

Wolverhampton Local Development Scheme 2024-2027

November 2024

**CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Local Development Scheme (LDS) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and sets out:
- The Local Development Documents (LDDs) which are to be Development Plan Documents (DPDs);
 - The subject matter and geographical area to which each DPD is to relate;
 - Which DPDs are to be prepared jointly with one or more other local planning authorities;
 - The timetable for the preparation and revision of the DPDs
- 1.2 The LDS sets out the timetable for the preparation or revision of any LDDs covering the Wolverhampton area for the period 2024-2027, and supersedes all previous versions of the Wolverhampton LDS.

2. Wolverhampton Development Plan Documents

- 2.1 The Local Development Documents covering the City of Wolverhampton Council local authority area which are to be defined as Development Plan Documents through this LDS are:
- Wolverhampton Unitary Development Plan – adopted 2006 (saved policies)
 - Black Country Core Strategy – adopted 2011
 - Wolverhampton Local Plan (to be prepared to replace the Black Country Core Strategy)
 - Bilston Corridor Area Action Plan – adopted 2014
 - Stafford Road Corridor Area Action Plan – adopted 2014
 - Wolverhampton City Centre Area Action Plan – adopted 2016
- 2.2 The Wolverhampton Unitary Development Plan was the single plan covering the Wolverhampton area when it was adopted in 2006. It included both strategic and local policies and all allocations and designations.
- 2.3 The Black Country Core Strategy is a strategic plan prepared jointly by the Black Country authorities (Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton) to cover the Black Country area (Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton) for the period 2006-2026. The Core Strategy addresses strategic priorities for the Black Country, covers all subject areas at a strategic level and indicates broad locations for development on a key diagram. The Core Strategy replaced various policies and allocations in the Wolverhampton Unitary Development Plan when it was adopted in 2011.
- 2.4 The three Area Action Plans were prepared to set out local policies, allocations and designations for the three key regeneration areas identified in the Black Country Core Strategy. These Area Action Plans replaced various policies and

allocations in the Wolverhampton Unitary Development Plan when they were adopted in 2014 / 2016.

3. Timetable for Preparation and Revision of Wolverhampton Development Plan Documents

- 3.1 The NPPF requires all local planning authorities to complete a review of DPDs which have been adopted for five or more years and to decide either:
- that their policies do not need revising and publish their reasons for this decision; and/ or
 - that one or more policies do need revising, and update their LDS to set out the timetable for this revision.
- 3.2 This LDS fulfils the requirements of the NPPF in this regard, as set out below:

DPD	Years since adoption	Need for revision during 2024-27?	Reasons for decision
Wolverhampton UDP (saved policies)	18	No	All parts of the UDP which currently required updating have been replaced through subsequent adoption of the Black Country Core Strategy and Area Action Plans.
Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS)	13	Yes	A review of the BCCS which took place in 2017 confirmed the need for updating. This update was progressed by the four Black Country Councils during 2017-22 in the form of the Black Country Plan (BCP) review. This included Issues and Options consultation in 2017 and Regulation 18 Draft Plan consultations in 2021 and 2022. In autumn 2022 a decision was taken by the Black Country authorities not to continue the BCP. For Wolverhampton, the review and updating of the BCCS will be taken forward through the Wolverhampton Local Plan with a preparation timetable included in this LDS.
Bilston Corridor Area Action Plan	10	No	Preparation of the Wolverhampton Local Plan will review and replace any policies and allocations which require revising.

DPD	Years since adoption	Need for revision during 2024-27?	Reasons for decision
Stafford Road Corridor Area Action Plan	10	No	Preparation of the Wolverhampton Local Plan will review and replace any policies and allocations which require revising.
Wolverhampton City Centre Area Action Plan	8	No	The WLP will not include allocations for that part of the Wolverhampton City Centre AAP area which falls within the defined Strategic Centre. As the new national planning system does not permit the preparation / review of an Area Action Plan, a Wolverhampton City Centre Supplementary Plan will instead be prepared to make any required additional housing allocations in Wolverhampton City Centre (Strategic Centre), to ensure that sufficient housing allocations are made to deliver WLP housing targets. The timetable for this is set out in this LDS (subject to national legislation and guidance when available).

Wolverhampton Local Plan

3.3 City of Wolverhampton Council is currently working on preparation of a Wolverhampton Local Plan (WLP) which will build on the work undertaken to date on the Black Country Plan review and ultimately replace the Black Country Core Strategy for Wolverhampton, and housing and employment site allocations included in the Bilston Corridor AAP, Stafford Road Corridor AAP and parts of the City Centre AAP which do not fall within the Strategic Centre boundary. The subject matter scope of the new Plan will therefore be wider than the existing BCCS, including new site allocations and a review of existing allocations. The new Plan will include all of the strategic policies for Wolverhampton, as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The Issues and Preferred Options consultation will seek views on the preparation of a WLP, building on work undertaken for the BCP and substantially taking forward the vision, spatial strategy, policies and site allocations of the Regulation 18 Draft Black Country Plan (BCP), with a number of proposed amendments in response to issues raised during the Draft BCP consultation, and up-to-date evidence, national legislation and guidance.

- 3.4 The timetable for the review is set out below (including those stages of the Black Country Plan review which remain relevant to preparation of the WLP). This review will take place under the current Local Plan system, with submission due to take place in early 2025 in accordance with transitional arrangements set out in the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act (2023) and transitional arrangements likely to be included in the anticipated revision to the NPPF, which was consulted on in summer 2024.

Wolverhampton Local Plan Preparation Timetable

Stage	Timescale
Black Country Plan Issues and Options Consultation (Regulation 18)	July – September 2017
Draft Black Country Plan Consultation (Regulation 18)	August – October 2021
Wolverhampton Local Plan Issues and Preferred Options Consultation (Regulation 18)	February – April 2024
Wolverhampton Local Plan Publication Consultation (Regulation 19)	December 2024 – January 2025
Submission	Early 2025
Examination	Spring 2025 – Spring 2026
Adoption	Mid 2026

Wolverhampton City Centre Supplementary Plan

- 3.5 Following submission of the WLP, there will be a need to review the existing housing commitments and allocations for Wolverhampton City Centre and to prepare a Wolverhampton City Centre Supplementary Plan under the new national planning system in order to provide any additional housing allocations required to meet WLP housing targets. The stages for preparation of a Supplementary Plan under the new system are not yet known, however an indicative timetable is set out below:

Wolverhampton City Centre Supplementary Plan Indicative Timetable

Stage	Timescale
Preparation	Summer / Autumn 2025 – Spring 2026
Consultation	Summer 2026
Submission and Examination	Autumn 2026 – Summer 2027
Adoption	Autumn 2027

- 3.6 No other DPDs are currently programmed for review or preparation during 2024-2027.