



The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP)

Local Development Scheme

January 2018

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This document is Aylesbury Vale District Council's (AVDC) current Local Development Scheme (LDS) and describes what the council is going to do to prepare new and revised planning policies. It sets out the timetable that the council will follow for the period up to the end of 2018 when the new Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) is expected to have been adopted. A Glossary of Terms is set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 This LDS supersedes the May 2017 LDS. Dates for CIL and Supplementary Planning Documents to be prepared following adoption of VALP will be set out in a future update of the LDS. An announcement from the Government on the reform of CIL is expected shortly.
- 1.3 Preparation and review of the LDS remains a mandatory requirement under Section 15 of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and is required for meeting the 'test of soundness' at a Development Plan examination. Changes to these requirements made by the Localism Act 2011 means the LDS no longer has to be submitted to the Secretary of State, but the LDS still needs to be kept up to date and available to the public.
- 1.4 The Local Planning Authority is required to produce a portfolio of Local Development Documents (LDDs) which contain plans and policies set out in Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). The documents which AVDC intends to produce are detailed in section 3.2. and timetabled in tables 1 and 2.

2.0 What is the current development plan?

- 2.1 The Development Plan for Aylesbury Vale is currently made up of the saved policies of the Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan (AVDLP) 2001 - 2011 (2004)¹, made neighbourhood plans, the Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2004-2016 (2006)², and the Buckinghamshire Mineral and Waste Core Strategy DPD (2012)³. This LDS only deals with documents produced by AVDC and the neighbourhood plans by parish or town councils.
- 2.2 In addition, a number of non-statutory supplementary planning guidance documents were produced to support planning policies. There are two Supplementary Planning Documents⁴; Affordable Housing SPD (December 2007) and Conservation Areas SPD (March 2011). There are also several supplementary planning guidance publications⁵, including guidance on car parking guidelines, sport and leisure facilities and design guides. These will continue to be material planning considerations as long as the relevant saved development plan policies are in place.

¹ <http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/adopted-aylesbury-vale-district-local-plan-avdlp>

² <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/environment/planning/minerals-and-waste-local-plan/>

³ <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/environment/planning/minerals-and-waste-local-plan/>

⁴ <http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/supplementary-planning>

⁵ <http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/supplementary-planning>

3.0 The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan

3.1 National Planning Policy

- 3.1.1. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on the 27th March 2012 and became effective immediately. In addition to this the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) was initially published on the 6th March 2014 and is continually being updated. These replaced the vast majority of government planning guidance and set out the Government's revised approach to the planning system.
- 3.1.2. In February 2017 a Housing White Paper was published⁶ for consultation until May 2017. The paper set out a number of reforms that will affect how local plans are produced and planning decisions are taken. We are also expecting a decision late this year on the future of Community Infrastructure Levies (CIL).
- 3.1.3. Following the Housing White Paper consultation and the June 2017 election, the government published a Planning Reform Proposals briefing document⁷ on 12th July 2017. The document outlines which elements of the Housing White Paper the government intends to take forward. It also introduces a consultation to be published on changing and standardising the methodology behind assessing housing requirements, which would then be incorporated into the NPPF amendments.
- 3.1.4. On 14th September 2017, the proposals were published for the aforementioned consultation on assessing housing requirements: 'Planning the right homes in the right places'⁸. This consultation ran until 9 November 2017, and the Council responded to the consultation. Once the feedback has been collated, a revised NPPF is expected to be published in Spring 2018.

3.2 Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan

- 3.2.1. The new Local Plan is the only development plan document we intend to produce in this period of the LDS and will, once adopted, replace the 2004 AVDLP. The VALP will set out a clear strategic direction for the district, whilst enabling neighbourhood planning to come forward should communities so wish. The VALP will also contain:

1. Housing and job numbers for the Local Plan period, which is through to 2033
2. Strategic vision, objectives and strategic policies – including for Aylesbury to become a Garden Town
3. Development Management Policies – including design policies, affordable housing, housing mix, employment, infrastructure delivery, green belt policy/criteria for

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-ambitious-plan-to-build-the-homes-britain-needs>

⁷ <http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN06418#fullreport>

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-right-homes-in-the-right-places-consultation-proposals>

assessing proposals within, tourism, Gypsies and Travellers, change of use, renewable energy and climate change.

4. Site Allocations for housing, employment, retail, Gypsy and Traveller sites and green infrastructure
5. Locally valued landscape designations and a reviewed green belt boundary
6. A reviewed Aylesbury town centre boundary
7. Detailed Infrastructure to be set out in policies and proposals in an Infrastructure Delivery Plan – (including policy basis for CIL – if this remains following an announcement expected in the 2017 Autumn Statement, to be published on 22 November)

3.2.2 A **Scoping (Regulation 18) Consultation** was completed in Spring 2014. Draft Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) and Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) evidence studies were published, along with other evidence to support the VALP Issues and Options. Forums for communities, stakeholders and developers were held in late 2014 to share initial findings of the evidence.

3.2.3 In October 2015, we published a **VALP Issues and Options** document with a draft evidence base for comment. The consultation included exhibitions held at key larger settlements in the district. Now that duplicate responses and call for sites have been separated out the total number of respondents was **771**, providing **4,480** individual responses to the questions. A summary report of the issues raised is available at:
<http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/vale-aylesbury-local-plan-%E2%80%93-issues-and-options-consultation>

3.2.4 On 7 July 2016 we published the next stage of the plan, the **VALP Draft Plan**, including Policy Map Insets with a suite of supporting documents. This stage of the plan included a developed preferred spatial strategy, fully written policies and proposed allocations. We held an 8-week consultation on this non-statutory Draft Plan stage of VALP between July and September 2016. This engagement was accompanied by a series of exhibitions and a report of comments received has been published. Please see:
<http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/vale-aylesbury-local-plan-draft-plan>. More than **1,600** responses comprising over **5,000** comments were received. After this time, various evidence documents to inform the next stage of plan making were commissioned or finalised and published when completed.

3.2.5 During 2017, further evidence to inform the **VALP Proposed Submission** stage has been published including a Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulation Assessment, transport, viability, landscape, open space/sports, cumulative impact and the publication of updated capacity work on sites around the Vale. The VALP Proposed Submission was agreed by full Council on 18 October 2017. The plan was published for a final period of public comment between November-December 2017 prior to being Submitted to Government. The dates for agreement of the plan are set out at:
<https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/vale-aylesbury-local-plan-valp>

3.3 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

3.3.1. The Council still intends to produce a Community Infrastructure Levy. So far the Council has commissioned evidence on the viability of development and has also consulted with neighbourhood planning groups on infrastructure needed in their areas. However, no work on a Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule will take place until VALP has passed examination and also a decision on the future of CIL, or what may replace it, is made in the 2017 Autumn Statement. Assuming the Government still intends for authorities currently without a CIL to bring them forward in line with a revised local plan, dates for the production of the Aylesbury Vale CIL will be set out in a later LDS.

3.4 Neighbourhood Plans

3.4.1. The Localism Act 2011 introduced reforms to the planning system which enables the creation of Neighbourhood Plans. Aylesbury Vale has had a number of parishes who have produced, or are interested in producing, a neighbourhood plan. Once 'made' these Plans form part of the statutory development plan for those neighbourhood areas. Any timetables for these will be produced individually for that Neighbourhood Plan document and are determined by the community rather than AVDC. Some of these plans include site allocations. We are working with neighbourhood planning groups during the production of the VALP to take into consideration their evidence and any 'made' Neighbourhood Plans. For the latest position on Neighbourhood Plans, please see the Council's website⁹.

3.5 Policies map

3.5.1. The Adopted Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan Proposals Map will be updated by the Adopted VALP Policies Map, prepared on a up to date detailed Ordnance Survey map base. The new Policies Map would be part of the development plan and show all allocated sites, plan designations, committed and designated key infrastructure.

3.6 Supplementary Planning Documents

3.6.1. The VALP Proposed Submission Plan sets out the following Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) that will be finalised once VALP is adopted. The purpose of the SPDs is to provide further detail on the new policy position or a mechanism for delivery. SPDs are a material consideration in making planning decisions. They will, once adopted, therefore have higher weight than technical evidence and other plans and strategies but not as high a weight as development plans. Details of the SPDs and their the timings will be set out in the next LDS.

4.0 Monitoring Reports and Housing Land Supply

4.1 The Localism Act 2011 removed the requirement for Local Planning authorities to prepare Annual Monitoring Reports (AMR). There still remains a duty to monitor the preparation and implementation of plans, and to prepare monitoring reports which are made available to the public. Therefore the 2012 AMR was the last report to be published in the old

⁹ <http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/neighbourhood-planning>

format. Since 2013 we have published monitoring reports in a number of sections, so the monitoring information we collect can be published as soon as possible. Monitoring reports are available from our website¹⁰.

- 4.2 The housing land supply documents show current supply and include a list of sites which will deliver new housing. The housing trajectory documents show past and estimated future housing completions on an annual basis. The Council produces 5- year housing land supply position statements at least once a year. The latest supply paper/position statement was produced in August 2017¹¹ and this is likely to be updated in spring 2018, when data for year end 31 March 2018 is collected.

5.0 Timeline

- 5.1 Table 1 shows the expected timeline for production of the VALP. The timetable is influenced and dependent on the progress of the Local Plans of neighbouring authorities and authorities within our Housing Market Area and Functional Economic Market Area, as part of the Duty to Co-operate. It is also dependant on the provisions the Government introduce in relation to local plans. Therefore the timeline and content of the LDS will be revised as and when necessary.

¹⁰ <http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/monitoring-information>

¹¹ <http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/housing-land-supply-and-housing-trajectory>

Table 1: Documents to be produced
Schedule of proposed Development Plan Documents **Production milestones**

Document	Role and Content	Geographical Coverage	Commencement of document preparation	Consultation	Proposed Submission Publication (Reg 19)	Submission (Reg 20)	Examination including Hearings	Adoption
The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan	Will set the spatial strategy for the district up to 2033 , the amount and broad apportionment of growth across the district, development management policies and site allocations where necessary.	District-wide	Early 2014	Initial scope of the plan (Reg 18) – April/May 2014. Issues and options – October-December 2015 Draft Plan –July/September 2016	November-December 2017	February 2018	Examination period potentially Spring/summer 2018	Inspector’s Report / Modifications – potentially Autumn 2018 Adoption Jan 2019
Document	Role and Content	Geographical Coverage	Commencement of document preparation	Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule	Draft Charging Schedule	Examination	Examiner’s Recommendations	Approved Charging Schedule
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	Will provide a charging schedule setting out the amount developers have to contribute towards infrastructure. All documents and timings to be sets out in a future LDS	District-wide						
Supplementary Planning Documents	Role and Content	Geographical Coverage	Commencement of document preparation	Public Consultation				Adoption
All documents and timings to be sets out in a future LDS								

Table 2: VALP Detailed Timetable

Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan	2014	2015	2016					2017					2018					2019															
			J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J
Commencement of document preparation	MAR																																
Public participation in document preparation (initial Scope of plan) (Reg 18)	2 APR-28 MAY 2014																																
Evidence gathering, development of and holding Issues and Options stage	23 OCT-4 DECEMBER 2015																																
Public participation in document preparation (Draft Plan) (non-statutory consultation stage)	7 JULY- 5 SEPTEMBER 2016																																
Proposed submission document publication (Reg 19)																																	
Submission (Reg 22)																																	
Examination																																	
Inspector's Report																																	
Modifications Consultation																																	
Adoption																																	
	2014	2015	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J
	2014	2015	2016					2017					2018					2019															

KEY

Document preparation/awaiting delivery	
Formal Consultation/Statutory Milestone	
Where we are now	

Appendix 1: Glossary of terms

AVDLP	Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan. The spatial development plan for Aylesbury Vale used to determine planning applications. Adopted by AVDC in February 2004, only some of the policies have been saved (since 2007) for use in planning decisions. The AVDLP will be replaced by the adopted VALP.
CIL	The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge on new buildings and extensions to help pay for supporting infrastructure. This new charge replaces the section 106 tariff, but section 106 agreements (section 106) will still be used for the specific impacts of a development (such as a new access road) and for affordable housing. Unlike section 106, CIL is non-negotiable and collection is purely an administrative process. The levy and what it covers is set out in a charging schedule that is consulted on prior to submission to Government and a public Examination prior to adoption by the Council.
Council Monitoring Report	Monitoring Reports published regularly usually covering a financial year. The first purpose of the Report is to review the progress of planning policy documents, secondly to assess the effectiveness of existing planning policies and identify whether any policies are not being implemented, or should be amended or replaced. The second of these tasks is achieved by reporting against a number of indicators. The Localism Act 2011 removed the requirement for Local Planning authorities to prepare Annual Monitoring Reports (AMR). From 2013 onwards we are publishing monitoring reports in a number of sections so the monitoring information we collect can be published as soon as possible.
DPD	Development Plan Document(s). The statutory development plan for determining planning applications and appeals in the district. This currently comprises the Adopted Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan (AVDLP) 2004 saved policies, where they accord with the NPPF. Neighbourhood plans when made also form part of the development plan within their neighbourhood areas. The VALP will replace all of the AVDLP.
LDD	Local Development Document. This is a collective term to all documents that form the development plan in the district and also supplementary planning documents that amplify certain issues. The local development documents taken as a whole set out the authority's policies relating to the development and use of land in their area.
LDS	Local Development Scheme. The detailed timetable and project plan of all development plan documents and supplementary planning documents that are to be produced over a set period.
Neighbourhood Plan	A type of Planning policy document that after being made has development plan status and can be used (alongside other policy documents) to determine planning applications. The Plans are prepared by a parish council or designated neighbourhood forum for a particular neighbourhood area (made under the Localism Act 2011). They have to be in general conformity with the district plan and must undergo Examination as well as a Referendum.
NPPF	The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is the Government's statement of national planning policy and all Local Plans must be in general conformity with it, as tested at a Local Plan Examination. The NPPF was published on 27 March 2012 and replaced numerous planning policy guidance documents, statements and circulars. It was accompanied by Technical Guidance to the NPPF on flood risk, on minerals and waste and a planning policy statement on Travellers' sites.
NPPG	The National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) was published on 6 March 2014 and replaced previous guidance documents for planning. The guidance adds detail to and clarifies what is in the NPPF but it does not introduce new or additional policies.
Site allocations	Designations of land use, types and levels of development, as well as other details identified in a Development Plan Document. There are existing site allocations in the Adopted Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan 2004 and future allocations are proposed to be made in VALP and can be made in neighbourhood plans.

- SPD** Supplementary Planning Documents. More detailed planning guidance to supplement policies in Development Plan Documents. SPDs cannot make new policies, there must be 'policy hook' to a policy or proposal in a Development Plan Document. An example of an adopted SPD is that on Conservation Areas.
- VALP** The new planning policy Development Plan Document for the district. Once adopted it will replace the saved policies in the Adopted Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan 2004.

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