

Wolverhampton Local Development Scheme 2023-2026

February 2023

**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 2023-2026, 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 2022-25?	Reasons for decision
Wolverhampton UDP (saved policies)	16	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)	11	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	Eight	No	Preparation of the Wolverhampton Local Plan will review and replace any policies and allocations which require revising.

Stafford Road Corridor Area Action Plan	Eight	No	Preparation of the Wolverhampton Local Plan will review and replace any policies and allocations which require revising.
Wolverhampton City Centre Area Action Plan	Six	Yes	The BCP did not include allocations for that part of the Wolverhampton City Centre AAP area which falls within the defined Strategic Centre. Therefore, a review of this AAP will be required based on a new boundary covering the Strategic Centre only. The timetable for the review is set out in this LDS.

- 3.3 City of Wolverhampton Council is currently working on preparation of a Wolverhampton Local Plan (WLP) which will 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).
- 3.4 The Issues and Preferred Options consultation will seek views on the preparation of a WLP which builds on existing evidence, work and consultation undertaken during the BCP preparation process, whilst responding to more up-to-date evidence, national legislation and guidance.
- 3.5 The timetable for the review is set out below. This review will take place under the current Local Plan system, with submission due to take place before June 2025 in accordance with transitional arrangements proposed in “Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: Reforms to National Planning Policy” (22 Dec 2022).

Wolverhampton Local Plan Preparation Timetable

Stage	Timescale
Wolverhampton Local Plan Issues and Preferred Options Consultation (Regulation 18)	July – September 2023
Wolverhampton Local Plan Publication Consultation (Regulation 19)	February - April 2024
Submission	Mid 2024
Examination	Mid 2024 – Mid 2025
Adoption	Late 2025

- 3.6 A review of the existing Wolverhampton City Centre Area Action Plan is required, to provide up-to-date development allocations and policies for that part of the AAP area which is not covered in detail by the emerging Wolverhampton Local Plan. Subject to confirmation of the proposed transition period for the new Local Plan system to be introduced through the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill, the AAP will now need to be prepared under the new Local Plan system. The stages of this new system are not yet known, however it is proposed that there will be a 30 month timetable. On this basis, the indicative timetable for the AAP review is set out below.

Wolverhampton City Centre Area Action Plan Review Indicative Timetable

Stage	Timescale
First Consultation	Spring 2025
Adoption	Autumn 2027 (30 months later)

- 3.7 No other DPDs are currently programmed for review or preparation during 2023-2026.