Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 8**

17 December 2024

Local Development Scheme Update 2024-2026

Purpose of the report

1. To seek agreement to a revised Local Development Scheme.

Recommendations

2. That the Authority agrees a revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) for the period 2024–2026 and publishes it on the website as the Authority's programme for reviewing the Local Plan.

Strategic Framework

3. The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and its approved strategic planning framework.

    - **Corporate Plan 2024-25**
      Objective 26. Work with neighbouring authorities to produce a single, updated Local Plan for the whole of the National Park by 2025, which will help achieve the vision and objectives in the National Park Management Plan.

Background

4. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) outlines the documents that make up the Local Plan, the arrangements for the production of the Plan and the approximate timescale to which it will be produced. The LDS must be kept up-to-date and made available publicly so that local communities and interested parties can keep track of progress.

5. The LDS was last reviewed and agreed by the Authority in March 2023. At that time, the Authority was consulting on options around land for housing development (Consultation No.6) to which over 800 responses were received. At the June 2024 Authority meeting Members agreed to establish the Local Plan Advisory Group (LPAG) to consider the responses and investigate the housing site options in greater detail prior to making final recommendations to the Authority. The work of this group was carried out over several months during late 2023 / early 2024 and culminated in a final list of preferred sites being made available for public comment during September and October 2024 (Consultation No.7).

6. The work of the LPAG and Consultation No.7 were not foreseen or included in the 2023 LDS timetable and as a result of this detailed phase of work further investigating sites,

the timetable for the development of the Local Plan has slipped. An updated LDS, which includes a revised timetable for producing the Local Plan is provided in **Annex**.

7. The next key stage in the development of the Plan is Publication stage. This is when the Authority publishes what it considers to be its final Plan and formal representations are invited. This stage is expected to commence in late February 2025. The Plan will then be submitted for examination during summer 2025, prior to adoption in early 2026.

Financial Implications

8. None arising from this report.

Legal Implications

9. A Local Development Scheme is required under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The LDS must be kept up-to-date and made available to the public.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

10. None arising from this report.

Conclusion

11. Whilst there have been some delays in the development of the Local Plan, it is now approaching its latter and more formal stages of preparation. If agreed, the LDS will be published on the Authority's website.

Judith Stockton
Local Plan Project Officer

Annex

Yorkshire Dales National Park
Local Development Scheme 2024 – 2026

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) describes the planning policy framework in the National Park and sets out a programme for its review.

The LDS was last updated in March 2023 to cover the period 2023-2026. This review provides an update regarding the timetable for the development of the Local Plan and other relevant Development Plan Documents.

Local planning policy framework

Local Plans set out land use strategy for up to 20 years into the future. They are also used to guide day to day decisions on planning applications and appeals. They set out when, where and how development should take place. This includes identifying requirements such as new homes and jobs and setting out policies that enable sufficient land to be released to meet those needs. Local Plans also contain policies to protect sensitive areas from harmful development and set out the standards that new development is expected to meet.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority adopted its last Local Plan in 2016. In August that year the government extended the boundary bringing in additional areas of Cumbria and a small part of Lancashire. As a consequence, the Authority inherited a number of older local plans prepared by the district and county councils. It means that the National Park currently has a confusing range of policies spread over eleven documents, prepared at different times by different bodies (**Appendix 1**).

In addition to the Local Plans, the Authority has also inherited a number of supplementary planning documents that provide further detail on certain aspects of policy (**Appendix 2**).

Local Plan review

In December 2018 the National Park Authority took a decision to prepare a single Local Plan for the whole of the Yorkshire Dales National Park (**Appendix 3**). A harmonized Plan will conform with the latest National Planning Policy and enable a single set of strategies and polices to guide new development up to 2040. It will share the same long term vision and ambitions as the National Park Management Plan:
https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/about/national-park-management-plan/

The Local Plan will include a spatial strategy that describes where new development will be located, an indicative housing delivery figure and definitions of sustainability and development quality that are appropriate to the context of the National Park. Other strategic policies aim to reduce carbon in new development, maintain high standards of design and enhance biodiversity.
Policy will cover the following topics:

- **Community** – the allocation of land for house building and the release of unallocated 'windfall' sites. These will attempt to address the range of house types and tenures needed including affordability housing. The community section will also contain policies about new and existing infrastructure and the use of land for waste management.

- **Economy** - policies about farm and rural estate development, employment land, commercial reuses of existing buildings, visitor accommodation and visitor orientated facilities, railway corridors and the safeguarding of existing business sites.

- **Infrastructure, access and connectivity** – including policies about vehicle movements, active travel and public transport.

- **Cultural heritage & landscape** - policies to conserve designated and undesignated heritage assets such as listed buildings, conservation areas and archaeological sites. This section will also cover mineral working and landscape-scale issues such as the protection of open upland.

- **Natural environment** - policies that protect species and habitats including ecological networks.

The aim behind each policy will be explained in the Plan together with a justification for it.

The plan will be supported by maps identifying areas of development opportunity and areas of constraint. Given the size of the National Park there will be too many to print so the maps will be made available on the Authority's local plan webpages.

Appendices to the plan will contain details about the allocated sites, the criteria around affordable housing and other detailed matters referred to in the policies.

There are a number of stages in the production of the Plan (see also timetable in **Appendix 4**)

1. Evidence gathering (2019 – 2024) – The plan will be based on information about the area, including projected population change, household formation, employment trends, landscape character, flood risk, infrastructure capacity and site viability and availability. Studies will be commissioned throughout the process, to gather this information and keep it up to date.

2. Issues and options (January 2020 – September 2021) Consultation No.1 – Setting the agenda (Winter 2020) Consultation No.2 – Exploring out options: Ambitions (August 2020), Consultation No.3 – Exploring our options: Building new homes

(January 2021), Consultation No.4 – Exploring our options: Local occupancy and barns (August 2021).

3. Preferred Options consultation (June 2022 – Oct 2024) Consultation No. 5 Preferred Options - consultation on the direction of policy travel and Consultation No. 6 – Land for housing development – consultation on a set of housing site options and settlement development boundaries and Consultation No.7: Preferred housing development sites.

4. Publication (Feb-Mar 2025) – The Authority's proposed plan. Consultation bodies and the public are invited to make formal representations. At this stage the Authority can only make minor additional changes, unless it decides to go back a stage. Formal objections to the publication plan will be referred to the Local Plan examination.

5. Submission (July 2025) - the Plan, together with all its supporting evidence, formal representations and Authority amendments, are submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination.

6. Examination (August - December 2025) – A Government inspector is appointed to examine the Plan and decide whether it is legally compliant and would provide a sound strategy. If successful, the Authority will adopt the Plan and give it full weight in development decision making.

7. Implementation and Monitoring (from mid-2025) – National policy allows planning authorities to use their emerging plans for decision making. Parts of the new Local Plan that have attracted few objections can guide planning decisions from the Publication stage onwards. Once the Plan is formally adopted all the policies will carry legal weight and become the main determinant in decision making. Annual monitoring reports will review progress against the Plan's objectives.

Duty to Cooperate

The National Park Authority is in regular dialogue with its neighbours. Officers co-operate on cross boundary planning matters such as apportionment of housing demand, the economy, neighbourhood planning, climate change, biodiversity, minerals and flood risk. Members of adjoining planning authorities sit on the National Park Committee where they are able to scrutinise the production and delivery of Local Plan policy.

The Authority works in partnership with its neighbouring authorities and many other organisations and bodies on a wide variety of projects set out in the National Park Management Plan. The Authority also works jointly to collect and share data.

In conformity with national planning policy, the Authority has produced a statement of common ground which will be agreed with neighbouring authorities before the publication and submission stages to outline areas of cross boundary policy and agreement.

Review of supplementary planning documents

The National Park Authority adopted its last Design Guide in 2017. This will be reviewed in the context of the extended National Park to provide more detailed guidance for developers across the whole local plan area. Other supplementary information to guide developers and support decision making will include Biodiversity Net Gain, low carbon development, local occupancy, local connection criteria for affordable housing, principal residency conditions, phosphate and nitrate mitigation measures and housing value areas.

Neighbourhood development plans

Parish councils can produce their own development plans, known as neighbourhood plans. These have to conform to the strategic policies in the Local Plan and, if adopted, can provide guidance for planning applications at a more detailed level.

The following designated Neighbourhood areas have land inside the National Park: Asby, Clapham, Crosby Ravensworth, Gargrave, Tebay and Upper Eden. A Neighborhood Plan for Clapham has been prepared and the next step is for it to be subject to referendum. The Upper Eden and Gargrave Neighbourhood Plans have progressed to adoption.

Procedural documents

Several procedural documents will accompany the Local Plan:

Statement of Community Involvement
This sets out how the Authority will consult the public during the preparation of the new Plan and it's up to date arrangements for involving communities and other consultees, in the determination of planning applications (**Appendix 5**).

Annual Monitoring Report
This is an annual review of development within the National Park. It contains an analysis of key data, mainly around housing permissions, housing completions and housing supply during the year. It is published on the Authority website each year.

Copies of both documents are available on the Authority's website.

Contact

Enquiries about planning policy, strategy, information and monitoring:

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Appendix 1

Adopted Local Plans, Yorkshire Dales National Park, October 2021

- Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan 2015-2030, adopted December 2016.

- Eden Local Plan 2014-32, adopted by the Authority on the 18th December 2018
- South Lakeland Core Strategy 2010
- South Lakeland Land Allocations Development Plan Document 2013
- South Lakeland Community Infrastructure Levy 2015
- South Lakeland Local Plan (selected policies) 1997
- Lancaster Local Plan 2004
- Lancaster Core Strategy 2008
- Lancaster Development Management Plan 2014
- Lancashire Minerals & Waste Local Plan Core Strategy (2009) Part 1, Part 2 and key diagram
- Cumbria Minerals & Waste Local Plan 2015-2030
- Upper Eden Neighbourhood Development Plan 2012
- Gargrave Neighbourhood Development Plan 2019 - 2032

Appendix 2

Supplementary Planning Documents, December 2024

Pre 2016 National Park area

- Design Guide - adopted September 2017
- Traditional Farm Buildings Toolkit 2017

South Lakeland extension area

- Cumbria Wind Energy SPD 2007
- Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit
- Kirkby Lonsdale Conservation Area Character Appraisal (in respect of the small part of that conservation area within the National Park)

Eden extension area

- Shopfront and Advertisement Design SPD 2006
- An Accessible and Inclusive Environment SPD 2007
- Housing SPD 2010
- Management of Conservation Areas SPD 2011
- Cumbria Wind Energy SPD 2007
- Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit 2011
- Farm Diversification Guidance 2005
- The Eden Design Guide Summary 1999

Lancaster City area

- Meeting Housing Needs SPD 2022
- Shopfronts and Advertisements SPD 2016

Park wide Local Plan 2025 – 2040

Minutes of the meeting held at The National Park Authority Office, Yoredale, Bainbridge, on Tuesday, 18 December 2018.

60/18 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME – THE NEXT REVIEW OF NATIONAL PARK PLANNING POLICY 2022-2040

CONSIDERED - the report of the Head of Sustainable Development.

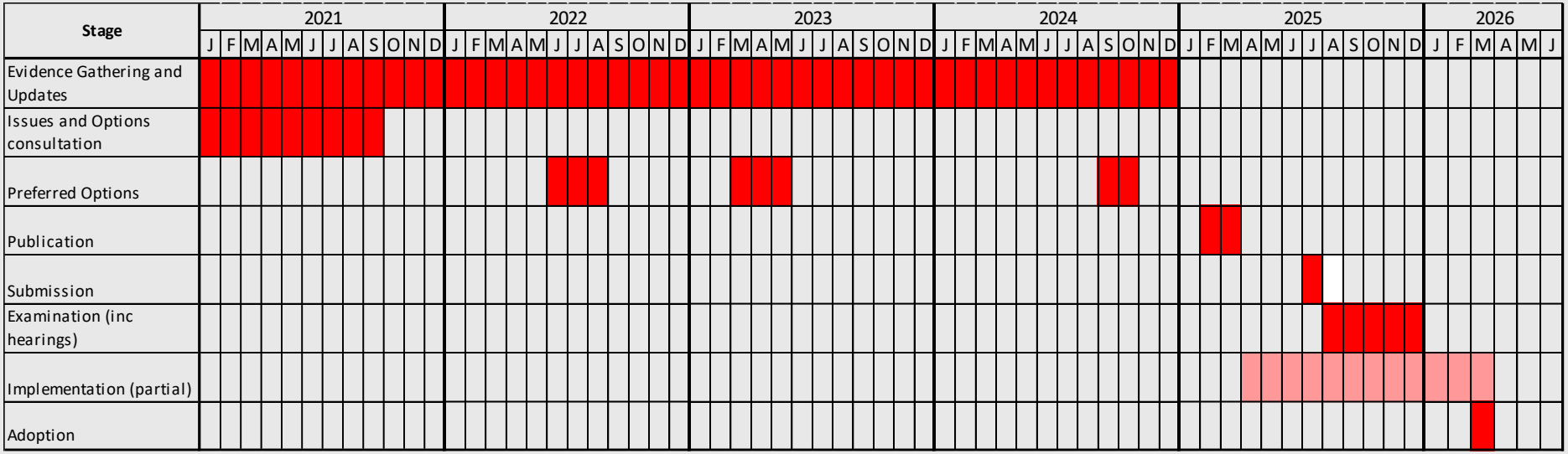
RESOLVED –

That the Authority:

- commits in principle to a review of planning policy across the whole National Park; and,
- seeks the support of the constituent District ***and County*** Councils to commission an independent socio-economic 'state of the park' study to provide a baseline for future planning strategy and other socio-economic joint working.



Local Plan Timetable 2024-26



Appendix 5

Statement of Community Involvement in planning
(Last reviewed February 2023)

This Statement of Community Involvement contains our policy for public consultation and engagement in the local planning system.

Our general principles

- We will be approachable, impartial, consistent, transparent, and proactive.
- We encourage wider and diverse participation in our planning service.
- We will seek views of interested and affected parties as early as possible.
- We will choose the type of consultation by balancing effectiveness, cost and time constraints.
- Our consultation documents will be clear and avoid jargon.
- We will offer to maintain contact with people who respond to consultation.

Local Plan making

We prepare a Local Plan which contains development strategies, planning policies and supporting maps which indicate where certain policies apply. The purpose is to set out the type and quantity of development anticipated and desired over the plan period and to guide predictable, consistent and effective decision making, including planning applications. The Local Plan is backed by evidence and is in general conformity with prevailing national policy and Government guidance. The local plan is the opportunity to review local policy. When we make changes, we will follow the legal regulations and consult stakeholders and the wider public.

Who we will consult

- We consult local authorities, infrastructure providers Government bodies and other organisations, as required by the regulations or as otherwise appropriate.
- We consult Parish Councils, Parish Meetings, local businesses, voluntary and other organisations.
- We consult the general public, including anyone who has expressed an interest in the Plan.

How we will consult

- We will contact organisations by email unless they request contact by letter.
- We will publicise consultations in the local press and through our website and social media, as appropriate.
- Our planning consultation documents will be available on our website.
- We will leave consultation documents on display at our offices in Bainbridge.
- If requested we will make reasonable numbers of printed documents available to Parish Councils, Parish Meetings and other community groups and organisations.

- Where appropriate we will organise or support additional consultation events, such as community-based meetings, drop-in sessions or specialist topic seminars, online or in person.
- We will publish on our website comments received, or a summary of them after the end of consultation. We will report the comments to Members and take them into account in choosing preferred policy options and other content within the Local Plan.

When we will consult

- At the start of a new Plan, we will invite discussion about the issues the Plan should address and the range of policy options available.
- We will invite information and evidence throughout the plan preparation process.
- We will publish preferred policy options and land availability information and invite comment and discussion on those.
- After consultation we will issue a publication Plan so that the public may make formal representations to an independent local plan Inspector who will examine the soundness of the document.

Supplementary Planning Documents

As part of our planning policy duties, we prepare Supplementary Planning Documents to give more detailed advice on matters such as design.

Supplementary Planning Documents are not subject to the same quasi-judicial process as Local Plans but are required to be informed through public consultation. We will therefore consult statutory bodies, Parish Councils and local interest groups on our Supplementary Planning Documents as part of their drafting process.

Neighbourhood Planning

We encourage Parish Councils to discuss with us their proposals for forming neighbourhood groups, preparing or updating neighbourhood plans or considering neighbourhood development orders.

We will provide advice and evidence to neighbourhood planning groups in support of their plan preparations.

We will encourage neighbourhood planning groups to consult with those who live, work or operate businesses in their area and can advise on the statutory consultees that needed to be involved.

We will work with neighbourhood planning groups to help them take account of the issues raised through consultation.

Major Planning Applications

For major development proposals[1] or locally sensitive schemes, developers will be encouraged to carry out consultations before submitting a planning application. Prospective applicants should:

[1] Major development is defined as 10+ dwellings or 1000+ square metres floorspace, a quarry extension, a significant proposal that departs from adopted policy or which might potentially cause harm to national park purposes or have significant impact on a community.

- Engage with the Authority through its pre-application advice service.
- Talk directly with statutory consultees to minimise technical objections.
- Consult the Parish Council, Parish Meeting and neighbours that would be affected.
- Consider the advice of the Authority and the pre application consultation responses and show how they have been taken into account as part of the design and access statement supporting the subsequent planning application.

Other planning applications

All potential applicants are advised to consult anyone likely to be affected by their proposal and consider their views before submitting an application. This may be as simple as talking over plans with a neighbour. The Authority operates a pre-application advice service and holds planning surgeries for National Park residents in the office at Bainbridge and by video conference. Further details can be found on our website.

All submitted planning applications are advertised by site notice. Applications for major development will also be published in a local newspaper.

In addition, the Authority will:

- use its judgement to discern those neighbours most affected by a proposal and notify them by letter.
- notify the Parish bodies and other statutory consultees about relevant planning applications.
- Subject to data protection, make all new planning applications available to view on the Authority website (citizen's portal) or, by request, at its offices in Bainbridge and Grassington
- allow Consultees at least 21 days to submit comments.
- where applications are referred to the Planning Committee, give applicants, objectors, and the relevant Parish body, a reasonable opportunity to speak at the Committee meeting.
- publish decisions on all planning applications on its website.

Planning and Development webpage

Contact

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