



# Staffordshire Moorlands

## Local Development Scheme 2025 Incorporating Local Plan Timetable

February 2025



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Introduction





## Introduction

**1.1** The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Planning Act 2008 and Localism Act 2011) requires the Council to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The Staffordshire Moorlands Local Development Scheme sets out the documents, which the Council will use when exercising its planning functions. The planning policies, which the Council uses to guide planning applications, together with proposals for the development and regeneration of specific areas of land are contained in a variety of documents.

**1.2** The Local Development Scheme (LDS) explains what each of these documents are, what areas they cover and how they relate to each other. The Scheme also sets out a timetable for the production of new documents and the review of existing documents including the Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan. The Council will measure progress against this published timetable.

**1.3** The Local Development Scheme should be the starting point for everyone who has an interest in the planning of the District. The Scheme sets out:

- The documents to be produced and the linkages between them
- The timescales for the documents
- How the documents will be monitored and evidenced
- Potential risks and how they will be managed

**1.4** The previous Local Development Scheme was agreed by the Council in October 2023 and the timescales for the Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan Review were set out in this document. There has since been some changes in circumstances necessitating the production of a revised Local Development Scheme. The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 12th December 2024. In light of the changes to the NPPF, the Deputy Prime Minister has asked that all local planning authorities produce an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) within 12 weeks of the publication of the NPPF, i.e. by no later than 6 March 2025. The updated LDS should include clear, realistic, and specific dates for consultation and submission of the Local Plan. Once updated, the Council is required to make the LDS publicly available, and send a copy to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. This 2025 LDS is the updated version required by the Government.

**1.5** Although reforms to the local plan making system, through the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 are underway, at the time of writing, no regulations are in place to indicate how the new system will operate. Consequently, the Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan timetable set out in this document reflects the current planning system.



# The Development Plan





## The Development Plan

**2.1** All local planning authorities are required to draw up a Development Plan for their area. The Plan sets out the Authority's policies and proposals for the development and other use of land. It also provides the framework for making decisions about planning applications and conservation matters within the area.

**2.2** The Peak District National Park Authority functions as the local planning authority for the parts of the District that are located within the National Park. As such, a separate Development Plan for this part of the District is in place which includes the Peak District National Park Core Strategy. For the avoidance of doubt, this Local Development Scheme focuses solely on the area of Staffordshire Moorlands outside of the National Park, for which, the District Council is the local planning authority. Staffordshire County Council is also responsible for minerals and waste planning outside of the National Park.

**2.3** Neighbourhood Plans when "made" will also form part of the Development Plan for the District. The Leekfrith Neighbourhood plan was made in June 2021, the Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan was made in December 2023 and the Checkley Neighbourhood Plan was made in May 2024. These are the only made plans within the Staffordshire Moorlands planning area.

**2.4** The following Parishes have been formally designated by the Council as Neighbourhood Areas with emerging Neighbourhood Plans now being led by the respective Parish Councils in these areas:

- Leekfrith Parish
- Leek
- Forsbrook
- Biddulph
- Brown Edge
- Checkley
- Draycott in the Moors
- Rushton

**2.5** As of February 2025, Staffordshire Moorlands' current Development Plan consists of the:

- The Adopted Local Plan (adopted September 2020)
- Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire 2015-2030 (adopted February 2017)
- Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Waste Local Plan 2010 to 2026 (adopted March 2013)
- Leekfrith Neighbourhood Plan
- Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan
- Checkley Neighbourhood Plan

**2.6** The new Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan is proposed to supersede the current Adopted Local Plan .

### Other documents

**2.7** In addition, the Development Plan, the following documents provide additional guidance and information relating to planning in the District:



- Biddulph Town Centre Action Plan (Adopted February 2007)
- Cheadle Town Centre Masterplan (March 2014)
- Statement of Community Involvement (Adopted April 2016)
- SHMA (2017)

### **Supplementary Planning Documents**

**2.8** The Council has a variety adopted Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) which provide additional information and advice in support of the Local Plan. Adopted SPDs include:

- Churnet Valley Masterplan (adopted March 2014)
- Leek Town Centre Masterplan (adopted March 2014)
- Cheadle Town Centre Masterplan (adopted March 2014)
- Staffordshire Moorlands Design Guide SPD (2018)
- Developer Contributions SPD (Adoption October 2023)

**2.9** Older Supplementary Planning Guidance documents relating to matters including Developer Contributions and Public Open Space are also in place but relate back to the now superseded 1998 Local Plan.

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

**2.10** This was one of the first documents to be produced and sets out the standards and processes or engaging the community on the Council's planning functions. The document details procedures for public involvement with planning policy as well as setting out standards for development control. An update version of the SCI was adopted by the Council in April 2016.

### **Authority Monitoring Reports (AMR)**

**2.11** The Authority Monitoring Report was introduced in 2004 under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. The process of monitoring is seen as being fundamental to plan preparation and the concept of plan, monitor and manage. Monitoring helps to establish what is happening now, what may happen in the future and by comparing trends against existing policies and targets, determines what needs to be done.

**2.12** The monitoring reports present and analyse data relating to specific planning policies to consider their effectiveness.

### **Sustainability Appraisal**

**2.13** The Local Plan is subject to a sustainability appraisal. This builds in an assessment of the environmental, economic and social impact of policies and proposals as an integral part of plan making. It is an iterative process, informing and shaping the plans and strategies as they are being prepared – rather than being an assessment of a finished document. Sustainability Appraisal satisfies the requirements of the European Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, but also broadens the process to address the need to build sustainable communities. A sustainability report is published alongside the Local Plan during its preparation.



### **Infrastructure Funding Statements**

**2.14** The Council produces an Infrastructure Funding Statement each year to provide information on developer contributions that have been secured, collected and spent on infrastructure and affordable housing by the District Council.



Timescales and Programme





## Timescales and Programme

**3.1** The future programme for planning policy in the District includes the following:

- Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan and Policies Maps
- Neighbourhood Plans
- Authority Monitoring Reports
- Infrastructure Funding Statements

<b><u>Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan and Policies Map</u></b>	
<b>Purpose and scope</b>	
What is the subject of the document?	A spatial strategy and vision for the District and the policies and site allocations to deliver them.
What is the status of the document?	Part of Development Plan.
What will it replace?	The Local Plan
<b>Timetable</b>	
Review of Adopted Local Plan	2025
<b>Following the initial assessment if a full review of the Adopted Local Plan is required the following timetable is proposed:</b>	
Options consultation (Reg 18)	Autumn 2025
Preferred Options Local Plan consultation (Reg 19)	Autumn 2026
Publication of Local Plan (Reg 19)	Summer 2027
Submission of Local Plan (Reg 22)	Autumn 2027
Examination (Reg's 23,24,25)	Examination Winter 2027
Adoption (Reg 26)	Summer 2028

**Table 3.1**



**3.2** The above timetable has been arranged to avoid key decision dates clashing with the pre-election period.

### Neighbourhood Plans

Purpose and Scope	
What is the subject of the documents?	To be determined by the relevant Parish Councils.
What is the status of the document?	Part of the Development Plan for the respective Parishes. Plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan (as set out in the Local Plan)
Timetable	
Consultations	To be determined by Parish Councils/Town Councils.
Adoptions	TBD

**Table 3.2**

### Authority Monitoring Reports

Purpose and Scope	
What is the subject of the documents?	Presentation and analysis of data for indicators relating to development plan policies
What is the status of the document?	Monitoring reports are produced annually
Timetable	
Publication	December each year

**Table 3.3**

### Infrastructure Funding Statements

Purpose and Scope	
What is the subject of the documents?	Data on developer contributions that have been secured and spent by the Council on infrastructure
What is the status of the document?	Monitoring reports are produced annually
Timetable	
Publication	December each year

**Table 3.4**



Monitoring, Evidence and Review





## Monitoring, Evidence and Review

**4.1** The Council needs to ensure that the Local Plan is based on adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence about the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the area. The Council will update (with partners where appropriate) and commission additional evidence to support the Local Plan.

**4.2** Evidence documents are published on the Council's website at:

**4.3** <https://www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/article/1163/Evidence-base>

**4.4** Evidence will be reviewed periodically to ensure that it remains up to date and relevant. Reviews may be triggered by a material change in circumstances. For example, in response to a change in national policy or legislation or the outcome of monitoring reports which may indicate that further information is required on a particular issue.

**4.5** Where necessary, this may lead to a partial or full review of the Local Plan or supporting documentation. The Town and County Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 sets a period of five years from adoption within which an authority should undertake an assessment of whether its development plan documents, and its Statement of Community Involvement remain up to date. This will help ensure that plans are kept up to date. Where an authority reviews a document but decides not to update it, must publish the reasons why. Monitoring data and evidence will inform such reviews.

**4.6** Compliance with the timetables set out in this LDS will be monitored in the Council's Authority Monitoring Reports that are available on the Council's website at:

**4.7** <https://www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/article/1168/Monitoring>

**4.8** Updates to the timetable may be made to reflect changing circumstances for the documents listed in the LDS. This may include reforms to the plan making system, wider legislative changes or other matters that need to be addressed.

**4.9** Risks to the timely delivery of the updates to the Local Plan are managed via the Council's Risk Register and subject to regular scrutiny.