



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

South Kesteven District Council

**Local Development Scheme
2026-2029**

January 2026



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DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Background	2
3. South Kesteven Local Plan.....	3
Current Local Plan	3
Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan	3
Neighbourhood Plans	4
Supplementary Planning Documents.....	5
Authority Monitoring Report	5
4. Local Development Programme	5
South Kesteven Local Plan.....	5
Other Documents to be Produced	8
5. Risks to Production.....	9
6. Monitoring	11

Tables

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

Appendices

Appendix 1: Local Development Plan Timetable

Appendix 2: Glossary

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a project plan to inform the community and other partners what strategic planning documents (i.e. Local Plan) are being prepared. It identifies key milestones in their preparation, including the stages where documents will be made available for consultation.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 The LDS is required to be kept up to date and was last reviewed in February 2025.
- 1.5 This LDS covers the period 2026-2029 setting out an updated timetable for the review of the Local Plan and contains:
 - Background information to provide context for the LDS
 - Details of which documents the Council will produce or review over the period 2026-2029, and how they relate to each other
 - A profile and timetable to produce each strategic document.
- 1.6 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 future revisions to the timetable and documents. We will consider the need for revisions to the LDS as appropriate and publish up to date information on the Local Plan via our website.

2. Background

- 2.1 Development Plan Documents (DPDs) 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 over a 20-year period. They shape how the district grows over this period, being a key tool in deciding 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. The latest SCI¹ was adopted October 2021.
- 2.4 The Local Plan will also include Policies Maps. This is a map of an Ordnance Survey base for the whole of the LPAs area which shows where policies in the Local Plan apply. To help maintain a geographical frame of reference, 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 a DPD/Local Plan is adopted.
- 2.5 An integral part of producing a Local Plan is the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA). The SA/SEA is produced in tandem with the Local Plan and ensures 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.
- 2.6 There is a legal requirement, through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 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 (HRA) will be prepared and published for each DPD.
- 2.7 LPAs 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, however are taken into account in determining

¹ [Statement of Community Involvement | South Kesteven District Council](#)

planning applications. They are not subject to independent examination, although are subject to community consultation in accordance with the requirements of the SCI.

2.8 Details of adopted SPDs 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

3.1 At the time this LDS comes into effect, South Kesteven District Council has adopted the following documents.

Current Local Plan

3.2 The Local Plan² (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.

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 Plan³ (LMWLP) is made up of two parts: the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (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 country 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

² [The South Kesteven Local Plan | South Kesteven District Council](#)

³ [Minerals and waste – Lincolnshire County Council](#)

3.6 LCC are preparing a new minerals and waste Local Plan for Lincolnshire. The new plan will replace both parts of the adopted LMWLP. Further information including the timetable for updating the LMWLP can be found at the link below:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/planning/minerals-waste/2>

Neighbourhood Plans

3.7 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 Order and Community Right to Build Orders. These allow for residents of local community to shape the future of their local area.

3.8 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.

3.9 The current made NDPs are:

- Hough-on-the-Hill (July 2015)
- Foston (June 2017)
- Long Bennington (July 2017)
- Colsterworth and District (September 2017)
- Skillington (September 2017)
- Subton (July 2015)
- Thurlby (March 2019)
- Carlby (March 2019)
- Old Somerby (June 2021)
- Ropsley and District (June 2021)
- The Deepings (June 2021)
- Stamford (July 2022)
- Caythorpe and Frieston (May 2023)
- Rippingale (May 2023)
- Claypole (November 2023)
- Corby Glen (February 2024)

3.10 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. Details of NDPs being prepared in South Kesteven and the stage they have reached are available on the Council's website⁴.

⁴ [Neighbourhood Plans | South Kesteven District Council](#)

Supplementary Planning Documents

3.11 SPDs provide more detailed guidance on how a particular policy should be implemented or site developed. SPDs are not subject to independent examination and there is no requirement for the LDS to include a timetable for the preparation of SPDs.

3.12 The following SPDs accompany the adopted Local Plan

- Planning Obligations (adopted June 2012)⁵
- Rectory Farm Supplementary Planning Document (adopted November 2021)⁶
- Design Guidelines for Rutland and South Kesteven (adopted November 2021)⁷

Authority Monitoring Report

3.13 The Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) reviews progress in preparing development plans and implementing policies. The AMR includes information on the implementation of the LDS, the Local Plan Review, SPDs, Neighbourhood Plans and information relating to co-operation under the Duty to Cooperate.

3.14 Data monitoring performance against Local Plan policies is also reported within the AMR. The latest AMR can be found on the Council's website.⁸

4. Local Development Programme

4.1 The documents the Council will prepare over the next three years are:

South Kesteven Local Plan

4.2 The Council is preparing a new Local Plan, which when adopted, will replace all existing adopted Local Plan documents. The revised Local Plan will set out the strategic direction for development in the District.

4.3 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.

4.4 The review policy in the adopted Local Plan required 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.

⁵ [Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document: June 2012 \(southkesteven.gov.uk\)](http://southkesteven.gov.uk)

⁶ [Rectory Farm SPD Final .pdf \(southkesteven.gov.uk\)](http://southkesteven.gov.uk)

⁷ [Design Guide SPD \(southkesteven.gov.uk\)](http://southkesteven.gov.uk)

⁸ [Authority Monitoring Report | South Kesteven District Council](http://southkesteven.gov.uk)

4.5 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.

4.6 This review of the Local Plan will enable policies and proposals to take account of the National Planning Policy Framework which was published in December 2024. The changes have been subject to consultation with legislation now in place in the form of the Levelling UP and Regeneration Act 2023. As part of the transition period the government has stated that Local Planning Authorities must submit Local Plans for examination no later than December 2026 to be adopted under the existing legal framework. The revised timetable takes account of this.

4.7 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 desired outcomes, relevant steps will be put in place to ensure this is addressed through the review of the Local Plan.

4.8 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 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 2023 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.
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Table 2: Key Milestones and Timescales

Key Milestones	Regulation	Timescale
Commencement of document preparation		Completed: April 2020
Consultation on the scope of the Plan	Regulation 18	Completed: 12 October – 23 November 2020
Consultation on Draft Local Plan	Regulation 18	Completed: 29 February – 25 April 2024
Consultation on Draft Local Plan Focussing on Additional Sites	Regulation 18	Completed: July - August 2025
Consultation on the Pre-submission Local Plan	Regulation 19	September – October 2026
Submission	Regulation 22	December 2026
Examination	Regulation 24	December 2026 – December 2027
Inspector's Report	Regulation 25	November/December 2027
Adoption	Regulation 26	Late 2027 Early 2028

Table 3: Arrangements for Production

Arrangements for Production	
Lead Organisation	South Kesteven District Council 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.
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
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Other Documents to be Produced

Supplementary Planning Documents

- 4.9 There is no longer a requirement for the Local Development Scheme (LDS) to include a programme for the preparation of any other planning documents the Local Planning Authority (LPA)E intends to produce. For this reason, the timeline in Appendix 1 only includes details of South Kesteven's Development Plan Documents.
- 4.10 In the interest of transparency, it is proposed that a Developer Contribution Supplementary Planning Document (SPDs) will be produced following the introduction of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill and the new Infrastructure Levy.

Design Codes

- 4.11 The Council is preparing a design code, in accordance with the National Design Code and required by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. The design code will set out simple, concise, illustrated design requirements which provide specific detailed parameters for the entire district. It is anticipated that the design code will be adopted in 2026.
- 4.12 Further information on the Design Code can be found on our website – www.southkesteven.gov.uk/designcode

Neighbourhood Planning

- 4.13 The qualifying bodies in Barrowby, Baston, Bourne, Carlton Scroop and Normanton, Castle Bytham, Pointon and Sempringham, and Great Gonerby have designated Neighbourhood Development Plan (NPD) Areas. The Council is supporting the parish councils in the preparation of their draft NPDs.
- 4.14 The Council will also support other NPDs which may come forward throughout the District.

Evidence Base

- 4.15 Plans need to be supported by a robust evidence base. Evidence studies have been completed to support the preparation of the DPDs to date.
- 4.16 The evidence base will continue 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 or other partners.

5. Risks to Production

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 project management. The key risks and proposed mitigation measures that may need to be implemented in order to ensure sound documents are prepared in a timely manner, are identified in the table below:

Table 4: Risks to Production and Proposed Mitigation Measures

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Changes to the 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 workload.
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.	Use of AI is being evaluated in terms of being used to summarise some of the representations. Deploy additional resources to record and appraise representations.
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 Duty to Co-Operate partners from

		the beginning of the plan making process at Officer and Member Level.
Plan being found unsound	The Plan cannot progress to adoption if it is found unsound by an Inspector following examination. Additional work would be required, and the adoption of the Plan delayed.	Ensure we have a complete, 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.
Legal challenge to the Local Plan	Part or all the document could be challenged by third party.	Engagement of critical friend to review and advise at key stages and Planning Inspectorate visit before submission. Seek legal advice as and when required. Keep up to date with best practice through training and the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) website.
Resources		
Reduced number of officers and knowledge within the team because of staff sickness/turnover.	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	Encourage teamwork as part of day to day working so all staff have some knowledge about all the projects currently being undertaken. Secondments or short-term contacts may be necessary subject to financial constraints.
Financial resources	Unforeseen issues can arise during the preparation of the Local Plan.	Careful project planning to avoid unplanned work. Keep under review opportunities for joint commissioning of evidence base studies.
Failure of external consultants	The failure of external consultation to deliver required specialist support could impact on the ability to achieve the time scales set out.	Ensure objectives and timescales are clearly stated in project brief. Arrange regular updates and meetings with the consultant.

6. Monitoring

- 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 Councils website, ensuring the local community and others with an interest in the Local Plan are kept informed.

Appendix 1: Local Development Plan Timetable

Year	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		2025						2026						2027													
Month	Apr-Dec		Jan-Dec		Jan-Dec		Jan-Dec		Jan-Dec		Winter		Spring		Summer		Autumn		Winter		Spring		Summer		Autumn		Winter		Spring		Summer		Autumn			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	
Commencement of document preparation	■																																			
Consultation on the scope of the Plan (Regulation 18)		■		■	■																															
Consultation on the Draft Local Plan (Regulation 18)				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■																									
Consultation on Draft Local Plan Focussing on Additional Sites (Regulation 18)												■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■													
Consultation on the Pre-submission Local Plan (Regulation 19)																																				
Submission (Regulation 22)																													■	■	■					
Examination (Regulation 24)																																				
Inspector's Report (Regulation 25)																																■				
Main Modifications (Regulation 25)																																				
Adoption (Regulation 26)																																		■		

Key
Public Consultation
Preparation
Submission
Examination

Appendix 2: 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 planning 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.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) - a tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives (i.e. social, environmental and economic factors). The SA process typically incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment

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.

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