

Authority Monitoring Report 2023/24: Progress against the Local Development Scheme

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1 Introduction

1.1 This report looks at progress made in producing development plan documents against the key milestones identified in the current Local Development Scheme (LDS) which covers the period 2021 to 2024. The Council is currently working on an updated LDS. However, publication has been delayed as the content may need to be revised depending on the outcome of the Government's consultation on 'Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system' ⁽¹⁾.

1.2 Whilst this report summarises progress made between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, it also includes some comments on other documents that have been/are being prepared following the adoption of the Bracknell Forest Local Plan. It therefore aims to provide the latest information available at December 2024.

This AMR should be read in conjunction with other topic based AMRs such as:

- Duty to Co-operate
- Economy
- Housing
- Environment

1 [Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system)

2 Context

2.1 Part 8 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) contains the provision that an AMR must include details of each document referred to in the LDS, and the timetable and stage that each document has reached in its preparation. If behind schedule, the reason(s) for this should be given.

2.2 The LDS sets out a three year work programme for local plans that the Council is preparing or intends to produce. The current LDS is the version that was agreed by Executive in October 2021⁽²⁾. It covers the three year period to Autumn 2024 and contains programmes for the following:

- Bracknell Forest Local Plan (BFLP) and,
- Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan (as this was adopted in January 2023, the process followed and time taken, is documented in previous AMRs)

2 Available to download at: <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning/planning-policy/planning-policy-guide>

3 Progress against the Local Development Scheme (2021)

3.1 The following table provides an update on progress made in producing the Bracknell Forest Local Plan, which was the only outstanding document listed in the October 2021 LDS at the beginning of the monitoring period.

Table 1 Progress against the October 2021 LDS

Document	Progress
The October 2021 LDS set out the key milestones for preparation of the Bracknell Forest Local Plan. The timings achieved are summarised below.	
Bracknell Forest Local Plan	<p><u>Milestone 1</u></p> <p>June 2015 to June 2016</p> <p>Commencement of Review (Notification of bodies/persons of intention to prepare a plan, SA scoping, evidence gathering and preparation of consultation documents).</p> <p>Completed.</p> <p><u>Milestone 2</u></p> <p>June/July 2016</p> <p>Issues and Options Consultation.</p> <p>Completed: 13 June to 25 July 2016.</p> <p><u>Milestone 3</u></p> <p>July 2016 to February 2018</p> <p>Further evidence and analysis.</p> <p>Completed.</p> <p><u>Milestone 4</u></p> <p>February/March 2018</p> <p>Draft Plan Consultation</p> <p>Completed: 8 February to 26 March 2018.</p> <p><u>Milestone 5</u></p> <p>September 2018</p>

Document	Progress
	<p>Further consultation on new sites</p> <p>Completed: 3 to 24 September 2018.</p> <p><u>Milestone 6</u></p> <p>September/October 2019</p> <p>Further consultation on additional growth options (Revised Growth Strategy)</p> <p>Completed: 25 October to 6 December 2019</p> <p><u>Milestone 7</u></p> <p>March - May 2021</p> <p>Publication</p> <p>Completed: 23 March to 11 May 2021.</p> <p><u>Milestone 8</u></p> <p>Autumn 2021</p> <p>Submission</p> <p>Completed: The Plan was submitted on 20 December 2021.</p> <p><u>Milestone 9</u></p> <p>Winter/Spring/Summer 2021/22</p> <p>Examination (Hearings/Inspectors' Report)</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Initial questions were received from the Inspectors in February 2022, a response being sent in March 2022. Stage 1 hearing sessions took place between 10 May and 15 June 2022, followed by Stage 2 hearing sessions between 18 and 20 October 2022. The Inspectors' post hearings letter was received in January 2023 ⁽³⁾</p> <p>Consultation on Proposed Main Modifications to the Local Plan took place between Tuesday 31st October 2023 and Tuesday 12 December 2023. A summary of responses received was placed on the Council's website ⁽⁴⁾</p> <p>The Inspectors considered all responses submitted and then finalised their report which was received by the Council on 1 March 2024. The report marked the end of the examination process. The report concluded that subject</p>

3 Post Hearings letter: consult.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/file/6134773

4 [Examination documents | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](#)

Document	Progress
	<p>to a number of Main Modifications, the Bracknell Forest Local Plan was sound, legally compliant and capable of adoption. The Inspectors' report is available to view on the Council's website ⁽⁵⁾ .</p> <p><u>Milestone 10</u></p> <p>Summer/Autumn 2022</p> <p>Report to Council/Adoption</p> <p>Completed: 19th March 2024</p> <p>The Bracknell Forest Local Plan was adopted by full council on 19th March 2024 ⁽⁶⁾</p> <p>The achievement of Milestone 10 was later than originally predicted due to the examination process taking longer than anticipated (the timetable was determined by the Planning Inspectors).</p>
Policies Map	<p>Alterations to the Policies Map for the Bracknell Forest Local Plan were consulted on at each stage of the plan making process, including at the Proposed Main Modifications stage. The final version of the Policies Map was adopted alongside the Bracknell Forest Local Plan on 19th March 2024.</p>

5 Inspectors' report: [Inspectors report - Bracknell Forest local plan \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](https://bracknell-forest.gov.uk/inspectors-report)

6 Council adoption of the Bracknell Forest Local Plan [Agenda for Council on Tuesday, 19 March 2024, 7.30 pm | Bracknell Forest Council](#) [COUNCIL Adoption of Bracknell Forest Local Plan Jan 2024 - MB.pdf](#)

4 Progress outside the Local Development Scheme (2021)

4.1 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

4.2 The legislation does not require information on SPDs to be specified in the LDS, however following the adoption of the Bracknell Forest Local Plan, they are the Council's main focus of work.

4.3 These documents do not form part of the Development Plan as they are not Development Plan Documents (DPDs). They provide guidance on the implementation of specified policies. Once adopted, they are capable of being a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

4.4 An extensive list of SPDs under preparation will be published in a future Local Development Scheme. The Council is currently working on this document, as referred to in section 1.

4.5 Reflecting the position at December 2024, the Council has recently adopted one SPD and is preparing three others. The details are summarised below:

4.6 Bracknell Town Centre Masterplans SPD (adopted October 2024)

4.7 The Bracknell Town Centre Masterplans SPD provides land use and design guidance for three strategic development sites in Bracknell town centre. These are: Southern Gateway (Policy LP10 in the Bracknell Forest Local Plan), Eastern Gateway (Policy LP9 in the Bracknell Forest Local Plan), and the High Street multi-storey car park.

4.8 The Council held a 6 week public consultation on the draft SPD between 8 April 2024 and 20 May 2024. This included public exhibitions at the Lexicon on 25 April 2024 and 27 April 2024. Those consulted included the Duty to Co-operate bodies ⁽⁷⁾ and the Council received representations from National Highways and Historic England. Following the close of the consultation, Officers considered all representations submitted. These helped inform the contents of the final document. The SPD was adopted by Council on the 15 October 2024 ⁽⁸⁾. All documents were published on the Council's Bracknell Town Centre Masterplans SPD website ⁽⁹⁾.

4.9 Housing SPD (in progress)

4.10 A Housing SPD is being produced jointly by the Council's Planning and Housing Teams. A public consultation on the draft SPD was held between Tuesday 1 October and Tuesday 5 November 2024. Those consulted included the Duty to Co-operate bodies and representations were received from National Highways, Historic England and Natural England. All consultation responses are being considered and will inform the final version of the SPD. Upon adoption of the Housing SPD, the Council will publish a consultation statement which will include a summary of all the comments that were received.

4.11 Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) SPD (in progress)

7 As defined by Part 2, clause 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012 (as amended)
8 [Cabinet Decision 2 - Adoption of the Bracknell Town Centre Masterplans Supplementary Planning Document.pdf](#)
9 [Bracknell Town Centre Masterplans Supplementary Planning Document | Bracknell Forest Council](#)

4.12 An updated Thames Basin Heaths SPA SPD will provide further guidance on Policy LP31 and Policy LP32 of the Bracknell Forest Local Plan. On adoption, it will replace the current version of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA SPD which was adopted in 2018. Public consultation on the draft document will be held between Wednesday 15 January and Wednesday 12 February 2025.

4.13 Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) (in progress)

4.14 Whilst not an SPD, the SCI sets out how Bracknell Forest's planning services consult and engage on planning matters. The current version of the SCI was adopted in 2014 and needs updating. To date, the Council has produced a draft version of a revised SCI which was subject to public consultation between Tuesday 29 October and Tuesday 3 December 2024. All comments received will be considered in finalising the document.

Copies of this booklet may be obtained in large print, Braille, on audio cassette or in other languages. To obtain a copy in an alternative format please telephone 01344 352000

Nepali

यस प्रचारको सक्षेपं वा सार निचोड चाहिं दिइने छ ठूलो अक्षरमा, ब्रेल वा क्यासेट सून्नको लागी । अरु भाषाको नक्कल पनि हासिल गर्न सकिने छ । कृपया सम्पर्क गनुहोला ०१३४४ ३५२००० ।

Tagalog

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