

East Cambridgeshire District Council



East Cambridgeshire Local Development Scheme

October 2024

[Draft – For Full Council Meeting on 17th October 2024]

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Preface

This East Cambridgeshire Local Development Scheme (LDS) was approved by East Cambridgeshire District Council at a meeting of its Council on 17 October 2024 and came into effect immediately. It replaces the previous LDS, dated 21 April 2022.

If you require any further information regarding the LDS, please contact a planning policy officer of Strategic Planning Team on (01353) 665555 or by email to planningpolicy@eastcambs.gov.uk

This LDS is produced under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

East Cambridgeshire Local Development Scheme 2024 to 2027

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a timetable which sets out the Development Plan Document(s) (DPDs) that a local planning authority intends to produce over the next few years. The most common and well known DPD is a district wide Local Plan for an area.
- 1.2 This East Cambridgeshire LDS sets out the timetable for East Cambridgeshire for the period 2024 to 2027. It explains when the Council intends to reach key stages in the preparation of a new East Cambridgeshire Local Plan. This LDS replaces the East Cambridgeshire LDS which was adopted in April 2022
- 1.3 Details of already existing adopted plans and policies in East Cambridgeshire, as October 2024, can be found in Table 2 (Local Plan and Minerals and Waste Plan) and Table 3 (Neighbourhood Plans) in this LDS, and on our website. For a summary of other planning policy documents in the district, such as supplementary planning documents, then please see our website.
- 1.4 This LDS does not set out any timetable for the production or replacement of any those documents, except for the production a new East Cambridgeshire Local Plan.

Joint Working Arrangements and Joint Local Plans

- 1.5 The District Council has a good track record of joint working with other authorities and has especially close ties with other Cambridgeshire districts
- 1.6 However, there are no current plans to establish formal joint working arrangements or a joint committee (under section 29 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) with any other local planning authority. Nevertheless, the District Council will fulfil its responsibilities under the duty to co-operate requirements of s33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act and be open to the possible production of joint evidence studies, and, if appropriate, the preparation of a joint plan or SPDs.

2.0 Local Plan Timetable

- 2.1 There are a number of stages involved in producing a new Local Plan. This process allows for opportunities for the public to be involved, early resolution of conflicts/objections, and an independent examination. The stages in producing a Local Plan, and the intended time of those stages are set out in Table 1.

3.0 Subject Matter and Geographical area of the proposed new East Cambridgeshire Local Plan

- 3.1 To meet the requirements of section 15 (2)(b) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, it is confirmed that the subject matter of the emerging new Local Plan for East Cambridgeshire will cover all policy matters typically found in a comprehensive district wide Local Plan, such as, but not limited to, policies on site allocations, housing, economic development, sustainability, heritage, natural environment, infrastructure and community assets.
- 3.2 There will be consequential amendments to the Policies Map, to reflect the amendments arising from above.
- 3.3 For the avoidance of doubt, the current *East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015 (as amended 2023)* will be replaced in full by the new Local Plan.

Table 1: Timetable for Production of a New East Cambridgeshire Local Plan

Phase.	Stage	Description	Dates each stage is proposed to take place
1A	Commencement	Publication of an LDS (this document) confirming preparation of a new Local Plan	October 2024
1B	Consult on a sustainability appraisal (SA) scoping report	The SA scoping report sets out the sustainability objectives proposed to be used to appraise the economic, social and environmental effects of the emerging Local Plan policies. The SA scoping report is subject to limited consultation with statutory bodies.	No later than January 2025
1C	Early engagement and evidence gathering	This is a broad stage whereby early evidence is gathered, and a variety of engagement is undertaken. A key element of this stage is a 'call for sites' whereby landowners are asked to submit initial information on whether land is potentially available for allocation in a new local plan.	October 2024 – June 2025 (the 'call for sites' stage will be subject to a specific announcement, and not likely to commence until January 2025. Please do not submit any sites before the announcement is made.)
2A	Public participation (Regulation 18) (Round one)	Opportunity for interested parties and statutory consultees to consider the options for the plan before the final document is produced. This stage may involve one or more public consultation rounds, each for a minimum 6 weeks. We intend two rounds for the forthcoming new Local Plan. This will be round one. It is unlikely this stage will have detailed site allocation proposals, but will likely provide a broad steer on the quantity of growth required and a broad steer (or options) on where that growth could take place.	June-September 2025 (minimum 6 weeks at some point in this window)
2B	Public participation (Regulation 18) (Round two)	This will be the second round consultation. At this stage, the plan will include proposed sites for allocation, and views will be asked on their suitability.	November 2025- February 2026 (minimum 6 weeks at some point in this window)
3	Proposed-Submission Publication (Regulation 19)	This is the final consultation stage. At this point, the Council publishes a full draft Local Plan which is followed with a 6 week period when formal representations can be made on the Local Plan. Representations received are considered by an independent Inspector.	June-September 2026 (6 weeks at some point in this window)

4	Submission (Regulation 22)	The Council submits the Local Plan to the Secretary of State together with the representations received at Regulation 19 stage.	No earlier than October 2026 No later than December 2026
5	Independent Examination (including likely Hearing sessions) and Inspector's Report	Held by a Planning Inspector into objections raised on the Local Plan. The Inspector's Report at the end of this stage will determine whether the Plan is 'sound' or 'not sound'. The Inspector may make recommendations (including recommended modifications) to make the plan 'sound'	Starts no earlier than October 2026. The length of the examination is a matter for the Inspector to establish. Assume up to one year.
6	Adoption of DPD (Local Plan)	Final stage, the Council will formally need to adopt the Local Plan, and it will then be used in making planning decisions.	June-December 2027

Table 2: Adopted Development Plan Documents in force in East Cambridgeshire (as at October 2024)

Document title	Status	Geographical area	Role and content	Adoption Date
East Cambridgeshire Local Plan	DPD	Administrative area of East Cambridgeshire	Sets out the vision, objectives and overall strategy for the spatial development of East Cambridgeshire up to 2026, together with detailed planning policies and site allocations. Prepared by East Cambridgeshire District Council	Adopted April 2015 (as amended 2023)
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan	DPD	Administrative areas of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	<p>The Minerals and Waste Local Plan, prepared jointly by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council, sets the framework for all minerals and waste developments until 2036. It sets out policies to guide mineral and waste management development and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure a steady supply of minerals (construction materials e.g. sand and gravel) to supply the growth that is planned for the area • enable us to have new modern waste management facilities, to manage our waste in a much better way than landfill <p>It will be used by developers when putting forward proposals and by councils when considering planning applications.</p>	Adopted July 2021

**Table 3: Adopted ('Made') Neighbourhood Plan Documents in force in East Cambridgeshire
(as at October 2024)**

Document title	Adoption (or 'Made') Date
Fordham Neighbourhood Plan	18 December 2018
Witchford Neighbourhood Plan	21 May 2020
Isleham Neighbourhood Plan	19 May 2022
Haddenham and Aldreth Neighbourhood Plan	20 October 2022
Swaffham Bulbeck Neighbourhood Plan	21 February 2023
Reach Neighbourhood Plan	20 February 2024
Sutton Neighbourhood Plan	25 July 2024
Mepal Neighbourhood Plan	25 July 2024
Cheveley Neighbourhood Plan	17 October 2024
Soham Neighbourhood Plan	17 October 2024 – subject to outcome of Referendum

