

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME  
July 2025  
Draft for Executive**



***Cherwell***  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Councils are required to produce a Local Development Scheme (LDS) under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). An LDS is a rolling plan for the preparation of key planning policy documents.
- 1.2 This LDS sets out the programme for the preparation of key planning policy documents for the next three-year period and was considered by members of Cherwell District Council's Executive on 1 July 2025. It revises that previously approved on 2 December 2024.
- 1.3 The main purposes of an LDS are:
- To inform the local community and other interested parties of the development plan documents that are being prepared for the area and the envisaged timescales.
  - To establish the Council's priorities for the preparation of new development plan documents and their associated work programmes.
- 1.4 The LDS does not contain details of other documents that the council may prepare to aid decision making. This includes Supplementary Planning Documents, Development Briefs or Master Plans.

## **2 KEY CHANGES SINCE THE LAST LDS**

- 2.1 Key changes since approval of the last LDS in December 2024 include:
- Updated programme on the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2042
  - Updated programme for the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
- 2.2 These changes have informed preparation of this LDS.

## **3 EXISTING DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

- 3.1 As of July 2025, the existing statutory Development Plan comprises:
- Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1) (incorporating the re-adopted Policy Bicester 13) - July 2015
  - Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1) Partial Review – Oxford's Unmet Housing Need - September 2020
  - Saved policies of the adopted Cherwell Local Plan 1996 that have not been replaced (see Appendix 7 of the 2015 adopted Local Plan) - November 1996
  - Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan - 19 October 2015
  - Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan - 19 December 2016
  - Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan - 16 July 2018

- Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan - 14 May 2019
- Weston-on-the-Green Neighbourhood Plan - 19 May 2021
- Deddington Neighbourhood Plan – 22 May 2024
- Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Part 1 – Core Strategy) - September 2017
- Saved policies of the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 1996 (adopted by the County Council) that have not been replaced - July 1996

3.2 The **Cherwell Local Plan 1996** was adopted in November 1996 and policies were saved from 27 September 2007.

3.3 The **Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1)** was completed and adopted by the Council on 20 July 2015. It incorporates Policy Bicester 13 re-adopted on 19 December 2016. The Plan presently comprises the main strategy document containing strategic development sites and policies.

3.4 The **Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1) Partial Review – Oxford’s Unmet Housing Need** was completed and adopted by the Council on 7 September 2020. The Plan provides the strategic planning framework and sets out strategic site allocations to provide Cherwell’s share of the unmet housing needs of Oxford to 2031.

3.5 The **Adopted Policies Map** is a map of Cherwell which illustrates geographically the application of the policies in the adopted Development Plan (other than Minerals and Waste policies prepared by the County Council). An Interactive Adopted Policies Map is available on-line at [www.cherwell.gov.uk](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk).

#### **4 EXISTING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS**

4.1 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) provide further detail to Local Plan policies. They are statutory documents but do not form part of the Development Plan and their production is not required to be reported within the LDS. There are currently no SPDs being prepared by Cherwell District Council.

4.2 The following SPDs add further detail to the adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031:

- North West Bicester SPD - 22 February 2016
- Banbury Masterplan SPD - 19 December 2016
- Kidlington Masterplan SPD - 19 December 2016
- Developer Contributions SPD - 26 February 2018
- Cherwell Residential Design Guide SPD - 16 July 2018

#### **5 NON-STATUTORY LOCAL PLAN**

- 5.1 The Council also has a Non-Statutory Cherwell Local Plan 2011 which has not been withdrawn nor fully replaced. Originally produced as a replacement for the adopted Local Plan 1996, the Plan was subject to first and second draft deposit stages and pre-inquiry changes were incorporated. However, the decision was taken by the Council to discontinue work on the plan on the 13 December 2004 and withdraw it from the statutory local plan process before the Public Inquiry. To avoid a policy void the Non-Statutory Cherwell Local Plan 2011 was approved by the Council as interim planning policy for development control purposes on the 13 December 2004. Over time, its policies are being superseded by new planning documents.

## **6 OTHER DOCUMENTS**

### **Statement of Community Involvement**

- 6.1 The Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how communities and stakeholders can expect to be engaged in the preparation of planning documents and in the consideration of planning applications. The current SCI was adopted by the Council in October 2021. As it is currently less than 5 years old, there is no current formal requirement to update it at present. However, the effectiveness of the SCI is kept under review.

### **Annual (or Authorities) Monitoring Reports (AMR)**

- 6.2 Local Planning Authorities are required monitor progress in producing Local Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents; on the implementation of policies; in meeting the district's housing requirement; and on the making of Neighbourhood Plans and report on these annually. They must include up-to-date information collected for monitoring purposes and, where relevant, include information on any applicable Community Infrastructure Levy and cooperation with prescribed bodies.
- 6.3 The Council's Annual (Authorities) Monitoring Reports (AMRs) are available on the Council's website. Supplemental information on the monitoring of residential development can also be published each year.

### **Masterplans and Development Briefs**

- 6.4 The Council has prepared Development Briefs for the allocated sites within the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1) Partial Review – Oxford's Unmet Housing Need to assist within informing planning applications and aid decision making.

## **7 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLANS**

- 7.1 Neighbourhood Plans are produced by Town or Parish Councils or other relevant bodies (known as "qualifying bodies") to set out policies in relation to the development and use of land in the whole or any part of a designated neighbourhood area. They are not prepared by Cherwell District Council, although there is a legal obligation placed on the Council to aid those who wish to prepare them.

7.2 As they are not prepared by Cherwell District Council, Neighbourhood Plans are not reported within the LDS. Progress on Neighbourhood Plans including areas that have been designated are reported within the AMR annually.

## **8 PLANNING POLICY DOCUMENTS TO BE PREPARED**

8.1 Planning policy documents that the Council is, or will be working for the next 3 years are as follows:

**a. Cherwell Local Plan Review 2042** – a review of the adopted Cherwell Local Plan to ensure key planning policies are kept up to date for the future and to replace policies from the 2015 adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1), the remaining saved policies of the 1996 Local Plan and the 2011 Non-Statutory Local Plan interim policies. Upon adoption by the Council, it will become part of the statutory Development Plan.

**b. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule** – CIL comprises a schedule of charges for contributions to infrastructure to support the development of Cherwell District, payable by developers. A draft charging schedule was consulted upon from 11 July 2024 to 24 August 2024.

8.2 The programme for preparing these documents is set out in schedules 9.1 and 9.2. It is expected that documents will be produced in accordance with these schedules. If significant changes in circumstances occur the LDS will be reviewed.

## 9. Project Schedules

<b>Schedule 9.1</b>	<b>Cherwell Local Plan Review 2042</b>	
Strategic or Local Policies	Strategic and Local Policies	
Subject Matter	Planning policies to manage development and meet local priorities, and to review & keep up-to-date existing planning policies. Will include new policies to support climate action, biodiversity and design; and the identification and delivery of strategic and non-strategic development sites for housing, employment, open space and recreation, travelling communities and other land uses.	
Geographical Area	Cherwell District	
Status	Development Plan Document (DPD)	
Timetable	<b>Commencement</b>	April 2020
	<b>District Wide Issues Consultation (Regulation 18)</b>	July - August 2020
	<b>District Wide Options Consultation (Regulation 18)</b>	October - November 2021
	<b>Consultation on draft Plan (Regulation 18)</b>	September-October 2023
	<b>Consultation on Proposed Submission Plan (Regulation 19)</b>	December 2024 - February 2025
	<b>Submission (Regulation 22)</b>	End July 2025
	<b>Examination (Regulation 24)</b>	End July 2025 onwards (hearings estimated Dec 2025/Jan 2026)
	<b>Receipt and Publication of the Inspector's Report (Regulation 25)</b>	May 2026 (estimated)
	<b>Adoption (Regulation 26)</b>	June 2026 (subject to examination)
	Notes: Examination dates and subsequent programme subject to confirmation from the Planning Inspectorate and views of Inspector.	
Management Arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning Policy, Conservation and Design Manager reporting to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistant Director - Planning and Development reporting to</li> <li>Corporate Director – Communities</li> </ul> </li> <li>Reports to Overview &amp; Scrutiny, Executive and Council</li> <li>Internal Members Advisory Group</li> </ul>	
Resources Required	Planning Policy, Conservation and Design service, input from other Council services, neighbouring authorities and consultees; consultancy support as required. Programme Officer and Planning Inspectorate.	
Monitoring and review mechanisms	Annual Monitoring Report	

<b>Schedule 9.2</b>	<b>Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule</b>	
Subject Matter	The purpose of CIL is to raise funds to deliver infrastructure that will support the development of Cherwell District. This could include open space, leisure centres, sports facilities, transport schemes, schools among other requirements. The charging schedule provides the basis of the Levy and must be informed by an assessment of an infrastructure funding gap and the viability of different levels of Levy. There will be consultation and a public Examination.	
Geographical Area	Cherwell District	
Status	Levy	
	<b>Consultation on a revised draft charging schedule</b>	September/October 2025
	<b>Submission</b>	November/December 2025
	<b>Examination</b>	January 2026 (estimated)
	<b>Receipt and Publication of the Inspector's Report</b>	March 2026 (estimated subject to examination)
	<b>Approval</b>	April 2026 (estimated)
	Notes: Examination dates and subsequent programme subject to confirmation from the Examiner.	
Management Arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Policy, Conservation and Design Manager reporting to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assistant Director - Planning and Development reporting to</li> <li>○ Corporate Director - Communities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Reports to Executive and Council</li> <li>• Internal Members Advisory Group</li> </ul>	
Resources Required	Planning Policy team; input from other Council services, neighbouring authorities and consultees; consultancy support as required. Programme Officer and Planning Inspectorate.	
Monitoring and review mechanisms	Annual Monitoring Report	



## Appendix 1: LDS Timetable

		2025												2026											
	Document	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1	Cherwell Local Plan Review 2042							S					H	H				A							
2	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule									FC	FC		S	H			A								

<b>C</b>	Commencement
<b>CC</b>	CIL Consultation
<b>IC</b>	Initial Consultation
<b>FC</b>	Further Consultation
<b>S</b>	Submission
<b>H</b>	Hearings (Public Examination)
<b>A</b>	Adoption / Approval
<b>R</b>	Re-commencement
	In Progress
	Paused