Preferred Options and Sustainability Appraisal	July – September 2019.
Councillor approval – Submission Draft	November 2020.
Consultation on Submission Draft	November – December 2020.
Submission of Joint Local Plan and representations received to Secretary of State	March 2021.
Independent Examination of Joint Local Plan (Hearings)	June 2021, September – October 2021.
Inspectors' Post Hearings Letter on Joint Local Plan	9 th December 2021, 28 th April 2022, 16 th September 2022.
Consultation on modifications	Mar to May 2023.

Further Examination Hearings	June 2023.
Inspector's Report	Autumn 2023.
Adoption	Autumn 2023.
Arrangements for production	<p>Led by the Strategic Planning team with support from all internal directorates and Suffolk County Council as appropriate. The SCI outlines how external parties and members of the public will be involved.</p> <p>Will be informed by public consultation, which will include a press notice and letter / e-mails.</p>
Post-production – Monitoring and review mechanisms	B&MSDC to monitor after adoption through the Authority Monitoring Report, with the review period being within five years.

Joint Local Plan Part 2

Title	Joint Local Plan Part 2
Subject and Scope	<p>This document will follow the Joint Local Plan Part 1. It will contain the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an up-to-date settlement hierarchy; • a spatial distribution of any housing allocations; • housing requirement figures for Neighbourhood Plan areas; • site allocations; • up-to-date settlement boundaries reflecting commitments and site allocations; • open space designations with a relevant development management policy; • an up-to-date assessment of need for accommodation for Gypsies, Travellers, Travelling Showpeople and Boat Dwellers, together with relevant development management policies and, if necessary, allocations to provide for this need.
Status	Local Plan Document.
Chain of conformity	Must be in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework and the Joint Local Plan Part 1.
Geographic coverage	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts.
Initial document preparation	Evidence gathering commenced Spring 2022.
Councillor approval – Issues and Options Document	Spring 2024.
Consultation on Issues and Options Document and Sustainability Appraisal	Spring 2024.
Councillor approval – Preferred Options Document	Autumn 2024.
Consultation on Preferred Options Document and Sustainability Appraisal	Autumn 2024.
Councillor approval – Submission Draft	Spring 2025.

Consultation on Submission Draft and Sustainability Appraisal	Spring 2025.
Submission of Joint Local Plan and representations received to Secretary of State	Summer 2025.
Independent Examination of Joint Local Plan (Hearings)	Autumn 2025.
Consultation on modifications	Spring 2026.
Inspector's Report	Summer 2026.
Adoption	Autumn 2026.
Arrangements for production	<p>Led by the Strategic Planning team with support from all internal directorates and Suffolk County Council as appropriate. The SCI outlines how external parties and members of the public will be involved.</p> <p>Will be informed by public consultation, which will include a press notice and letter / e-mails.</p>
Post-production – Monitoring and review mechanisms	B&MSDC to monitor after adoption through the Authority Monitoring Report, with the review period being within five years.

Housing SPD

Title	Housing SPD
Role and content	To provide further guidance and detail for addressing housing needs and affordable housing delivery within development proposals in the two Districts.
Status	Supplementary Planning Document.
Chain of conformity	The SPD will support the policies within the Joint Local Plan once adopted.
Geographic coverage	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts.
Timetable and milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor approval for consultation – Winter 2023/24. • Public consultation – Spring 2024. • Adoption – Summer 2024.
Arrangements for productions	<p>B&MSDC strategic planning, strategic housing, building services, housing delivery and development management teams.</p> <p>Will be informed by public consultation, which will include a press notice and letter / e-mails. This will be an online consultation.</p>
Post-production – Monitoring and review mechanisms	B&MSDC to monitor after adoption through a review of planning applications and through the Authority Monitoring Report.

Biodiversity and Trees SPD

Title	Biodiversity and Trees SPD
Role and content	To provide further guidance and detail for the provision of biodiversity and trees within development proposals in the two Districts.
Status	Supplementary Planning Document.
Chain of conformity	The SPD will support the policies within the Joint Local Plan once adopted.
Geographic coverage	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts.
Timetable and milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor approval for consultation – Winter 2023/24.• Public consultation – Spring 2024.• Adoption – Summer 2024.
Arrangements for productions	<p>B&MSDC strategic planning, public realm and development management teams.</p> <p>Will be informed by public consultation, which will include a press notice and letter / e-mails. This will be an online consultation.</p>
Post-production – Monitoring and review mechanisms	B&MSDC to monitor after adoption through a review of planning applications and through the Authority Monitoring Report.

Wellbeing and Health SPD

Title	Wellbeing and Health SPD
Role and content	To provide further guidance and detail on integrating wellbeing and health into the natural and built environment, including social value appraisal within development proposals in the two Districts.
Status	Supplementary Planning Document.
Chain of conformity	The SPD will support the policies within the Joint Local Plan once adopted.
Geographic coverage	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts.
Timetable and milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor approval for consultation – Winter 2023/24. • Public consultation – Spring 2024. • Adoption – Summer 2024.
Arrangements for productions	<p>B&MSDC strategic planning, communities, public realm, economy & business, climate change and development management teams.</p> <p>Will be informed by public consultation, which will include a press notice and letter / e-mails. This will be an online consultation.</p>
Post-production – Monitoring and review mechanisms	B&MSDC to monitor after adoption through a review of planning applications and through the Authority Monitoring Report.

Intensive Livestock and Poultry SPD

Title	Intensive Livestock and Poultry SPD
Role and content	To provide further guidance and detail for development proposals related to livestock and poultry processing.
Status	Supplementary Planning Document.
Chain of conformity	The SPD will support the policies within the Joint Local Plan once adopted.
Geographic coverage	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts.
Timetable and milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor approval for consultation – Spring 2024. • Public consultation – Summer 2024. • Adoption – Autumn 2024.
Arrangements for productions	<p>B&MSDC strategic planning, economy & business, public protection and development management teams.</p> <p>Will be informed by public consultation, which will include a press notice and letter / e-mails. This will be an online consultation.</p>
Post-production – Monitoring and review mechanisms	B&MSDC to monitor after adoption through a review of planning applications and through the Authority Monitoring Report.

Air Quality SPD

Title	Air Quality SPD
Role and content	To provide further guidance and detail for assessing air quality and impacts on sensitive environmental receptors.
Status	Supplementary Planning Document.
Chain of conformity	The SPD will support the policies within the Joint Local Plan once adopted.
Geographic coverage	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts.
Timetable and milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor approval for consultation – Spring 2024.• Public consultation – Summer 2024.• Adoption – Autumn 2024.
Arrangements for productions	<p>B&MSDC strategic planning, public protection and development management teams.</p> <p>Will be informed by public consultation, which will include a press notice and letter / e-mails. This will be an online consultation.</p>
Post-production – Monitoring and review mechanisms	B&MSDC to monitor after adoption through a review of planning applications and through the Authority Monitoring Report.

Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD

Title	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD
Role and content	To provide further guidance and detail for renewable and low carbon energy projects with development proposals in the two Districts.
Status	Supplementary Planning Document.
Chain of conformity	The SPD will support the policies within the Joint Local Plan once adopted.
Geographic coverage	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts.
Timetable and milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor approval for consultation – Summer 2024. • Public consultation – Autumn 2024. • Adoption – Winter 2024/25.
Arrangements for productions	<p>B&MSDC strategic planning, economy & business, climate change and development management teams.</p> <p>Will be informed by public consultation, which will include a press notice and letter / e-mails. This will be an online consultation.</p>
Post-production – Monitoring and review mechanisms	B&MSDC to monitor after adoption through a review of planning applications and through the Authority Monitoring Report.

Design – Part A: Sustainable Construction SPD

Title	Design – Part A: Sustainable Construction SPD
Role and content	To provide further guidance and detail on design relating to sustainable construction within development proposals in the two Districts.
Status	Supplementary Planning Document.
Chain of conformity	The SPD will support the policies within the Joint Local Plan once adopted.
Geographic coverage	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts.
Timetable and milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor approval for consultation – Summer 2024. • Public consultation – Autumn 2024. • Adoption – Winter 2024/25.
Arrangements for productions	<p>B&MSDC strategic planning, development management, heritage, building services, housing delivery, public protection and building control teams.</p> <p>Will be informed by public consultation, which will include a press notice and letter / e-mails. This will be an online consultation.</p>
Post-production – Monitoring and review mechanisms	B&MSDC to monitor after adoption through a review of planning applications and through the Authority Monitoring Report.

Design – Part B: Local Design Codes SPD

Title	Design – Part B: Local Design Codes SPD
Role and content	To provide further guidance and detail on design through the development of local design codes for development proposals in the two Districts.
Status	Supplementary Planning Document.
Chain of conformity	The SPD will support the policies within the Joint Local Plan once adopted.
Geographic coverage	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts.
Timetable and milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor approval for consultation – Winter 2024/25. • Public consultation – Spring 2025. • Adoption – Summer 2025.
Arrangements for productions	<p>B&MSDC strategic planning, development management teams and heritage teams.</p> <p>Will be informed by public consultation, which will include a press notice and letter / e-mails. This will be an online consultation.</p>
Post-production – Monitoring and review mechanisms	B&MSDC to monitor after adoption through a review of planning applications and through the Authority Monitoring Report.

Natural and Historic Environment SPD

Title	Natural and Historic Environment SPD
Role and content	To provide further guidance and detail on landscape and historic environment considerations for development proposals in the two Districts.
Status	Supplementary Planning Document.
Chain of conformity	The SPD will support the policies within the Joint Local Plan once adopted.
Geographic coverage	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts.
Timetable and milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor approval for consultation – Spring 2025. • Public consultation – Summer 2025. • Adoption – Autumn 2025.
Arrangements for productions	<p>B&MSDC strategic planning, public realm, heritage and development management teams.</p> <p>Will be informed by public consultation, which will include a press notice and letter / e-mails. This will be an online consultation.</p>
Post-production – Monitoring and review mechanisms	B&MSDC to monitor after adoption through a review of planning applications and through the Authority Monitoring Report.

Guidance to Marketing of Employment and Community Uses SPD

Title	Guidance to Marketing of Employment and Community Uses SPD
Role and content	To provide further guidance and details for development proposals involving the loss of employment and community facilities.
Status	Supplementary Planning Document.
Chain of conformity	The SPD will support the policies within the Joint Local Plan once adopted.
Geographic coverage	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts.
Timetable and milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor approval for consultation – Spring 2025. • Public consultation – Summer 2025. • Adoption – Autumn 2025.
Arrangements for productions	<p>B&MSDC strategic planning, economy & business, communities and development management teams.</p> <p>Will be informed by public consultation, which will include a press notice and letter / e-mails. This will be an online consultation.</p>
Post-production – Monitoring and review mechanisms	B&MSDC to monitor after adoption through a review of planning applications and through the Authority Monitoring Report.

Authority Monitoring Report

Title	Authority Monitoring Report
Role and content	To provide analysis of how the planning policies in the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan are performing against a range of indicators identified in the Joint Local Plan Monitoring Framework.
Status	Annual production, non-statutory but required to show evaluation of the effectiveness of policies.
Chain of conformity	None.
Geographic coverage	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts.
Timetable and milestones	Publication towards the end of the calendar year.
Arrangements for productions	B&MSDC strategic planning team with support from internal teams and Suffolk County Council where necessary.

Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedules

Title	Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedules
Role and content	To set out the amount of Community Infrastructure Levy to be charged on new buildings in the two Districts.
Geographic coverage	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts, with each District having a separate charging schedule.
Timetable and milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor approval for consultation – Spring 2024.• Public consultation – Spring 2024.• Submission for Examination – Summer 2024.• Adoption – Spring 2025.
Arrangements for productions	B&MSDC strategic planning team.
Post-production – Monitoring and review mechanisms	B&MSDC to monitor after adoption on an annual basis.

10. Monitoring and Review

Monitoring

The Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) is undertaken each year and analyses the period from April in the previous year to March in the current year. The AMR focuses on:

- Progress of document production against the timescales and milestones set out in the LDS;
- An overview of Neighbourhood Plan preparation;
- Progress against Local Plan monitoring indicators; and
- Whether any policies or documents need to be reviewed.

Review

Once a Development Plan Document has been adopted, it will be kept under review through the annual monitoring process. If it is deemed necessary that either part or all of the Development Plan Document requires updating, this will be detailed in a future revision of the LDS.