



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2020 - 2023

August 2020



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CONTENTS

Table of Figures.....	i
1. Introduction.....	1
Purpose of the Local Development Scheme	1
2. Development Plan Documents	2
What is a Local Plan?.....	2
3. South Kesteven Local Plan	3
Current Local Plan	3
Other PLans	3
4. What are we proposing?.....	5
What development plan document are we going to prepare?	5
Other documents to be produced	7
5. Risks to production.....	8
Identified risks.....	8
6. Monitoring.....	11
Monitoring progress.....	11
7. Appendices.....	12
Appendix 1: DPD Timetable	12
Appendix 2: Other documents to be produced	13
Glossary.....	14

TABLE OF FIGURES

Table 1: South Kesteven Local Plan Profile.....	6
Table 2: Key Milestones and Timescales	6
Table 3: Arrangements for Production	7
Table 4: Supplementary Planning Documents.....	7
Table 5: Risks to Production and Proposed Mitigation Measures.....	9

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a project plan to inform the community and other partners what strategic planning documents that are being prepared over the next three years. It identifies key milestones in their preparation, including the stages where documents will be made available for consultation.

1.2 The first LDS came into effect in 2005 when the Plan was referred to as the Local Development Framework (LDF). This Local Development Scheme (LDS) covers the period 2020-2023 and supersedes the Council's previous LDS published in September 2019. This LDS sets out an up-to-date timetable for the review of the Local Plan.

1.3 In the current adopted Local Plan, the Council is committed to an early review. The review policy (M1) requires the Council to commence document preparation from April 2020, with submission to the Secretary of State for examination by the end of December 2023. Therefore, the Council has begun preparations of the Local Plan review for the District.

1.4 The LDS contains;

- Background information to provide context for the LDS
- Details of which documents the Council will produce or review over the period of 2020-2023, and how they relate to each other
- A profile and timetable for the production of each strategic document

PURPOSE OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

1.5 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Planning Act 2008 and Localism Act 2011) requires a Local Planning Authority (LPA) to prepare and maintain an LDS setting out the Development Plan Documents (DPD) to be produced, the subject matter and geographical area.

1.6 The LDS is a public document and provides a starting point for the local community and others to find out about the Council's programme for the preparation of documents that will form the South Kesteven Local Plan or be supplementary to it.

1.7 It is our intention to keep the timetable set out in the LDS, however there may be occasions when there will be a need to make revisions to the timetable and documents. We will consider the need for revisions to the LDS on an annual basis and also publish up to date information on the Local Plan via our website.

2. DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENTS

WHAT IS A LOCAL PLAN?

- 2.1 Development Plan Documents (DPDs) are the documents that form part of the statutory development plan for the area. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) England Regulation 2012 now refers to DPDs as 'Local Plans'.
- 2.2 Local Plans are prepared in order to guide investment and development in a district, borough, or county for over a 20 year period. They shape how the district grows over this period, being a key tool in deciding where the housing, retail and business needs of the community will be provided, and how important countryside, ecological and heritage features are to be protected. They are subject to an independent examination by a planning inspector and undergo rigorous procedures of community involvement and consultation.
- 2.3 Local Plans are subject to community consultation in accordance with the requirements of a Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI sets out the Council's approach to engaging with the public and other stakeholders during the plan preparation and when consulting on planning applications. It is no longer necessary to submit SCI to the Secretary of State or include it in the LDS. The latest SCI was adopted March 2019. A revised SCI is currently in preparation, focusing on effective electronic communication and consultation, where possible.
- 2.4 The SCI is a document that supports the Local Plan, it will be monitored and updated via the Authority's Monitoring Report (AMR) provision of Regulation 34 of the town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 2.5 The Local Plan will also include Policies Map. This is a map of on an Ordnance Survey base for the whole of the local planning authority's area which shows where policies in the DPD/Local Plan apply. The South Kesteven Local Plan includes inset maps for some areas to show information at a larger scale. The Policies Map may be updated each time that a DPD/Local Plan is adopted.
- 2.6 An integral part of producing a Local Plan is the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environment Assessment (SA/SEA). The SA/SEA is produced in tandem with the Local Plan and ensure that the Local Plan adopts, as far as possible, the most sustainable options in an environment, economic, and social context having been assessed against all other realistic options and alternatives.

2.7 There is also a legal requirement, through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) to consider whether new Local Plans are likely to have a significant effect on European sites of nature conservation importance. A Habitats Regulation Assessment will be prepared and published for each DPD.

2.8 Local authorities may also prepare Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) to provide further guidance on adopted policies. They can cover a wide range of issues which may be thematic (e.g. affordable housing) or site specific (e.g. development briefs). They do not form part of the DPD but are taken into account in determining planning applications. They are also not subject to independent examination, although they will need to be subject to community consultation in accordance with the requirements of the SCI.

2.9 Details of SPDs already adopted by the Council are available on the Council's website. In the event that adopted SPDs are reviewed or new ones are proposed, details will be published on the website.

3. SOUTH KESTEVEN LOCAL PLAN

CURRENT LOCAL PLAN

3.1 At the time that this LDS comes into effect, South Kesteven District Council has adopted the following documents. These documents constitute the statutory development plan for South Kesteven, with policies that form the starting point for decisions on all planning applications in the area.

3.2 The Local Plan for South Kesteven currently comprises the:

Local Plan (2011-2036) (Adopted 31st January 2020): sets out the strategic planning framework and vision for the District to 2036, identifying housing and employment sites in Grantham, Stamford, Bourne, the Deepings, and a number of Larger Villages.

OTHER PLANS

LINCOLNSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN

3.3 Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) are responsible for the production, monitoring and review of a Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

3.4 **The Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (LMWLP)** is made up of two parts, the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (CSDMP) (adopted June 2016) and the Sites Location Document (adopted December 2017) which forms part of the development plan for the District.

3.5 The LMWLP sets out

- The key principles to guide future winning and working of minerals and the form of waste management in the county up to 2031;
- The criteria against which planning applications for mineral and waste development will be considered; and
- Specific proposals and policies for the provision of land for minerals and waste development

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

3.6 Neighbourhood Planning was introduced with the Localism Act 2011 enabling Parish and Town Councils or designated Neighbourhood Forums (in an area without a Parish) to prepare Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs), Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders. These all allow for residents of local communities to shape the future of their local area.

3.7 Neighbourhood Plans are subject to community consultation, an independent examination by an Inspector and a local referendum process. Once made, these documents form part of the statutory development plan for the area.

3.8 The current adopted NDPs are:

- **Hough-on-the-hill (adopted July 2015)**
- **Foston (adopted June 2017)**
- **Long Bennington (adopted July 2017)**
- **Colsterworth and District (adopted September 2017)**
- **Skillington (adopted September 2017)**
- **Subton (adopted July 2015)**
- **Thurlby (adopted March 2019)**
- **Carlby (adopted March 2019)**

3.9 The timetable for preparing an NDP is for the local community preparing the Plan to determine. Therefore, timetables for NDPs are not included in the LDS.

3.10 Details of NDPs being prepared in South Kesteven and the stage they have reached are available on the Council's website.

4. WHAT ARE WE PROPOSING?

WHAT DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT ARE WE GOING TO PREPARE?

- 4.1 In the current adopted Local Plan, the Council is committed to an early review of the adopted Local Plan 2011-2036. The Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for examination during the transition period therefore it was examined against the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012.
- 4.2 An early review of the Local Plan will enable policies and proposals to take account of the revised National Policy that was introduced in July 2018 and further revised in February 2019.
- 4.3 The review policy in the adopted Local Plan requires the Council to commence document preparation from April 2020, with submission to the Secretary of State for examination to be anticipated by the end of December 2023.
- 4.4 The revised Local Plan will set out the strategic direction for development in the District.
- 4.5 The AMR will be the mechanism for monitoring the effects of policies in the current Local Plan, and if during this period it is apparent that policies are ineffective, or not satisfactory in achieving the desired outcomes, relevant steps will be put in place to ensure that this is addressed through the review of the Local Plan.
- 4.6 In addition, specific matters will be addressed in the review, but are not limited to the following:
- The progress being made towards implementation of the spatial strategy for South Kesteven, in particular the focus on development in Grantham to be achieved by the end of the plan period;
 - Taking account of the latest National Planning Framework, particularly in relation to the assessment of housing needs and future requirement for employment land; and
 - Further assessment of the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller Community, including Travelling Showpeople, and the need to allocate land to meet identified needs.
- 4.7 The document profile is set out below. The expected timetable for the key milestones in preparing the Local Plan review are contained in Table 2 and Appendix 1.

Table 1: South Kesteven Local Plan Profile

South Kesteven Local Plan Profile	
Role and Subject	Strategic document setting out the vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the District. It will outline how the known development requirements for the District will be met to 2041, including the amount of housing and employment land requirements. It will also include development management policies, and if required, site allocations.
Geographical Coverage	District wide.
Status	Development Plan Document. Once adopted it will replace the South Kesteven Local Plan 2011-2036.
Chain of Conformity	General conformity with the 2018 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The Policies Map will be revised and updated on the adoption of the DPD/Local Plan. Any other South Kesteven DPD/SPDs to be consistent with the Local Plan.

Table 2: Key Milestones and Timescales

Key Milestones	Regulation	Timescale
Commencement of document preparation		April 2020
Consultation on the scope of the Plan	Regulation 18	September 2020
Consultation on Draft Local Plan	Regulation 18	September/ October 2022
Consultation on the Pre-Submission Local Plan	Regulation 19	April/ May 2023
Submission	Regulation 22	December 2023
Examination	Regulation 24	January - December 2024
Inspector's Report	Regulation 25	December 2024
Adoption	Regulation 26	January 2025

Table 3: Arrangements for Production

Arrangements for Production	
Lead Organisation	SKDC Planning Policy Team with support from other Council service areas and partner organisations
Political Management	Cabinet decision at relevant key stages and milestones. Full Council decision at submission and adopted stages. Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee may also consider versions of the emerging Local Plan and make recommendations to Cabinet as appropriate
Community and Stakeholder Involvement	Stakeholder and community involvement using a range of consultation methods in accordance with the adopted SCI
Monitoring and Review	The Local Plan Monitoring Framework will be monitored on an annual basis

OTHER DOCUMENTS TO BE PRODUCED

SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS

4.8 There is no longer a requirement for the LDS to include a programme for the preparation of any other planning documents that the LPA intends to produce. For this reason, the timeline in Appendix 1 only includes details of South Kesteven's DPDs. In the interest of transparency, it is proposed that the following Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) in Table 4 will be prepared and adopted over the next three years;

Table 4: Supplementary Planning Documents

Document	Proposed Year of Adoption
Design SPD	2021
Stamford North Development Brief SPD	2021
Developer Contributions SPD	2021

4.9 A timetable for the documents in the table above is included in Appendix 2.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

4.10 The qualifying bodies in Rippingale and Dowsby (formally Aveland), Baston, Bourne, Carlton and Normanton, Caythorpe and Frieston, Castle Bytham, Old Somerby, Ropsley and District, Stamford, and The Deepings are currently leading on preparations of the NDPs in their areas. The Council is supporting the Parish Councils in the preparation of their draft NDPs.

4.11 The Council will also support other neighbourhood plans that might come forward throughout the district.

EVIDENCE BASE

4.12 Plans need to be supported by a robust evidence base. Evidence studies have been completed to support the preparation of the DPDs to date.

4.13 The evidence base will be continued to be updated and expanded as the review of the South Kesteven Local Plan is prepared. This will include reviewing existing studies as necessary to make sure they remain relevant and up to date. It may also involve the joint commissioning of work with neighbouring authorities and/ or other partners.

5. RISKS TO PRODUCTION

IDENTIFIED RISKS

5.1 The preparation of the review of the Local Plan presents a number of risks which could affect the work programme and timetable. These can be addressed through robust planning. The key risks and proposed mitigation measures that may need to be implemented in order to ensure that sound documents are prepared in a timely manner are identified in the table below;

Table 5: Risks to Production and Proposed Mitigation Measures

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Changes to Planning System		
Changes in legislation or to National Planning Policy	Regulations may have implications for the plan preparation, including additional work.	Continued awareness of forthcoming legislative and major policy changes. Ensure resources are in place to implement any changes to procedures or handle increased work load.
Process		
Higher than expected response to consultation	The officer resource/time to process and consider representations may be increased. This could delay timing of key milestones e.g. Submission of the Plan to Secretary of State for examination.	Deploy additional resources to record and appraise representations.
Covid-19 restrictions	Consultation operations could be affected whereby 'normal' consultation techniques may not be available.	Review the SCI to account for Covid-19 restrictions.
The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) unable to meet the timetable. (PINS set the timetable for the examination process following submission of a DPD)	Once submitted, the process of the Plan to timetable is heavily dependent on the ability of PINS to resource it. Examination and/or Inspectors report delayed, and key milestones not met.	Liaise with PINS on timetable and provide early notification of anticipated submission date.
Failure to comply with Duty to Cooperate	Failure to demonstrate that the Duty to Cooperate was satisfied would render the Plan unsound.	Develop and implement a Duty to Cooperate Plan ensuring the Council effectively engages with DTC partners from the beginning of the plan making process at Officer and Member Level.
Plan being found unsound	The Plan cannot process to	Ensure we have a complete,

	<p>adoption if it is found unsound by an Inspector following examination.</p> <p>Additional work would be required, and the adoption of the Plan delayed.</p>	<p>clear and up to date evidence base, including continued engagement with the community and key stakeholders. Completion of soundness and legal compliance self-assessment checklist at each stage.</p>
Legal challenge to the Local Plan	<p>Part or all the document could be challenged by third party and quashed if challenge unsuccessful.</p>	<p>Engagement of critical friend to review and advise at key stages and Planning Inspectorate visit before submission.</p> <p>Seek legal advice as and when required.</p> <p>Keep up to date with best practice through training and PAS website.</p>
Resources		
Reduced number of officers and knowledge within the team as a result of staff sickness/turnover.	<p>This cannot always be avoided or predicted. Significant and constant staff turnover would severely affect the Council's ability to achieve the time scales set out within the LDS</p>	<p>Encourage teamwork as part of day to day working so all staff have some knowledge about all the projects currently being undertaken.</p> <p>Secondments or short-term contacts may be necessary subject to financial constraints.</p>
Financial resources	<p>Unforeseen issues can arise during the preparation of the Local Plan.</p>	<p>Careful project planning to avoid unplanned work.</p> <p>Keep under review opportunities for joint commissioning of evidence base studies.</p>
Failure of external consultants	<p>The failure of external consultation to deliver required specialist support could impact on the ability to achieve the time scales set out.</p>	<p>Ensure objectives are clearly stated in project brief.</p> <p>Arrange regular updates and meetings with the consultant.</p>

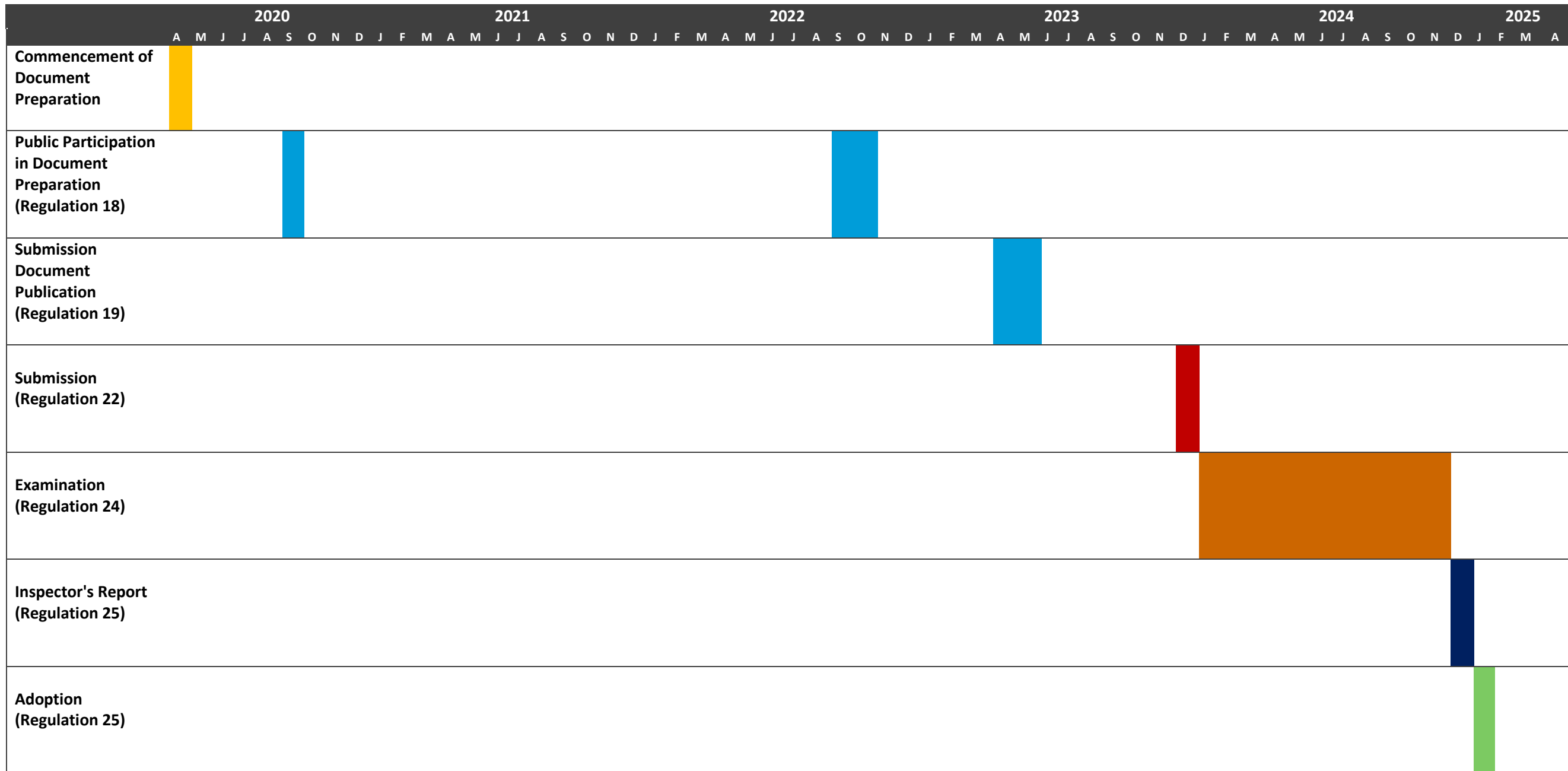
6. MONITORING

MONITORING PROGRESS

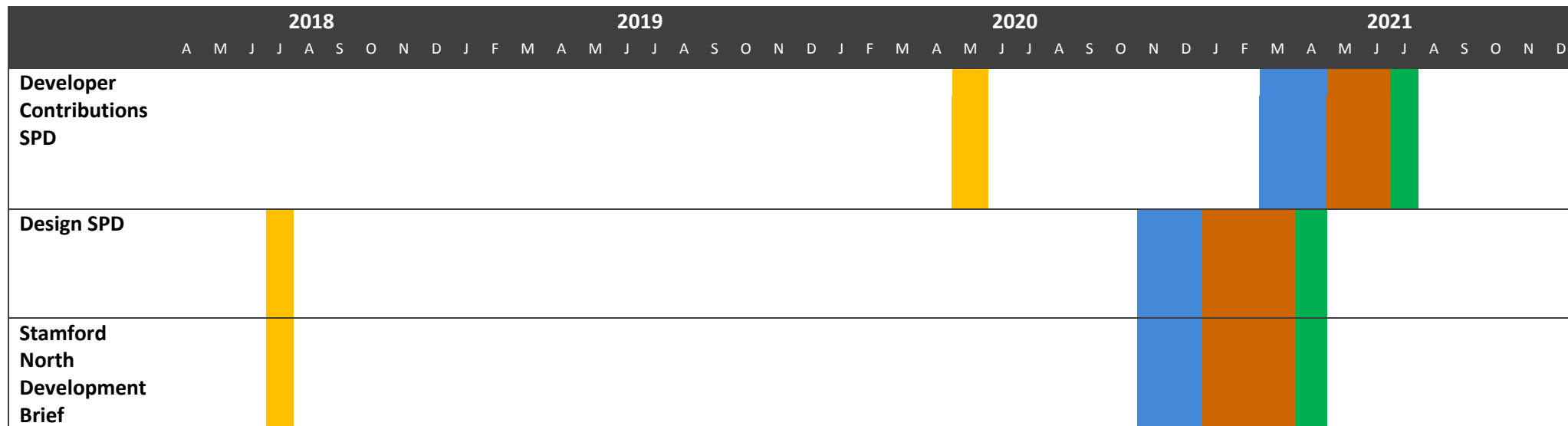
- 6.1 Progress against the LDS will be reviewed annually and reported through the AMR. This will enable consideration of changes, if any, that may be required to the LDS including revisions to the Local Plan timetable. Any changes will be brought forward through a review of the LDS.
- 6.2 During the year, progress on the preparations of the Local Plan will be published on the Council's website, ensuring that the local community and others with an interest in the Local Plan are kept informed.

7. APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: DPD TIMETABLE



APPENDIX 2: OTHER DOCUMENTS TO BE PRODUCED



KEY
Commencement of Document Preparation
Public Participation in Document Preparation
Consideration of Representations
Adoption

GLOSSARY

Community Right to Build Order - an Order made by the local planning authority (under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) that allows a local community group to bring forward a small development for one or more purposes, such as new homes, businesses and community facilities, but it must be small scale in comparison to the size of settlement.

Development Plan Documents (DPDs) - They are spatial planning documents that are subject to independent examination. There is a right for those making representations seeking change to be heard at an independent examination.

Local Development Framework (LDF) - This term has been replaced by the term 'Local Plan'. It was used to describe a portfolio of Local Development Documents that provide a framework for delivering the spatial planning strategy for the area. It also contained a number of other documents, including the Annual Monitoring Report, and any 'saved' plans that affect the area. This term is now replaced by 'Local Plan'.

Localism Act 2011 - Government legislation containing wide range of reforms to the planning system.

Local Plan - The new term for the suite of Development Plan documents. It may consist of a single or number of Development Plan Documents.

Local Planning Authority (LPA)- The public authority whose duty it is to carry out specific planning functions for a particular area.

Local Development Scheme (LDS) - sets out the programme for the preparation of local development documents.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - sets out the Governments planning policies. Replaces all previous Planning Policy Statements and associated Guidance.

Neighbourhood Development Order - an Order made by a local planning authority (under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) which allows communities to grant planning permission for development they want to see go ahead in a neighbourhood. It enables them to allow certain developments to be built without the need to apply for planning permission.

Neighbourhood Development Plans - The Plans are prepared by a parish council or neighbourhood forum for a particular neighbourhood area (made under the Localism Act 2011) and have to be in general conformity with the district plan, undergo Examination and a Referendum. After adoption they are used (alongside other policy documents) to determine planning applications.

Planning Inspectorate (PINS) - an independent Government agency that processes planning and enforcement appeals and holds inquiries into development plan documents.

Policies Map - the policies map illustrates all policies and proposals contained in DPDs, together with any saved policies. Previously known as the Proposals Map.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) - sets out the standards which the plan-making authority intends to achieve in relation to involving the community in the preparation, alteration and continuing review of all planning policy documents and in development management decisions.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) - an assessment of the environmental effects of policies, plans and programmes, required by European legislation, which will be part of the public consultation on the policies.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) - these cover a wide range of issues on which the plan making authority wishes to provide guidance to supplement the policies and proposals in development plan documents. They do not form part of the development plan and are not subject to independent examination.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) - a tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives (i.e. social, environmental and economic factors).

ABBREVIATIONS

AMR – Authority’s Monitoring Report

DPD - Development Plan Document

LDF - Local Development Framework

LDS - Local Development Scheme

LMWLP - Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

LPA - Local Planning Authority

MWDF - Minerals and Waste Development Framework

NDP - Neighbourhood Development Plan

PINS - Planning Inspectorate

SA - Sustainability Appraisal

SCI - Statement of Community Involvement

SEA - Strategic Environmental Assessment

SPD - Supplementary Planning Document