



Horsham  
District  
Council

# Horsham District Council Authority Monitoring Report

1st April 2023 - 31st March 2024

## CHAPTER 1: Local Development Scheme

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## Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is the Council's timetable for preparing the planning documents for the District that will form part of the 'local plan'. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) requires the Council to prepare and maintain the LDS. The main purpose of the LDS is to:
- inform the public and stakeholders of the documents that will make up the local plan,
  - set out the geographical area each plan will cover,
  - set out the timescale for the production or review of each plan.
- 1.2 The 'Local Development Scheme 2023-2026', was published 28 September 2023. The LDS reflected the Council's key strategic planning priorities for the preparation of the new Horsham District Local Plan to supersede the current plan, the Horsham District Planning Framework (HDPF) which was adopted in November 2015.

## Period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

- 1.3 The key document identified for production was the Regulation 19 submission draft of the new Horsham District Local Plan. After agreement by full council on 11 December 2023 the Local Plan was submitted for Regulation 19 representations from 19 January 2024 to 1 March 2024. The Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State on 26 July 2024. An Inspector was appointed by the secretary of state and the hearings for the Local Plan Examination commenced on 10 December 2024. However, the Local Plan Examination was unexpectedly paused after the first week.

## Local Plan Inspector's Interim Findings Letter - April 2025

- 1.4 On 7 April 2025, the Council received an Interim Findings Letter (IFL) from the Local Plan Inspector. Due to pre-election arrangements in place for a District by-election, the Council was unable to publish this letter until 22 April 2025. The Inspector concluded that the Local Plan had failed the Duty to Cooperate (DtC) and recommended that the Council withdraw the plan from Examination. At the time of publication of the AMR, the Council is considering all options available to it in light of the contents of the IFL.

## Local Development Scheme 2025 - 2028<sup>1</sup>

- 1.5 As a consequence, a revised 'Local Development Scheme 2025-2028', was published 27 February 2025 outlining the considerable uncertainty as regards the timetables put forward due to

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.horsham.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/local-development-scheme>

a combination of national planning reforms, forthcoming local government devolution and reorganisation, and the recent cancellation of the Local Plan Examination Hearings.

- 1.6 It is a requirement that Authority Monitoring Reports identify the name of development plan documents (DPDs) or supplementary planning documents (SPDs) in the local development scheme, and set out the timetable specified for the preparation of documents. This report should also set out what stage the document has reached in plan production and the reasons for any delay. This section therefore sets out in more detail the status of different DPDs in the District. CIL, which is also included on the Council's LDS, is covered separately in Chapter 5 of the AMR. The Council's current CIL was adopted after the full Council meeting in April 2017 and implemented in October 2017.

### **Horsham District Planning Framework (HDPF)**

- 1.7 The HDPF was adopted by the Council in November 2015. The Horsham District Planning Framework sets out the planning policies against which all development proposals are now assessed. A review of the Local Plan review commenced in 2018. The preparation of the Local Plan has been delayed since September 2021, due to the receipt of a Position Statement from Natural England which requires all development to be 'water neutral'. More detail is set out in Chapter 3 and on this Council's website. The LDS has been updated to reflect the programme for Local Plan preparation in light of this requirement.
- 1.8 The Horsham District Planning Framework is part of the District's Development Plan outside the South Downs National Park. The documents which are a formal part of the Council's development plan outside the National Park area are listed below. Neighbourhood Plans are only relevant in the respective Parish / Area for which they were prepared:
- Horsham District Planning Framework (2015)
  - Site Specific Allocations of Land DPD (2007)
  - West of Bewbush Joint Area Action Plan (2009)
  - Ashington Neighbourhood Plan (2021)
  - Billingshurst Neighbourhood Plan (2021)
  - Bramber Neighbourhood Plan (2021)
  - Henfield Neighbourhood Plan (2021)
  - Horsham Blueprint (2022)
  - Nuthurst Neighbourhood Plan (2015)
  - Rudgwick Neighbourhood Plan (2021)
  - Rusper Neighbourhood Plan (2021)
  - Shermanbury and Wineham Neighbourhood Plan (2017)
  - Shipley Neighbourhood Plan (2021)

- Slinfold Neighbourhood Plan (2018)
- Southwater Neighbourhood Plan (2021)
- Steyning Neighbourhood Plan (2022)
- Storrington & Sullington (with Washington) Neighbourhood Plan (2019)
- Thakeham Neighbourhood Plan (2017)
- Upper Beeding Neighbourhood Plan (2021)
- Warnham Neighbourhood Plan (2019)
- West Grinstead Neighbourhood Plan (2021)
- Woodmancote Neighbourhood Plan (2017)

## South Downs National Park

- 1.9** Planning responsibility for land within Horsham District which sits within the South Downs National Park area is now deferred to the South Downs National Park Authority. The South Downs Local Plan<sup>2</sup> was formally adopted by the South Downs National Park Authority in July 2019, and their own Local Development Scheme sets out the timetable for key planning policy documents for the National Park.

## Site Allocations of Land (Gypsy and Travellers)

- 1.10** A previous LDS, which was published in January 2018, identified that a key DPD programmed for production was a Site Allocations of Land document for Gypsies and Travellers. The document was produced and an initial regulation 18 consultation was held in May/June 2017. After revisions, a further regulation 18 consultation took place between December 2017 and January 2018. Following the outcome of these consultations, one of the key draft allocations was removed, and the Council was unable to demonstrate it could meet the identified need. The council therefore decided to provide for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople through the Local Plan by i) updating the Gypsy/Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment (first published January 2020, revised and updated in December 2023); ii) carrying out new “Call for Sites” exercises (June to August 2019, September to October 2020, and November to December 2022); iii) including a new Gypsy, Traveller & Travelling Showpeople policy and appropriate sites as an integral part of the Horsham Local Plan Review and; iv) continuing to permit appropriate sites through the development management process.

## Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

- 1.11** In the Local Development Scheme 2025-2028 there are no SPDs programmed for production.

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<sup>2</sup> South Downs Local Plan 2019 [https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/south-downs-local-plan\\_2019/](https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/south-downs-local-plan_2019/)

1.12 The full list of documents that have been adopted as SPDs by Horsham District Council is set out below:

- Heath Common Design Statement SPD, July 2018
- Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing SPD, September 2017
- Nuthurst Parish Design Statement, May 2017
- Billingshurst Village Centre SPD, March 2017
- Shipley Parish Design Statement SPD, 2013
- Pulborough Parish Design Statement SPD, 2013
- Horsham Town Plan SPD, 2012
- Southwater Parish Design Statement SPD, 2010
- West of Horsham Design Principles and Character Areas SPD, 2009
- Brinsbury Centre of Rural Excellence SPD, 2009
- Rudgwick Parish Design Statement SPD, 2009
- Billingshurst Parish Design Statement SPD, 2009
- Henfield Parish Design Statement SPD, 2008
- Warnham Parish Design Statement SPD, 2008
- Horsham Town Design Statement SPD, 2008
- West of Horsham Masterplan SPD, 2008
- Storrington Old Mill Drive Diamond Planning Brief SPD, 2008
- Storrington and Sullington Parish Design Statement, 2010

Evidence Base Documents

1.13 In order to support the preparation of the Council’s development plan, the Council has produced a number of evidence base documents to inform and support the development of the Horsham District Planning Framework (HDPF) and the Horsham District Local Plan. These documents are available on the Council’s website at: <https://www.horsham.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/evidence-base> and in the Local Plan Examination Library at <https://www.horsham.gov.uk/planning/local-plan/local-plan-examination/Examination-Library>.

1.14 The evidence documents which have been published in the period from April 2023 to December 2024 are set in Table 1.

Table 1: Evidence documents published 2023/24

Subject	Document	Date
Brownfield Land	Brownfield Land Register 2023	Dec-2023
Brownfield Land	Brownfield Land Register 2024	Dec-2024

Subject	Document	Date
Environment	Air Quality Annual Status Report 2023	Aug-2023
Environment	Air Quality Annual Status Report 2024	Jun-2024
Environment	Climate Action Strategy	Jan-2024
Environment	Green Infrastructure Strategy	Jan-2024
Environment	Greenspace Strategy 2024	Jun-2024
Environment	Habitats Regulations Assessment	Nov-2023
Environment	Habitats Regulations Assessment Air Quality Addendum	Sep-2024
Environment	Habitats Regulations Assessment Air Quality Addendum	Sep-2024
Environment	Habitats Regulations Assessment Air Quality Mitigation Strategy	Sep-2024
Housing	Horsham Housing Delivery Study	Dec-2023
Housing	Horsham Housing Delivery Study Update	Dec-2023
Housing	Horsham Housing Trajectory	Jan-2024
Housing	Horsham Windfall Study	Jan-2024
Housing	Horsham Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Targeted Update	Sep-2024
Housing	Horsham Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Update	Nov-2023
Housing	Horsham Gypsy and Traveller Site Assessment	Dec-2023
Local Plan Review	Built-Up Area Boundary Review	Nov-2023
Local Plan Review	Council Plan 2023 - 2027	Oct-2023
Local Plan Review	Equalities Impact Assessment	Jan-2024
Local Plan Review	Horsham Local Plan Viability Assessment	Nov-2023
Local Plan Review	Infrastructure Delivery Plan	Jul-2024
Local Plan Review	Secondary Settlement Review	Nov-2023
Local Plan Review	Settlement Sustainability Review (Assessment)	Jul-2024
Local Plan Review	SFRA Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Update	Sep-2024
Local Plan Review	SFRA Update Sequential and Exception Test	Sep-2024
Local Plan Review	SFRA Upper Mole Valley Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Update	Dec-2023

Subject	Document	Date
Local Plan Review	Site Assessment Report	Dec-2023
Local Plan Review	Site Assessment Report - Employment Assessment Outcomes	Dec-2023
Local Plan Review	Sussex County Football Association - Local Football Facility Plan Horsham (live online document - as at 19/07/2024)	Jul-2024
Local Plan Review	Sustainability Appraisal	Dec-2023
Transport	Horsham Highways Safety Study	Apr-2024
Transport	Horsham Transport Study Review	Nov-2023
Water Neutrality	SNOWS Project Review Update	May-2024
Water Neutrality	Sussex North Offsetting Water Scheme (SNOWS) Project Review	May-2024
Water Neutrality	Water Neutrality Joint Topic Paper	May-2023
Water Neutrality	Water Neutrality Joint Topic Paper Update	Jul-2024

### Next Steps

- 1.15 The Council's Local Development Scheme needs to be kept up-to-date and should be rolled forward to reflect the governments proposed 30-month timetable for Local Plan production. A revised LDS will need to reflect the outcomes from this monitoring report and the impact of water neutrality, national planning reforms, local government devolution and local government reorganisation on the progress of the Local Plan. It is envisaged that an updated LDS will be published in 2027 and cover the period up to 2030.