

Blaby District Council
Council

Date of Meeting	14 April 2026
Title of Report	Local Development Scheme This is not a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan
Lead Member	Cllr. Mike Shirley - Planning and Strategic Growth
Report Author	Development Strategy Manager
Strategic Themes	All Themes: Enabling communities and supporting vulnerable residents; Enhancing and maintaining our natural and built environment; Growing and supporting our economy; Keeping you safe and healthy; Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for the revised Blaby District Local Development Scheme (LDS), which sets out the timescales for producing the emerging Local Plan.

2. Recommendation(s) to Council

- 2.1 That the revised Blaby District Local Development Scheme at Appendix A be approved, to become effective immediately.

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended, requires a Local Planning Authority to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme.
- 3.2 As the Council prepares for its Regulation 19 Publication and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) all local planning authorities are required to produce an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) to ensure that the timetable for local plan preparation remains up to date.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the Council's programme for producing the Local Plan.

To keep local communities and other stakeholders informed of local planning activity, the Council is required to prepare a Local Development Scheme (LDS) under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). In relation to the emerging Local Plan, the LDS must specify:

- What will be included in each document to be prepared, and the geographical extent to which it relates;
- Whether the document will be prepared jointly with one or more other local authorities; and
- The timetable for the preparation of document.

In December 2024, the Government published an updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to support its target of delivering 370,000 new homes a year during the life of this Parliament. This new NPPF took effect immediately for decision making. Blaby's new Local Plan will be produced in line with the December 2024 NPPF.

Since the enactment of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act, central government have stipulated that local planning authorities are to continue bringing forward plans as quickly as possible ahead of the new system coming into force. As such to ensure that Blaby's new Local Plan progresses under the existing plan making legal framework, the Council must ensure that it submits its new Local Plan by 31st December 2026.

The revised LDS, attached at Appendix A, contains the timetable with estimated timescales and milestones associated with preparing the new Local Plan and covers the period up to 2027. It supersedes the LDS agreed by Council on 25 February 2025.

4.2 Proposal(s)

That the Revised Blaby District Local Development Scheme (Appendix A to this Report) be approved and shall take effect from 14 April 2026.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

Internal consultations have been undertaken as appropriate. Legislation does not require public consultation on this matter. The details of proposed public consultations on development plan documents are set out in the revised LDS. The LDS will be published on the council website.

4.4 Significant Issues

Legal Implications

The Council has to comply with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), which requires local planning authorities to prepare and maintain an LDS.

In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities and Climate and there are no areas of concern. As the amendments to the LDS relate to the timetable of the Local Plan and does not introduce new policies and proposals, there are no Equality or Human Rights implications identified. However, the Local Plan that is produced in accordance with the LDS will require an impact assessment, which will be completed at the time of production.

5. Environmental impact

No Net Zero and Climate Impact Assessment (NZCIA) is not required for this report because this report is for a timetable for producing documents that will be subject to their own environmental impact assessments.

6. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

6.1 The costs for Local Plan preparation, including staffing, are already allowed for in the budget for 2025/26, and the forthcoming budget for 2026/27. Budgeting beyond this will consider and take account of the need for any further expenses to be incurred in relation to preparing the new Local Plan.

Opportunities to save money will be considered throughout the preparation of the new Local Plan, including pursuing joint working with neighbouring authorities on suitable evidence base work, where possible.

7. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

7.1

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
Ongoing changes to the NPPF, planning legislation and other national planning guidance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitor Government statements to pre-empt legislation and policy changes.• Take a flexible policy approach where appropriate.• Transitional arrangements in emerging statute and legislation• Continuing to update evidential studies to take into account the changing circumstances.
Cross boundary strategic issues in the Leicester and	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Officers will continue to remain engaged in discussions with colleagues from across the

Leicestershire Housing Market Area	authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire to understand any implications there may be for Blaby District, and take action as appropriate in a timely manner. The new Local Plan will take account of and plan for any emerging cross boundary strategic issues in Leicester and Leicestershire
Examination Process – Soundness of DPDs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work closely with Ministry for Housing, Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG) and the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). • Follow procedures set out in the Planning Acts, Regulations, NPPF and the Planning Practice Guidance.

8. Other options considered

- 8.1 Not bringing the revised LDS into effect at this time would leave the Council without an up-to-date programme for the production of Development Plan Documents. This option has been considered and rejected by Officers because the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), requires a Local Planning Authority to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme.

9. Appendix

- 9.1 Appendix A – Revised Local Development Scheme (April 2026)

10. Background paper(s)

- 10.1 Not applicable.

11. Report author's contact details

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