

Gloucester City Local Development Scheme

2021 – 2023

(Adopted March 2021)



1. Introduction

- 1.1 Gloucester City Council has a statutory responsibility to prepare and maintain a Local Plan for its area. This sets the planning vision for the city and is used to determine planning applications.
- 1.2 As part of its ongoing responsibility the City Council must prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS) which outlines the timetable for the preparation and review of Local Development Documents (LDD) which are Development Plan Documents (DPD). Specifically, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), sets out that an LDS must:
- Contain a brief description of all LDDs which are to be prepared as DPDs and the content and geographic area to which they relate;
 - Identify which documents are to be prepared jointly with one or more other local planning authorities; and
 - Set out a timetable for producing and the revision of DPDs, with key milestones.
- 1.4 The City Council last adopted an LDS in October 2017 and it is replaced by this document.

2. Background

- 2.1 The last fully adopted Gloucester Local Plan is from 1983. A number of policies in this plan were formally 'saved' by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in 2007. A draft replacement Local Plan was published in 2001 and updated in 2002. This version of the plan, the Second Stage Deposit, was approved by the Council for the purposes of development management. A number of these policies are given weight in decision making. [Further details are available on the City Council's website.](#)
- 2.2 The Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy (JCS) was adopted in December 2017. It is a co-ordinated strategic development plan that sets out how the area will develop between 2011 and 2031. Policies in the JCS replaced a number of policies from the Gloucester Local Plan 1983.
- 2.3 Following adoption, the JCS authorities are now progressing a review. As the first formal part of this review, an Issues and Options consultation took place between November 2018 and January 2019. [Further details are available on the JCS website.](#)
- 2.3 Underneath the JCS, each of the JCS authorities is progressing a 'district plan', which will deliver the JCS locally and address any issues and opportunities specific to that local authority.
- 2.3 In November 2020 the Council revoked a number of its Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and Planning Briefs, but still retains other SPDs and guidance and has adopted the Matson Estate Regeneration SPD (November 2019) and the Podsmead Estate Regeneration SPD (November 2019). [Further details are available on the City Council's website.](#)
- 2.4 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) sets out what Local Planning Authorities are statutorily required to do in preparing LDDs.

2.5 The Act (as amended) outlines the types of LDD that the Council must prepare (or may choose to prepare).

1. **Development Plan Documents (DPDs):** DPDs are key documents and form a part of the statutory Development Plan, including Development Plan Documents, the Waste Local Plan, Minerals Local Plan and Neighbourhood Development Plans (see paragraph 2.6). DPDs are subject to public consultation and to a public examination, which is where the Plan is considered against the 'tests of soundness', legal compliance and the 'Duty to Cooperate' (there is a different process for Neighbourhood Development Plans). Planning applications must be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Waste Local Plan and Minerals Local Plan are the responsibility of Gloucestershire County Council and are covered by a separate LDS.
2. **Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs):** SPDs are subject to a statutory process and public consultation, but not examination in public. They do not form a part of the statutory Development Plan but are a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. They are used to provide more guidance on a policy or site allocation in DPDs.

2.6 In addition, Parish Councils or Neighbourhood Forums can prepare Neighbourhood Development Plans for their area. Once 'made', NDPs form a part of the Development Plan for the area that they cover. Neighbourhood planning is community-led, with support provided by the Local Authority. The timetable for the preparation of NDPs and the primary resources for doing so are the responsibility of the Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum. Therefore, the LDS does not include information on the preparation of NDPs.

3. Gloucester's Local Development Framework

- 3.1 Gloucester City Council is currently progressing two DPDs; the Gloucester City Plan, and the review of the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy.
- 3.2 These plans, together with the County Council's minerals and waste DPDs, and any 'made' Neighbourhood Development Plans, will form the 'Development Plan' for Gloucester City. Once adopted, this means that all development must be in accordance with these plans, and any neighbourhood development plans, unless there are material considerations that would indicate otherwise. (Section 38 (6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).
- 3.3 In preparing these DPDs, the Council must consult the public in accordance with an agreed Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The Council's latest SCI was adopted in 2015 and is [available to download from the City Council's website](#).
- 3.4 Table 1 below explains how the different documents relate to one another.

Gloucester's Local Development Framework			
Gloucester's Development Plan	Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)	Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)	Local Development Scheme (LDS)
Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP)	Explains how the community can get involved in the preparation of planning documents.	Other documents which give advice to supplement policies and proposals in the JCS, City Plan and County Council DPDs.	This project plan setting out the programme for preparing Development Plan Documents.
There are no active NDPs at this time. NDPs are led by the community and can be developed by Parish councils or designated Neighbourhood forums.			
Joint Core Strategy (JCS)			
Sets out the long-term spatial vision for Gloucester City, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Boroughs. Identifies strategic sites and policies to deliver the vision.			
Gloucester City Plan (GCP)			
Delivers the JCS locally. Identifies and allocates local sites for development. Contains criteria-based policies against which all development within the City will be determined.			
Waste Core Strategy			
Produced and maintained by Gloucestershire County Council and subject to a separate LDS			
Minerals Local Plan			
Produced and maintained by Gloucestershire County Council and subject to a separate LDS			

Table 1 – The Development Plan, SPDs, the SCI and the LDS

4. Emerging Development Plan Documents

Gloucester City Plan DPD

- 4.1 The Gloucester City Plan (GCP) sits beneath the Adopted JCS covering the period up to 2031. It delivers the JCS locally and addresses any issues and opportunities specific to the city. It will provide criteria that will be applied when considering planning applications for different forms of development. It will make smaller-scale site allocations in the city to contribute towards development needs. Geographically the GCP covers the administrative area of Gloucester City Council only.

4.2 The GCP has reached an advanced stage of preparation, with the following stages completed:

- Scope Gloucester City Plan: May to August 2011;
- Part 1 Gloucester City Plan, 'Context and Key Principles': March to April 2012;
- Part 2 Gloucester City Plan, 'Places, Sites and City Centre Strategy': May to July 2013;
- Draft Gloucester City Plan: January to February 2017;
- Pre-Submission Gloucester City Plan: November 2019 to February 2020.
- Submission: November 2020

4.3 The remaining stages / milestones in the preparation of the GCP are as follows:

Milestone	Date
Examination in Public	May 2021
Adoption	Winter 2021/22

Joint Core Strategy Review DPD

4.4 The Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy (JCS) Development Plan Document was adopted in December 2017. It is a co-ordinated strategic plan that sets out how the local authority areas of Gloucester City, Cheltenham Borough and Tewkesbury Borough will develop between 2011 and 2031. It sets out a spatial strategy, planning policies and site allocations to deliver development needs, whilst protecting the natural and built environment.

4.5 A review of the JCS has now commenced, and an Issues and Options consultation took place between November 2018 and January 2019. The adopted JCS included a commitment to undertake an immediate review of the plan in relation to housing supply and retail/town centre matters. However, in response to the plan-making requirements set out in the updated National Planning Policy Framework (2019), the scope of the review will be comprehensive.

4.6 The proposed timetable for the completion and adoption of the review is as follows:

Milestone	Date
Issues and Options consultation	Winter 2018/19 COMPLETE
Preferred Options consultation	Summer 2021
Pre-Submission Consultation	Winter 2022
Submission to the Secretary of State	Spring 2023
Examination	Summer 2023
Adoption	Winter 2023

5. Other Planning documents

Neighbourhood Development Plans

- 5.1 At the time of writing, there are no Parish Councils or Neighbourhood Forums actively working towards an NDP within Gloucester City. [However, information for communities that may wish to do so is available on the City Council website.](#)

Supplementary Planning Documents

- 5.2 The City Council has adopted a number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) to support existing policies. SPDs provide clarity and guidance to policies contained within DPDs. No new SPDs are currently being progressed.

6. Further information

- 6.1 The Council's Planning Policy Team is responsible for maintaining this LDS and for preparing the various documents within the Local Development Framework. If you have any questions or would like any further information, please contact:

Gloucester City Council
Planning Policy Team
Gloucester City Council
PO Box 3252
Gloucester, GL1 9FW

Email: cityplan@gloucester.gov.uk
Website: <https://www.gloucester.gov.uk/planning-development/planning-policy/>
Phone: 01452 396396