

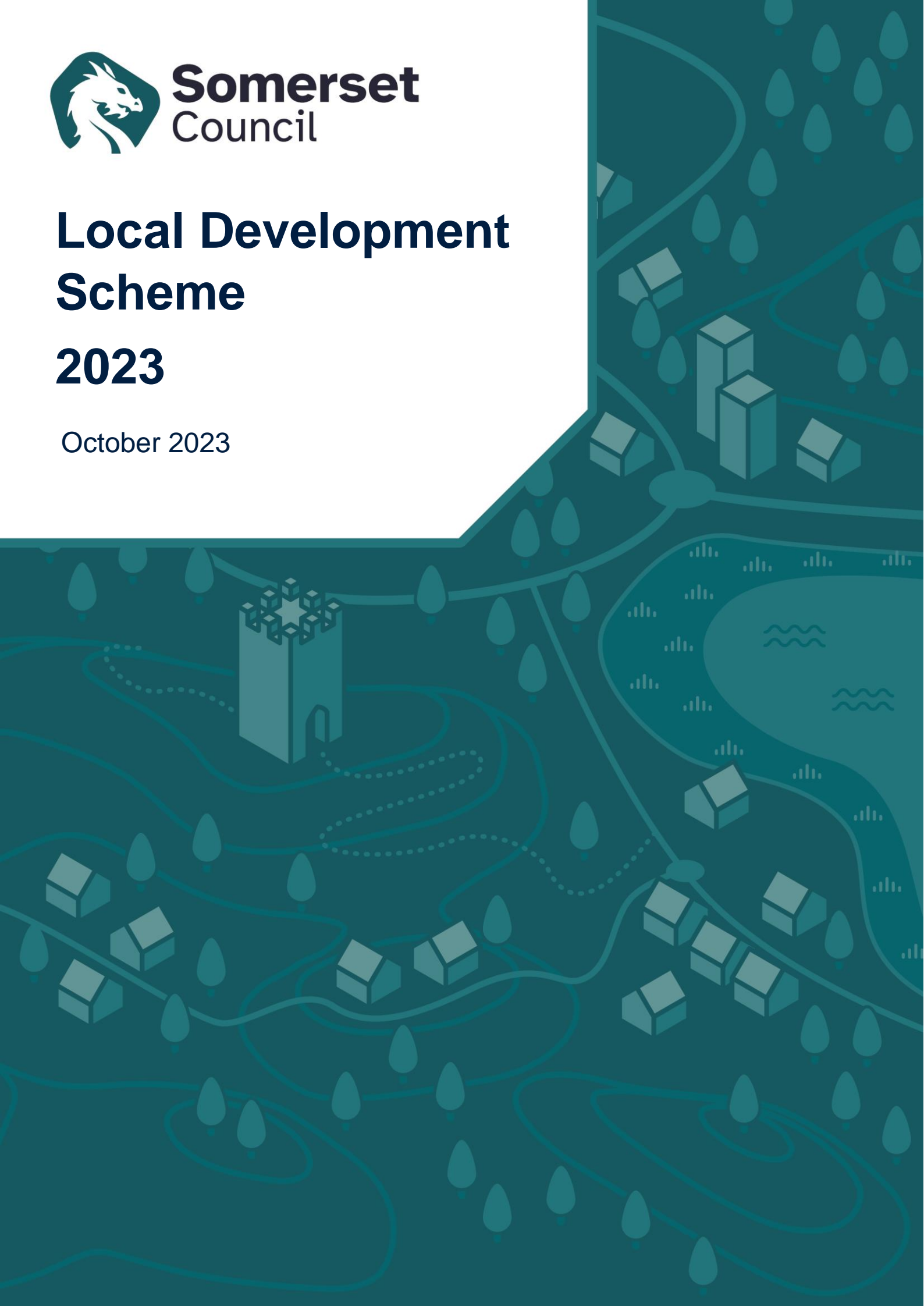


**Somerset**  
Council

# Local Development Scheme

## 2023

October 2023



- 1. Introduction ..... 3
- 2. Background..... 3
- 3. The Development Plan ..... 3
  - 3.1 Adopted Development Plans ..... 4
  - 3.2 Neighbourhood Plans ..... 6
- 4. Development Plan documents work programme ..... 7
- 5. Local Transport Plan..... 11



## 1. Introduction

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the documents that make up the Development Plan for Somerset and the council's work programme for updating them.

The Development Plan sets out a vision for the local area in terms of housing, the economy, community facilities, infrastructure, minerals and waste, and for conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment, mitigating and adapting to climate change, and achieving well designed places. The Council uses the policies within the Development Plan to assess proposals for new development.

## 2. Background

From 1 April 2023, Somerset Council is the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for the whole of the Somerset administrative area excluding the Exmoor National Park area.

As well as determining planning applications, Somerset Council is responsible for producing planning policy documents that guide new development. This includes statutory (required by law) documents and non-statutory documents.

The main legislation that sets out the requirement and processes for the preparation of the Development Plan and other documents can be found in Part 2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended<sup>1</sup> (the "Act") and The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 as amended<sup>2</sup>. The Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities has launched a 12 week consultation on reforms to the local plans and minerals and waste plans system around the implementation of proposed changes set out in the Levelling up and Regeneration Bill. The consultation closes on 18 October 2023. Should the proposed changes be implemented there will be a need to revise the Local Development Scheme.

This LDS replaces those of the former Local Planning Authorities:

- Mendip District Council LDS (2020)
- Sedgemoor District Council LDS (2020)
- Somerset West and Taunton Council LDS (2019)
- South Somerset District Council LDS (2017)
- Somerset County Council LDS (2017)

## 3. The Development Plan

The Development Plan is made up of:

- Development Plan documents (often called Local Plans, Minerals Plans and Waste Plans) that have been adopted; and

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/contents>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/contents/made>



- Neighbourhood Development Plans (Neighbourhood Plans) which have been made in relation to that area including Neighbourhood Plans approved by referendum but not yet made by the LPA.

### 3.1 Adopted Development Plans

As set out in Local Government (Structural Changes) (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2018, if a Local Authority is going through Local Government Reorganisation, as has happened in Somerset, existing Development Plans will remain in place for the areas set out in the plans.

This means that the existing Development Plans of the former council's will remain in place for their relevant geographical areas of Somerset Council until they are replaced by one or more Development Plan documents.



Table 1 lists the adopted Development Plan documents for Somerset Council. The documents can be viewed at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/adopted-local-plans/>

Table 1: Development Plan documents (Local Plans) within Somerset Council LPA

Document	Date of adoption
<b>Former Mendip District Council (known as Area East)</b>	
Mendip Local Plan Part I: 2006-2029	2014
Mendip Local Plan Part II: Sites and Policies with post-JR revisions	2021
Mendip Policies Map	2021
<b>Former Sedgemoor District Council (known as Area North)</b>	
Sedgemoor Local Plan 2011-2032	2019
Sedgemoor Policies Map	2019
<b>Former Somerset West and Taunton Council: Taunton Deane area (part of Area West)</b>	
Taunton Deane Core Strategy 2011-2028	2012
Taunton Town Centre Area Action Plan	2008
Taunton Deane Site Allocations and Development Management Plan 2028	2016
Saved policies from the Taunton Deane Local Plan to 2011	2004
Taunton Deane Policies Map	2016
<b>Former Somerset West and Taunton Council: West Somerset area excluding Exmoor National Park (part of Area West)</b>	
West Somerset Local Plan 2032	2016
Saved Policies from the West Somerset District Local Plan 2006	2006
West Somerset Policies Map	2016
<b>Former South Somerset District Council (known as Area South)</b>	
South Somerset Local Plan 2006-2028	2015
Saved policies from the South Somerset Local Plan 1991 – 2011	2006
South Somerset Policies Map	2015
<b>Former Somerset County Council (excluding Exmoor National Park)</b>	
Somerset Minerals Plan to 2030	2015
Somerset Minerals Policies Map	2015
Somerset Waste Core Strategy to 2028	2013





### 3.2 Neighbourhood Plans

Neighbourhood Plans set out the vision for an area and the planning policies for the use and development of land within a parish or Neighbourhood Area. A Neighbourhood Plan has the same legal status as a Local Plan once it has been approved at a referendum and so becomes part of the Development Plan.

Table 2 lists made Neighbourhood Plans. During the next 6 months, it is anticipated that the following Neighbourhood Plans may reach the stage of being made by the Council: Ilminster; Ruishton and Thornfalcon; Kingston St Mary; and Wells. There are other Neighbourhood Plans at various stages of production. All details can be viewed at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/neighbourhood-planning/>. The website contains the most up to date information.

Table 2: Made Neighbourhood Plans within Somerset Council LPA

Neighbourhood Plan	Status
<b>Former Mendip District Council</b>	
Frome	Made Dec 2016
Rode	Made Aug 2017
<b>Former Sedgemoor District Council</b>	
Ashcott	Made Oct 2016
Axbridge	Made Jan 2022
Burnham and Highbridge	Made Oct 2018
Cheddar	Made Oct 2018
Nether Stowey	Made Jun 2021
Wedmore	Made May 2019
Wembdon	Made Jul 2019
<b>Former Somerset West and Taunton Council</b>	
Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone	Made Jul 2016
Creech St Michael	Made Dec 2019
Stogumber	Made Nov 2017
Trull and Staplehay	Made Jul 2017
West Monkton and Cheddon Fitzpaine	Revised Oct 2022
<b>Former South Somerset District Council</b>	
Castle Cary and Ansford	Made Nov 2019
East Coker	Made Dec 2018
Martock	Made Jun 2021
North Cadbury and Yarlinton	Made Oct 2022
Queen Camel	Made Jun 2021
South Petherton	Made Sep 2018
Wincanton	Made Mar 2018



#### **4. Development Plan documents work programme**

The future plan work programme will comprise of the following documents:

- Mendip District Local Plan Part II: Site Allocations Review
- Somerset Local Plan
- Somerset Minerals Plan review – assessment of effectiveness of policies
- Somerset Waste Plan review – assessment of effectiveness of policies



## Mendip District Local Plan Part II: Site Allocations Review

Mendip Local Plan Part 1 (“LPP1”), which includes a spatial strategy and development allocations, was adopted in December 2014 and covers the period 2006 to 2029.

Mendip Local Plan Part 2 (“LPP2”), which identified additional housing and employment sites, was adopted in December 2021. Following a Judicial Review into LPP2, five site allocations were deleted from the plan on 16 December 2022. The remainder of adopted LPP2 is not affected.

Para 6 of the Court Order<sup>3</sup> sets out specific ‘directions’ given by the judge to address the legal flaws upheld against the conduct and report of the examining Inspector. It requires reconsideration of the housing sites struck out of the Mendip Local Plan Part II. The scope of this work is limited to identifying sites for 505 dwellings needed in the former Mendip district area which are deliverable within the Mendip adopted Plan Period to 2029. Any other consideration of Policies CP1 and CP2 will be carried out as part of the wider Somerset Local Plan production.

The Court Order was updated on 14 July 2023 setting specific dates:

- Publication under regulation 19 by 31 March 2024
- Submission for examination by 1 July 2024

Mendip District Local Plan Part II: Site Allocations Review	
Scope	In accordance with Part 6 of the High Court Order of 14 July 2023 Local Plan Part 2 will be partially updated to allocate specific sites sufficient to accommodate 505 additional dwellings needed in the former Mendip District as a whole by 2029. The new allocations will be in accordance with Local Plan Part 1 policies CP1 and CP2.
Coverage	Somerset East area (the former Mendip district area)
Progress to date	Call for Sites (24 July – 4 September 2023)
Conformity	National Planning Policy Framework (and updates) and the Mendip Local Plan Part I policies CP1 and CP2
Delivery Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General election</li> <li>• Recruitment and retention of staff and having the necessary resources to undertake the work</li> </ul>
Milestones	Dates
Commencement	July 2023
Call for Sites	July-Sept 2023
Regulation 18 consultation on Preferred Sites	By 31 December 2023
Regulation 19 publication	By 31 March 2024
Submission of Plan for Independent Examination	By 1 July 2024
Inspector’s Report	Apr 2025
Adoption	Jun 2025

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/adopted-local-plans/?district=Mendip>





## Somerset Local Plan

Somerset Local Plan	
Scope	Strategic planning policies, site allocations and development management policies
Coverage	Somerset-wide (excluding Exmoor National Park area)
Progress to date	Evidence gathering
Conformity	National Planning Policy Framework (and updates)
Delivery risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The legal requirement to progress the Mendip Local Plan Part II Site Allocations Review will impact on the officer resources available and draw on the budget for bringing forward the Somerset Local Plan</li> <li>• Reforms to plan-making emerging through the implementation of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill has the potential to impact the scope of the Local Plan, policy approaches and to the evidence base which may impact upon timescales</li> <li>• Inability to find an acceptable approach to plan production alongside the development of the Phosphates Mitigation Strategy</li> <li>• Increasing requests for support to advise and assist the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans</li> <li>• Recruitment and retention of staff to progress the local plan and necessary resources to commission the evidence base</li> <li>• Other competing priorities from major projects such as Gravity, Hinkley and other regeneration projects which require planning resource</li> <li>• General election</li> </ul>
Milestones	Dates
Commence project planning and evidence gathering	Apr 2023
Early engagement with internal and external stakeholders and further evidence gathering	Apr 2024 - Feb 2025
Regulation 18 consultation on Draft Plan	Apr 2025 - Jun 2025
Regulation 19 publication	Oct 2026
Submission for Independent Examination	Mar 2027
Inspector's Report	Feb 2028
Adoption	March 2028



## Minerals and Waste Plans

The Somerset Minerals Plan 2030 and Waste Core Strategy 2028 are now over 5 years old since adoption so they need to be reviewed.

Somerset Council will undertake an initial assessment of both the adopted Minerals Plan and Waste Core Strategy to understand which policies may be out of date for the purposes of decision making or where circumstances may have changed and whether or not the policies in the plan continue to be effective in addressing the specific local issues that are identified the plan. This in turn will then help Somerset Council decide whether, and to what extent, an update of the policies is required.

Somerset Minerals Plan	
Scope	Assessment of the Somerset Minerals Plan 2030 in terms of whether the policies in the plan continue to be effective in addressing the specific local issues that are identified the plan
Coverage	Somerset-wide (excluding Exmoor National Park area)
Progress to date	Commenced assessment (July 2023)
Conformity	National Planning Policy Framework (and updates)
Milestones	Dates
Commencement	Jul 2023
Complete initial assessment of Minerals Plan policies	Dec 2023
Somerset Council to decide whether the adopted Minerals Plan remains effective or whether to formally review the Plans. Subsequent timetable depends on this decision.	Early 2024

Somerset Waste Plan	
Scope	Assessment of the Somerset Waste Core Strategy 2028 in terms of whether the policies in the plan continue to be effective in addressing the specific local issues that are identified the plan
Coverage	Somerset-wide (excluding Exmoor National Park area)
Progress to date	None
Conformity	National Planning Policy Framework (and updates) and the National Planning Policy for Waste
Milestones	Dates
Commencement	Nov 2023
Complete initial assessment of Waste Core Strategy policies	Feb 2024
Somerset Council to decide whether the adopted Waste Core Strategy remains effective or whether to formally review the Plans. Subsequent timetable depends on outcome of this decision.	April 2024



## 5. Local Transport Plan

### Somerset Local Transport Plan (LTP)

The Local Transport Plan is a statutory document required by the Department for Transport for maintaining and improving all aspects of local transport.

It is not part of the Development Plan for Somerset but it will be strongly aligned with the Local Plan, Minerals and Waste Plans.

Milestones	Dates
Commencement	Summer 2023
Key stakeholder workshops and engagement Evidence gathering Visioning and objectives	Autumn 2023
Publication of Draft Local Transport Plan and consultation	Spring 2024
Adoption	Winter 2024/Spring 2025



