

Swindon Borough Council

Swindon Borough Local Development Scheme

August 2026

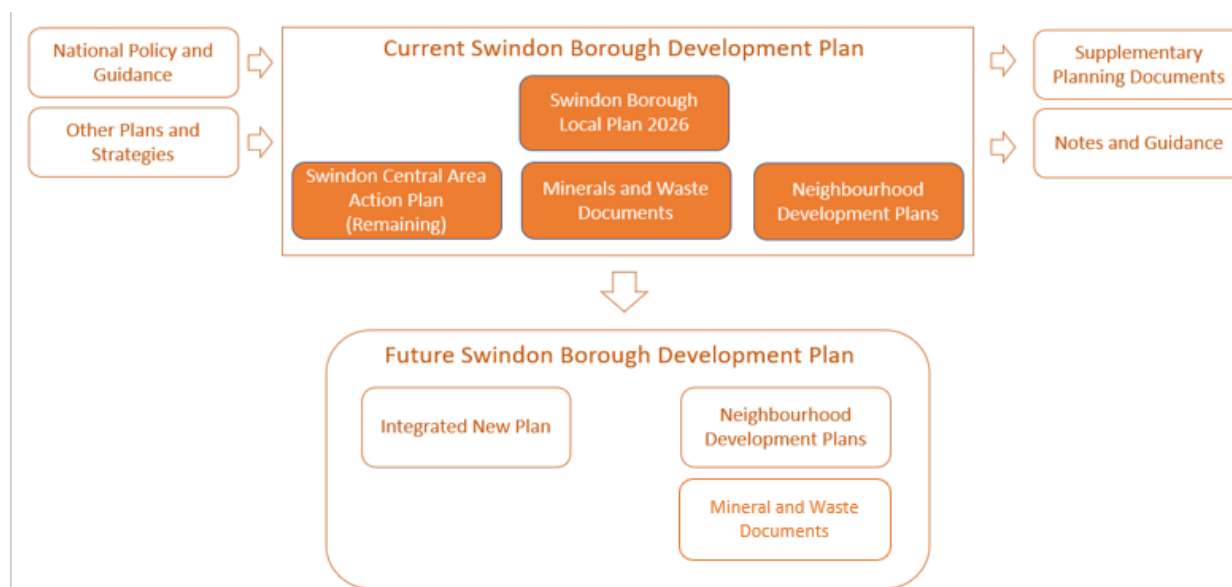
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) requires local planning authorities to prepare, maintain and publish a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The purpose of the LDS is to enable the local community to identify the timetable for the preparation of planning documents prepared in their area.
- 1.2 The LDS consists of a suite of documents (existing, emerging, or proposed) that make up Swindon Borough Council's (the Council) Development Plan. It sets out how the Council will organise the preparation of these planning documents and over what timeframes.
- 1.3 The LDS is kept under review and updated as appropriate to maintain an up-to-date programme for the preparation of Development Plan Documents. This LDS supersedes any previously published LDS.
- 1.4 The overall structure of the Development Plan and relationships to other documents and strategies is set out below in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Swindon Borough Development Plan and Relationships



- 1.5 On publication of this LDS, the statutory Development Plan comprises those documents in Table 1. This includes a number of documents jointly prepared by Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council, as well as a number of made (adopted) Neighbourhood Plans. Planning applications must be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Table 1: Current Swindon Borough Development Plan

Document	Notes
Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026	Adopted March 2015. Sets out the spatial vision, objectives, and strategy for the spatial development of Swindon Borough and policies and allocations to deliver the vision over the period to 2026.
Swindon Central Area Action Plan	Adopted February 2009. Amended by the Local Plan 2026. Encompasses the Town Centre, the Railway Village, the historic Great Western Railway Works, North Star, Old Town and surrounding residential areas.
Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Core Strategy 2006-2026	Adopted June 2009. Sets out the spatial vision, strategic objectives and strategy covering minerals provision within Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council's administrative areas up to 2026 including the strategic policies and proposals to deliver the vision.
Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Development Control Policies Development Plan Document (DPD)	Adopted September 2009. Sets out generic policies to assist in determining planning applications for minerals development up to 2026, within the Wiltshire and Swindon Councils' administrative areas.
Wiltshire and Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations DPD (May 2013)	Adopted May 2013. Identifies land within Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council's administrative areas for future mineral (aggregates) working and aggregate recycling facilities up to 2026 in accordance with the Swindon and Wiltshire Minerals Core Strategy.
Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals and Waste Policies Map (February 2013)	Published in February 2013. A policies map for the Wiltshire and Swindon minerals and waste development plan covering within Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council's administrative areas.
Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Core Strategy and Key Diagram (2006-2026)	Adopted July 2009. Sets out the spatial vision, strategic objectives and strategy covering waste provision up to 2026 within Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council's administrative areas including the strategic policies and proposals to deliver the vision.

Document	Notes
Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Development Control Policies DPD	Adopted September 2009. Sets out generic policies to assist in determining planning applications for waste development up to 2026, within Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council's administrative areas.
Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocations DPD	Adopted February 2013. Identifies land within Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council's administrative areas for future waste management facilities and aggregate recycling facilities up to 2026 in accordance with the Swindon and Wiltshire Waste Core Strategy.
Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Local Plan 2001	Adopted November 2001. One policy (Policy 35 Preferred Areas for Sharp Sand and Gravel) continues to be saved, until the next review of the Aggregate Minerals and Site Allocations Plan within Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council's administrative areas.
Wroughton Neighbourhood Plan (2026)	Made July 2016. Covers the Wroughton Neighbourhood Area, which is contiguous with the boundary of Wroughton Parish.
Highworth Neighbourhood Plan (2026)	Made July 2017. Covers the Highworth Neighbourhood Area, which is contiguous with the boundary of Highworth Parish.
South Marston Village Neighbourhood Plan (2026)	Made November 2017. Covers the South Marston Village Neighbourhood Area, which is an area within the boundary of South Marston Parish.
Hannington Parish Neighbourhood Plan (2026)	Made November 2018. Covers the Hannington Parish Neighbourhood Area, which is contiguous with the boundary of Hannington Parish.
Stratton St Margaret Neighbourhood Plan (2026)	Made June 2021. Covers the Stratton St Margaret Neighbourhood Area, which is contiguous with the boundary of Stratton St Margaret Parish.
Blunsdon East Neighbourhood Plan (2026)	Made June 2021. Covers the Blunsdon East Neighbourhood Area, which is an area within the boundary of Blunsdon Parish.
Chiseldon Neighbourhood Plan (2025)	Made November 2025. Covers the Chiseldon Neighbourhood Area, which is contiguous with the boundary of Chiseldon Parish.

2. Proposed Development Plan Documents

- 2.1 The Council is moving forward with the development of a new Local Plan and the framework to this area of work is set out below in Table 2.

Table 2: Swindon Borough New Local Plan 2043

Swindon Borough New Local Plan 2043	
Role and subject	This Local Plan document will set out the overall practical development strategy meeting housing, employment, and other needs for Swindon Borough plus a long-range vision for the area in compliance with national policy. It will include strategic policies and others as may be required. It will identify where the main developments will take place, and how places within the Borough will change, or will be protected from change.
Geographical coverage	Swindon Borough
Document type/status	Development Plan Document (DPD)
When adopted, will replace	Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 Swindon Central Area Action Plan
Timetable – Key Stage¹	
Public consultation on New Local Plan – Scope, Issues and Preferred Options (Regulation 18)	1 st September – 13 th October 2025
Final Draft Publication Stage (Regulation 19)	Commence Autumn 2026
Submission to Secretary of State (Regulation 22)	December 2026
Estimates below – Subject to Inspector Programme	
Examination in Public (Regulation 24) and Major Modifications Consultations	Spring/Summer 2027
Inspector's Report (Regulation 25)	Autumn/Winter 2027
Adoption (Regulation 26)	Early 2028

¹ Regulation references taken from [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) as amended.

3. Policies Map

- 3.1 The Policies Map spatially illustrates policies contained in DPDs on an Ordnance Survey base map. It will be updated to reflect any changes as the draft Local Plan is reviewed and adopted. The Policies Map will show matters such as:
- a) local development constraints, e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI),
 - b) designations, e.g. settlement boundaries and areas for protection; plus
 - c) site allocations, e.g. sites may be allocated for a variety of uses including housing.

4. Swindon Central Area Action Plan

- 4.1 The Swindon Central Area Action Plan (AAP) detailed in Figure 2 was amended in part through the currently adopted Local Plan. The AAP will be fully superseded through the development of the new Local Plan.

5. Minerals and Waste DPDs

- 5.1 As outlined in Table 2, Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council have successfully co-operated in the preparation and adoption of Minerals and Waste DPDs in the past. The Council will look to review the Minerals and Waste Plan following the adoption of the Swindon Borough New Local Plan 2043. The Council will continue to cooperate with other mineral and waste authorities and partners on strategic planning matters, including the minerals and waste evidence work.

6. Neighbourhood Plans

- 6.1 Neighbourhood Plans are prepared to timescales that are set by the qualifying body, such as a Parish Council and not the Council. Therefore, the timetable for their preparation is not contained within this LDS.
- 6.2 Following successful examination and referendum, Neighbourhood Plans become part of the statutory Development Plan.

7. Risk assessment

- 7.1 Risk assessments will be undertaken during the LDS period. Risk assessments will consider mitigation and contingency measures that may need to be implemented. This is to seek to ensure that the Swindon Borough Local Plan can be progressed in a timely fashion and can be adopted by the Council.