



Lewes District Council

# Lewes District Council Revised Local Development Scheme (LDS)

February 2026

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the Council's programmed timetable for reviewing and updating its Local Plan, setting out its scope as well as the area covered by the Local Plan. Issues and changes in circumstances have arisen that make it necessary to review the plan-making timetable. This LDS, therefore, replaces the February 2025 LDS and covers the period to the end of 2027. It only applies to the area of the district for which the Council is the local planning authority (i.e. Lewes District *excluding* the area within South Downs National Park).
- 1.2. The LDS is designed to help the community and all our partners interested in development and the use of land and buildings in our planning area understand what plans the Council has and intends to produce. While the LDS's main focus is the preparation of a new local plan the Council is committed to involving local communities and other stakeholders in preparation and the [Statement of Community Involvement](#) sets out how we will do this.
- 1.3. A plain English guide to the terms and abbreviations used in the document is set out in Appendix 1 (Glossary).

## 2. Current Adopted Development Plan Documents

- 2.1. The Council has prepared a number of Development Plan Documents in recent years. The Lewes District Local Plan currently comprises development plan documents (DPDs), as follows:
  - i. **Lewes District Local Plan Part 1: Joint Core Strategy**
- 2.2. This document sets out the overall spatial vision, strategic objectives and development strategy for the whole district. It was adopted by Lewes District Council in May 2016. The planning policies for that part of the District within the National Park have now been superseded and replaced by the South Downs Local Plan, adopted in July 2019.
  - ii. **Lewes District Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies**
- 2.3. This document supports and seeks to deliver the strategic objectives and spatial strategy of the Local Plan Part 1. It allocates additional sites for particular land-uses and sets out detailed (non-strategic) development management policies to guide development and change. It was adopted by Lewes District Council in February 2020.
  - iii. **'Saved' policies of the Lewes District Local Plan (2003)**
- 2.4. A number of policies in the Lewes District Local Plan (2003) have been 'saved' and will continue to form part of the development plan until replaced

by the adoption of the Peacehaven and Telscombe Neighbourhood Plan. These policies are set out in Appendix 2.

#### **iv. Neighbourhood plans**

2.5. Where neighbourhood plans are 'made' they form part of the statutory development plan. The District Council has to take it into account when it makes decision on planning applications in the area, alongside other adopted development plan documents. The following neighbourhood plans are in place across the district:

- Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston Neighbourhood Plan (2018)
- Hamsey Neighbourhood Plan (2016)
- Newhaven Neighbourhood Plan (2019)
- Newick Neighbourhood Plan (2015)
- Plumpton Neighbourhood Plan (2018)
- Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan (2016)
- Seaford Neighbourhood Plan (2020)
- Wivelsfield Neighbourhood Plan (2016)

2.6. In addition to the above made neighbourhood plans, further neighbourhood plans are being progressed. The timetables for preparing these plans are the responsibility of the relevant town or parish council and are therefore not included in this LDS. Further details can be found on the Council's [Neighbourhood Planning](#) webpages.

#### **v. East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton and Hove Waste and Minerals Plan (2013)**

#### **vi. East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton and Hove Waste and Minerals Sites Plan (2017)**

2.7. East Sussex County Council and the South Downs National Park Authority are responsible for waste and minerals development in Lewes District. Both authorities work in partnership with Brighton and Hove City Council to produce the [Waste and Minerals Development Plan Documents](#) covering East Sussex, the South Downs and Brighton and Hove. The timetables for preparing and reviewing these documents are not addressed in this LDS.

2.8. Decisions on planning applications are to be taken in lines with the policies of the above development plan documents, unless there are significant matters ('material considerations') that indicate otherwise.

### **3. Context**

3.1. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF December 2024, updated February 2025) sets out a strong expectation that Local Planning Authorities will prepare plans that positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area. Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development, and make sufficient provision

for a number of key land uses. These are housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development, infrastructure for transport and other key utilities, community facilities, and the conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

- 3.2. The Local Plan is being prepared under the current planning system and the deadline set by government for submitting local plans being produced under the existing system to Examination is 31 December 2026.
- 3.3. The Government also launched a consultation on a new NPPF in December 2025, but this is not anticipated to affect the local plan’s preparation. However, wider reforms to local government and devolution may have an influence over the next stages of the plan’s preparation. Further reforms to the planning framework are to be brought forward through secondary legislation, following the enactment of the Planning and Infrastructure Act in December 2025.
- 3.4. The LDS uses seasons in its timetable for plan making. These are standard definition as used by the Meteorological Office.

<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>	<b>Autumn</b>	<b>Winter</b>
March – May	June – August	September – November	December – February

#### **4. Lewes District Local Plan**

- 4.1. The main Development Plan Document (DPD) to be produced is the Lewes District Local Plan. The Council’s planning policy team is responsible for leading the work on preparing the Local Plan, whose geographical coverage is the whole of Lewes District excluding the area within the South Downs National Park. Ensuring that the Local Plan is in conformity with national policy and legislation is also a key requirement in preparing the local plan.
- 4.2. The Local Plan being developed under this LDS will replace the current Local Plan (Parts 1 and 2) adopted by the Council in 2016 and 2020. Consultation at early stages of the plan-making process under Regulation 18 have already taken place several times and are documented on the council’s website.
- 4.3. Alongside the representations to these consultations, a suite of evidence studies prepared on a variety of topics also supports the preparation of the Local Plan. Additional evidence studies will complement this suite and will be important in supporting the plan’s spatial strategy.

4.4. The timetable in 4.5 is intended to allow for work to understand the implications of the emerging evidence and national policy changes, noting the complexity of the issues and the volume of comments raised by the public in the earlier consultations.

4.5. The revised milestones are:

Local Plan Phase 1 consultation (Reg. 18): **Winter 2024/5**

Local Plan Phase 2 consultation (Reg. 18): **Winter 2025/6**

Proposed Submission version consultation (Reg.19): **Summer 2026**

Submission to the Secretary of State (Reg 22): **Winter 2026**

Examination in Public (Reg.24): **Spring 2027**

Adoption (Reg 26): **Subject to progress at EiP Winter 2027**

4.6. Upon submission of the Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate the remainder of the plan-making process/timetable is in the hands of the Planning Inspectorate, nevertheless, it would be a material consideration (albeit with reduced weight) in planning application decision making. Officers will seek discussions, should they be appropriate, with the Planning Inspectorate closer to the Examination, including on procedural issues.

## **5. Supplementary Planning Documents and Guidance**

5.1. Adopted Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) and Guidance (SPG) have been prepared to provide further guidance on the adopted Local Plan policies. SPDs can be given substantial weight in planning decisions.

5.2. As it is no longer a requirement to detail SPDs and their timetables for preparation within an LDS, details of any future SPDs will be provided on the District Council's website. Stakeholders and consultees will be informed of the timetable(s) at the start of an SPD's preparation.

## **6. Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)**

6.1. The [Statement of Community Involvement \(SCI\)](#) sets out how Lewes District Council will involve the community in the preparation and review of planning policy. Improving community and stakeholder engagement in planning from the outset is a key tenet of plan-making, and every local planning authority is required to produce a SCI. The SCI is not a DPD and is not subject to Examination.

6.2. To ensure that the SCI remains relevant and has regard to new methods of engagement, the Council will keep this under review, updating it where necessary.

## **7. Community Infrastructure Levy**

- 7.1. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) provides a mechanism for collecting financial contributions from new development. These help fund a wide range of strategic infrastructure, such as public transport, parks, and community facilities, needed support growth. Lewes District Council is the CIL Charging Authority and administers the adopted charging schedules.
- 7.2. Further information on the CIL, including the charging schedule is on the Council's website at: [Community Infrastructure Levy \(CIL\) - Lewes and Eastbourne Councils \(lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk\)](https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk)
- 7.3. The Government requires that local plans should set out the contributions expected from development and that the viability of all relevant policies including the cost implications of CIL, and S106 should be taken into consideration during the plan making process. Evidence relating to infrastructure needs and viability is being reviewed as part of the Local Plan preparation and an opportunity to review the CIL charging exists.

## **8. Monitoring and Review**

- 8.1. The Council's performance against the LDS timetable will be monitored through the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR is a 'state of the environment' report produced at least annually. It assesses the effectiveness of the Local Plan policies in managing development and achieving the outcomes and objectives of the planning framework. It is also used to identify future work priorities by providing a 'baseline' context for reviewing and amending existing policies.
- 8.2. The LDS is next anticipated to be updated following Submission of the Plan to EiP or where a need to do so earlier is identified.
- 8.3. The latest versions of the AMR are available to view on the [Council's planning policy website](#).

## Appendix 1: Glossary

**Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)** – a report prepared by a local authority that assesses the impact of policies and whether targets for these policies are being met. The report is prepared on at least an annual basis and is available on the local authority's website.

**Development Plan** – the development plan is the starting point in the consideration of planning applications for the development or use of land.

**Development Plan Documents (DPDs)** – Planning documents that are subject to independent examination and form part of the statutory development plan for an area.

**Joint Core Strategy** – This is the adopted Local Plan Part 1. It sets out the long-term vision for the District and the spatial objectives and strategic policies required to deliver that vision.

**Local Development Documents (LDDs)** – The collective term for all documents that are prepared in association with a Local Plan, including Development Plan Documents, Supplementary Planning Documents and the Statement of Community Involvement.

**Local Development Scheme (LDS)** – A document setting out the programme for the preparation of Development Plan Documents. It sets out a 3-year programme and includes information on consultation dates. The LDS can be revised whenever necessary.

**Local Housing Need** – The number of homes needed within a local authority area, calculated using the Government's standard methodology introduced in 2018.

**Local Plan** – The term 'local plan' is used extensively in the new National Planning Policy Framework in preference to the previous term 'Local Development Framework'. It sets out a vision and policy framework to guide the future development and change of an area.

**Statement of Community Involvement** – sets out how a local planning authority will consult the community and stakeholders, not only on LDDs, but also on major planning applications.

**Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)** – these can be produced to provide policy guidance to supplement the policies and proposals in DPDs. They do not form part of the development plan but must undergo a formal process of consultation.

**Sustainability Appraisal (SA)** – Assessment of the social, economic and environmental impacts of the policies in Development Plan Documents.

## Appendix 2: Schedule of Saved Policies

All Lewes District Local Plan 2003 policies were saved under a Direction by the Secretary of State in 2009. The majority of these policies have now been superseded and replaced by other development plan documents, including the Lewes District Local Plan Part 1: Joint Core Strategy, the Lewes District Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies, and Neighbourhood Plans.

However, early in the preparation of the Lewes District Local Plan Part 2, the District Council took the decision not to allocate non-strategic sites for specific land-uses or identify area specific policies in locations where a town or parish council were developing a neighbourhood plan that would include allocations for specific land uses.

The combined parishes of Peacehaven and Telscombe were designated as a neighbourhood area for the purposes of preparing a neighbourhood plan in 2013. Accordingly, the Local Plan Part 2 does not identify non-strategic site allocations or site-specific policies within the Peacehaven or Telscombe neighbourhood area. The saved Lewes District Local Plan 2003 policies listed below will therefore remain part of the development plan for Lewes District until the Peacehaven and Telscombe Neighbourhood Plan has been approved at referendum.

<b>Chapter 13: Peacehaven and Telscombe</b>	
Policy PT6	Meridian and Bolney Avenue Industrial Estates Link
Policy PT9	Meridian Centre
Policy PT10	Access and Permeability at the Meridian Centre
Policy PT11	Joff Youth Club
Policy PT12	The Coast, Clifftop and Foreshore
Policy PT13	The Coast, Clifftop and Foreshore
Policy PT18	Allotments
Policy PT19	Valley Road
Policy PT20	Valley Road