

Leicester City Council Local Development Scheme 2025 to 2029

February 2025

Introduction

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced the requirement for councils such as Leicester City Council to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS). An LDS sets out a timetable for the production of new or revised development plan documents (such as a local plan) by the local authority.

The City Council prepared its first LDS in 2005, formally reviewed it in 2014, and since then has issued regular updates via its website and other forms of City Council communication.

This 2025 LDS, which supersedes previous versions, sets out a planning work programme for the City Council over a three-year period from January 2025 to December 2027 or adoption of the replacement Leicester Local Plan depending on which happens first. It will be regularly reviewed to keep it up to date.

What are the current adopted Development Plan Documents for Leicester?

The current development plan documents for Leicester are the Leicester Local Development Framework Core Strategy (originally adopted in November 2010, and revised in 2014), saved policies from the 2006 City of Leicester Local Plan, and the Leicester and Leicestershire Waste Development Framework Core Strategy & Development Management Policy Document (2009).

What new Development Plan Documents are to be prepared?

Leicester City Council is preparing the 2020 to 2036 Leicester Local Plan. Formal preparation commenced in April 2014. It will eventually replace the adopted core strategy, the saved local plan policies, and the current proposals map.

The new local plan will contain strategic policies, development management policies, site allocation policies, and a new policy map. It is expected that the 2020 to 2036 Leicester Local Plan will be adopted in mid-2025.

Table 1 on the following page sets out a preparation schedule for the 2020 to 2036 Leicester Local Plan.

Once adopted, the City Council to seek to commence a review of the 2020 to 2036 Leicester Local Plan. Table 2 on the following page sets out a proposed timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan Review.

The City Council will also include the requirements of its Minerals and Waste Local Plan as part of this review.

What other documents are being produced?

The City Council has made various revisions to the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), including a version which considered changes within the NPPF and associated legislation. This was adopted in the summer of 2019.

In 2020, the City Council made the decision to adopt a temporary addendum to the SCI to take into account the government changes to consultation as part of the Covid-19 pandemic. It has been decided that these changes will stay in place for now.

Leicester City Council has yet to decide on whether it will adopt a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The City Council will wait until the adoption of the replacement local plan before a formal decision will be made.

Supplementary Planning Documents

The role of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) is to provide guidance on how existing planning policy should be used and interpreted when developing proposals and taking decisions on planning applications.

The Core Strategy (2014) and Saved Local Plan (2006) Policies are accompanied by ten SPDs which provided additional guidance on the implementation of their housing, parking, climate change, employment, green space, Abbey Meadows, residential amenity, student housing, tall buildings, and Waterside policies. Following the adoption of the 2020 to 2036 Leicester Local Plan, it is anticipated that these SPDs will fall away, as the parent policies contained within the Core Strategy (2014) and Saved Local Plan (2006) will be superseded.

The emerging Local Plan includes policies relating to the design of new development. Local Planning Authorities are required under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 to produce an authority wide design code. The council is awaiting further guidance from government before it starts the preparation of statutory design code. Due to this the commencement of the preparation of an authority wide code will be kept under review. In lieu of this, the Council to seek to incorporate elements of the National Model Design Code (2021) within the Character Area SPDs and other relevant SPDs.

The council will produce nine Character Area SPDs as set out within the emerging Leicester Local Plan. They will seek to inform and guide decision-taking in relation to proposals that fall within the outlined areas.

Another proposed document is the Planning Obligations SPD, this will provide guidance on planning obligations involved in mitigating development and how the City Council will work with other stakeholders to secure financial contributions.

During this LDS period three further SPDs will be produced. These will cover the topics of:

- Affordable Housing
- Tall Development
- Climate Change
- Green Space

Reasonable timetable milestones for progressing the new SPDs are set out in Tables 3 to 5 below.

Timetables for the preparation of documents which will form the Local Development Plan:

Table 1. 2020 to 2036 Leicester Local Plan Timetable

Stage	Dates
Issues and Options	October 2014 to January 2015
Emerging Options	July to December 2017
Draft Local Plan Consultation (Regulation 18)	September 2020 to December 2020
Pre-submission Consultation (Regulation 19)	January to February 2023
Submission	September 2023
Adoption	August 2025

Table 2. Local Plan Review Timetable including minerals and waste

Stage	Dates
Issues and Options & Call for Sites	September 2025
Draft Local Plan Consultation (Regulation 18)	September 2026
Pre-submission Consultation (Regulation 19)	September to October 2027
Submission	April 2028
Adoption	April 2029

A detailed Gantt chart showing a timetable for the preparation of all proposed Development Plan Documents to be prepared during this LDS period can be found in Figure 1 on the final page of this document.

Table 3. Developer Contributions and Character Areas (Tranche 1 only, i.e., St. George's Cultural Quarter, St. Margaret's, Wharf Street, Mansfield Street, Belgrave Gate, Railway Station) SPDs Timetable

Stage	Dates
SEA/SA Scoping	June to July 2025
Draft SPD	August to September 2025
Consultation	October to November 2025
Update/Amend	December 2025
Adoption	February 2026

Table 4. Tall Development in Leicester and Character Areas (Tranche 2, i.e., DMU and LRI, New Walk, Old Town) SPDs Timetable

Stage	Dates
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SEA/SA Scoping	September 2025
Draft SPD	October 2025 to January 2026
Consultation	February to March 2026
Update/Amend	April 2026
Adoption	May 2026

Table 5. Affordable Housing, Green Space, and Climate Change SPDs Timetable

Stage	Dates
SEA/SA Scoping	January to February 2026
Draft SPD	March to July 2026
Consultation	August to September 2026
Update/Amend	October 2026
Adoption	January 2027

A detailed Gantt chart showing a timetable for the preparation of all proposed Supplementary Planning Documents to be prepared during this LDS period can be found in Figure 2 on the final page of this document.

What has been the progress since the last Local Development Scheme?

Following submission of the 2020 to 2036 Leicester Local Plan in September 2023, the City Council engaged in the Examination Process which took place from October to November 2024.

Figure 1. 2020 to 2036 Local Plan, Local Plan Review, Minerals and Waste Local Plan Timetables Gantt Chart

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Figure 2. SPDs Timetables Gantt Chart

