

Greater Cambridge Local Development Scheme (local plan timetable)



January 2025

Cambridge City Council

PO Box 700,
Cambridge, CB1 0JH

South Cambridgeshire District Council

South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne
Business Park, Cambridge, CB23 6EA

This Greater Cambridge Local Development Scheme (local plan timetable) 2025 was approved by:

Cambridge City Council

Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure, following debate by the Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee – 14 January 2025

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Cabinet – 14 January 2025

It took effect from 22 January 2025.

Greater Cambridge Local Development Scheme (local plan timetable) 2025

Introduction

1. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Section 15 requires that Local Planning Authorities must prepare and maintain a document to be known as their Local Development Scheme (noting that the [Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 \(Schedule 7, 15B\)](#), which was enacted in 2023, but which will be brought into force at a future date, updates this requirement to prepare and maintain a “local plan timetable”). This Local Development Scheme provides information on the Development Plan Documents that the Councils intend to produce and sets out the timetable for their production.
2. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is designed to help the local community and all our partners interested in development and the use of land and buildings in Greater Cambridge to understand what plans the Councils intend to produce.
3. Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (“the Councils”) have committed to work together to prepare a new Local Plan for Greater Cambridge. They have also committed to prepare jointly an Area Action Plan for North East Cambridge.
4. This LDS is therefore prepared and agreed jointly by both Local Planning Authorities. This LDS updates and replaces the LDS adopted in 2022, together with the Addenda added to it in March and November 2024.

What new Development Plan Documents are to be prepared?

Context

5. The plans and timetables addressed in this version of the LDS are based on the current plan-making system. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act was given Royal Assent in November 2023, which proposes changes to the plan-making system. On 12th December 2024, Government confirmed a new National Planning Policy Framework, and also confirmed a transitional date for plans under the current plan-making system to be submitted of December 2026.
6. The LDS uses seasons in the timetables for plan making. These are using standard definition as used by the Meteorological Office as set out below. Where a key stage falls in Winter of a particular year, it will be followed by brackets saying ‘late’ for December and ‘early’ for January to February to

avoid confusion about the part of the year involved.

Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
March to May	June to August	September to November	December to February

Greater Cambridge Local Plan

7. The Councils have committed to work together to prepare a new Local Plan, for the combined area of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, described as “Greater Cambridge”. The timetable for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan is set out below, which intends to submit a Local Plan under the current plan making system by December 2026.

North East Cambridge and Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant (CWWTP) Development Consent Order (DCO)

8. The Councils are also working together to prepare an Area Action Plan for the North East Cambridge area (the geographic extent of this area is shown at Appendix 1).
9. Effective and efficient development of the North East Cambridge site is dependent on the relocation of the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant (CWWTP) via a separate Development Consent Order (DCO) process that Anglian Water is undertaking. The Councils agreed in January 2022 a Proposed Submission North East Cambridge Area Action Plan (NECAAP) for future public consultation, contingent upon the separate Development Control Order being undertaken by Anglian Water for the relocation of the Waste Water Treatment Plant being approved.
10. A decision by the Secretary of State regarding the CWWTP DCO is expected no later than 12 January 2025. If approved there would follow a 6 week judicial review period. If no request for judicial review is received within that period then the decision will be confirmed. Given the current position, this version of the LDS retains the NECAAP timetable agreed in August 2022, noting that it is out of date. This LDS will therefore be further updated confirming the future of the NECAAP once timings are clearer.

Neighbourhood Planning

11. Local communities have the power to influence the future of the places they live and work by preparing neighbourhood plans. When a neighbourhood plan has been successful at examination which is carried out by an independent examiner and a local referendum voted in support of the plan, the Council must adopt it as a ‘made’ neighbourhood plan as part of the development plan, and take it into account when it makes decisions on planning applications in the area, alongside other adopted development plan

documents.

- 12 As neighbourhood plans are not prepared by the Council and their timetables are dependent on the progress made by the community, timetables for their preparation are not included the LDS.

Greater Cambridge Local Plan timetable

Document title	Subject matter and geographical area	Chain of Conformity	Consultation	Publication of Proposed Submission DPD and public consultation	Submission and Examination of DPD	Adoption and publication of DPD
Greater Cambridge Local Plan	Includes the Vision, Objectives and Spatial Development Strategy and policies for Greater Cambridge Prepared for the whole of the administrative areas covered by Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council	Conformity with the NPPF	Issues and Options (Reg 18) January 2020 Preferred Option Consultation (Reg 18) Autumn 2021 Draft Plan Consultation (Reg 18) Autumn/Winter (early) 2025	Proposed Submission Consultation (Reg 19) Summer/Autumn 2026 Note: to follow the outcome of Cambridge WWTP DCO	Submission to Secretary of State for independent Examination (Reg 22) December 2026 Note: subject to the outcome of Cambridge WWTP DCO	Subject to progress of independent Examination

North East Cambridge Area Action Plan timetable: to be updated following outcome of CWWTP DCO

Document title	Subject matter and geographical area	Chain of Conformity	Consultation	Publication of Proposed Submission DPD and public consultation	Submission and Examination of DPD	Adoption and publication of DPD
North East Cambridge Area Action Plan	Vision and planning framework to ensure the coordination of development in the Cambridge Northern Fringe East development site and the Cambridge Science Park (see map at Appendix 1)	Conformity with the NPPF Compatibility with the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2021	Issues and Options 1 (Reg 18) Winter 2014/2015 Issues and Options 2 (Reg 18) Spring 2019 Draft Area Action Plan (Reg 18) Summer 2020	Proposed Submission Consultation (Reg 19) Autumn 2024 Note: Proposed Submission plan agreed in January 2022 for consultation to follow the outcome of Cambridge WWTP DCO	Submission to Secretary of State for independent Examination (Reg 22) Summer/Autumn 2025 Note: subject to the outcome of Cambridge WWTP DCO	Subject to progress of independent Examination

Appendix 1:

Geographic extent of North East Cambridge Area Action Plan

