

Forest of Dean District Council
Local Development Scheme 2025



Forest of Dean
— DISTRICT COUNCIL —

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I Introduction

1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended introduced the requirement for all local planning authorities to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS). This LDS sets out a timetable for the production of new or revised Development Plan Documents (such as a Local Plan) by the Forest of Dean Council.

1.2 This Local Development Scheme provides information on:

- The development plan document(s) we will prepare over the years 2025-2027
- The subject matter of those documents and the geographical area they cover
- The timetable for the preparation and adoption of those documents

1.3 This 2025 LDS, which supersedes previous versions, sets out a planning work programme for the Local Plan over the period to Spring 2027. It will be regularly reviewed to keep it up to date.

2 Development Plan Documents

2.1 The Development Plan for Forest of Dean District currently comprises the following documents produced by the District Council:

- **Adopted Core Strategy** - Adopted in 2012. It includes strategic policies for the development of the District. The Plan can be viewed via the following link [Core Strategy Adopted Version¹](#)
- **Cinderford Northern Quarter Area Action Plan (CNQAAP)** - Adopted in 2012, it has guided change and growth across the area covered by the defined Cinderford Northern Quarter. [Cinderford Northern Quarter AAP Adopted Version²](#)
- **Adopted Allocations Plan** - Produced by the District Council adopted in 2012, is to update and show how the strategy for the Forest of Dean will be implemented and to provide detailed policies including settlement boundaries. [Allocations Plan 2006 to 2026 Adopted June 2018 web³](#)
- **Made Neighbourhood Development Plans** - These are prepared by town/parish councils or designated neighbourhood forums to set a locally specific development framework to guide development in their area. The council actively promotes neighbourhood planning, in addition to having a legal duty to support their preparation. At the time of publication of this LDS, nine Neighbourhood Development Plans have been made and now form part of the development plan for their areas. Made neighbourhood plans in the district are listed below:

| Made Neighbourhood Plans | Date Plan was Made |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alvington | June 2021 |
| Berry Hill, Christchurch and Edge End | March 2018 |
| Coleford | October 2018 |
| Dymock | October 2024 |
| Forest Edge South | October 2024 |
| Huntley | October 2023 |
| Longhope | March 2018 |
| Lydney | March 2016 |
| Mitcheldean | March 2020 |

2.2 Current NDP documents showing the extent of the neighbourhood areas can be accessed via the following link: [Made Local Plans⁴](#)

2.3 In addition to the nine made Neighbourhood Plans, there is one further designated area in the District for Newent Parish.

1 <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/media/szpzpxj/core-strategy.pdf>

2 <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/media/egldj4j/cinderford-northern-quarter-adopted-area-action-plan.pdf>

3 <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/media/ruscm3sl/allocations-plan.pdf>

4 <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/made-neighbourhood-plans/>

Minerals and Waste Local Plan

2.4 The local development plan for minerals and waste matters is prepared by Gloucestershire County Council and comprises the following Development Plan Documents (DPDs): - adopted Minerals Local Plan for Gloucestershire⁵ ; adopted Gloucestershire Waste core Strategy (2012-2027) (November 2012)⁶ and the remaining, yet-to-be replaced 'saved policies of the adopted Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan (2002-2012) (October 2004)⁷ Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) is required to produce a Minerals and Waste Local Development Scheme⁸ which must specify all the planning documents that the council intends to prepare as of part of the local development plan for minerals and waste matters throughout Gloucestershire. These do not form part of this LDS.

Supplementary Planning Documents

2.5 The Following Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) / Guidance (SPG) can be found on the Supplementary Planning Documents webpage⁹:

- Affordable Housing 2020 (SPD) - The affordable housing SPD provides detailed guidance on how we will deliver affordable housing.
- Residential Design Guide 1998 (SPG) - produced to assist those seeking planning permission for residential development within the District.
- Alterations and Extensions (SPG) 2002 - This guide is compiled to advise householders on approaches to the design of extensions and alterations which are likely to be appropriate to the building and its setting.
- Landscape Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 2007 - The document sets out important principles relating to the environment and more specifically, the landscape.

Other Policy Documents

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

2.6 The Council must also produce a Statement of Community Involvement¹⁰ setting out how it intends to consult and involve the community in the preparation and review of local development documents and in development management decisions. The SCI was last updated in 2024.

Authorities Monitoring Report

2.7 The Annual Monitoring Report¹¹ assesses whether policies, targets and milestones have been met and will inform the review of the Local Development Scheme.

5 <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/planning-policy/minerals/>

6 <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/waste/gloucestershire-waste-core-strategy/>

7 <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/dhnhjep4/saved-policies-of-the-gloucestershire-waste-local-plan-2002-2012-adopted-october-2004.pdf>

8 <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/4xzhvyoy/mwds-for-gloucestershire-2024-25-to-2026-27.pdf>

9 <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents/>

10 <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/supporting-information-for-the-local-plan-2041/>

11 <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/supporting-information-for-the-local-plan-2041/>

3 Timetable and Key Milestones

3.1 This LDS sets out the programme for the production of DPDs, setting out the timescales for production, including gathering data, consultations, public scrutiny and examination and finally adoption.

Emerging Local Plan

3.2 Work commenced in 2019 to create a new Local Plan for the Forest of Dean District, when adopted this will replace the Allocations Plan, Core Strategy and Cinderford Northern Quarter Area Action Plan. A review of the LDS is warranted by the need to set out a revised programme for Local Plan preparation in light of the Governments revisions to the National Planning Framework (NPPF) and standard method housing figure in December 2024.

3.3 The Forest of Dean District Local Plan will:

- Set the need for our future housing and employment and allocates those sites needed.
- Make provision for community facilities, such as health, education and cultural infrastructure
- Address climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environments, including landscape and green infrastructure

3.4 Once adopted the Local Plan will supersede all documents listed above except for the made Neighbourhood Plans.

Local Plan timetable

| Milestone and explanation of milestone | Date/Expected date |
|--|---|
| <p>Potential Issues and Options consultation The Issues and Options consultation represented the first public consultation stage in the update process, this is a non-statutory stage of consultation.</p> | Completed Autumn 2019 |
| <p>Preferred Options consultation The Preferred Option and Second Preferred options sought views on the options evaluation of possible alternatives , potential sites and policies</p> | Completed Winter 2021 Autumn 2022 |
| <p>Consultation on draft Plan (Regulation 18) This statutory stage includes a six week consultation on a draft Plan, which will set out the Council's preferred strategy for accommodating future growth. Comments made at this stage will help to shape the next stage of the Plan</p> | Completed Summer 2024 |
| <p>Consultation on Revised Strategy and Preferred Options (Regulation 18) This involves a six week consultation on revised preferred options, in light of the government's revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) December 2024 and standard method housing figure.</p> | Summer 2025 |
| <p>Consultation on revised draft Plan (Regulation 18) This includes a six week consultation on a revised draft Plan, which will set out the Council's revised preferred strategy for accommodating future</p> | Winter 2025 |

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| growth. Comments made at this stage will help to shape the next stage of the Plan | |
| Publication of Submission Draft Local Plan (Regulation 19) This involves the publication of the Plan in a form which the Council believes to be sound and which it intends to submit for examination. This stage includes a further six week consultation period. Comments must specifically relate to the legal compliance and soundness of the plan. | Summer 2026 |
| Submission (Regulation 22) This is when the plan is submitted by the Council to the Secretary of State. The evidence base and the representations made during the Submission Plan consultation are also provided to the Secretary of State. The Examination of the Local Plan starts at this point. | Autumn 2026 |
| Examination and Main Modifications The examination involves an independent Planning Inspector testing the plan for legal compliance and soundness. This process includes an examination in public when public hearings are held. | Winter 2026/2027 |
| Adoption The final stage in the process is the formal adoption of the Plan by the Council. Once adopted it forms part of the development plan for the area and will guide future development. | Spring 2027 |

Design Code / Design Guidance

3.5 FODDC intends to produce a district-wide Design Guide to be supplemented where necessary by design codes/ masterplans addressing strategic and major development. The guide and/or codes will be produced in line with National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code and will set quantifiable design parameters and expectations for development in the district.

