



THE LONDON BOROUGH
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Local Development Scheme

January 2025

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) requires the Council, as the local planning authority, to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS).
- 1.2 The LDS is the programme for preparation of planning policy documents that the Council intends to produce or review, including an indicative timetable for preparation of these documents and estimated adoption dates (set out in Tables 1 and 2). The procedure for the preparation and review of planning documents is set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 1.3 This document is the revised LDS for Bromley, and replaces the last iteration published in July 2024. It sets out:
 - Bromley's current policy framework, principally the Development Plan which is made up of the adopted Bromley Local Plan and the London Plan;
 - The timetable for the preparation of Development Plan Documents (DPDs), namely the review of Bromley's Local Plan; and
 - The timetable for the preparation and review of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).
- 1.4 Progress on preparing the documents listed in the LDS will be reported in the Council's Authority Monitoring Report.

2. Policy framework

National Policy and Guidance

- 2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets the national policy context for preparation of local plans and SPDs. Local Plans must be consistent with national policy and should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the NPPF. The NPPF is also capable of being a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. The current version of the NPPF was published in December 2024. National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) provides further detail on various aspects of the NPPF.

Regional Policy and Guidance

- 2.2 The Mayor of London produces a spatial development strategy (known as the London Plan). The current version of the London Plan was adopted in 2021. The London Plan forms part of the Development Plan for each of the London local planning authorities, and is used to assess planning applications. DPDs (such as a Local Plan) produced by individual boroughs must be in general conformity with the London Plan.
- 2.3 The Mayor also has a number of London Plan Guidance (LPG) documents which provide further detail on policies set out in the London Plan.
- 2.4 The Mayor adopted a new Mayoral Community Infrastructure Levy (MCIL2) in April 2019. Upon adoption, MCIL2 superseded the previous MCIL1.

Local Policy and Guidance

- 2.5 The current Bromley Local Plan was adopted in January 2019. The Local Plan sets out a number of planning policies, site allocations and land designations for the borough, and is the central document in the Borough's Development Plan (which is used to assess planning applications). The Local Plan is accompanied by the Policies Map which illustrates geographically the application of the policies in the Local Plan.
- 2.6 The Council is currently reviewing the Bromley Local Plan. This review will be progressed under the current plan-making system (rather than the new-style plan-making system, of which there are no firm details at the time of writing¹). The deadline for submission of plans under the current system is December 2026. Table 1 sets out an indicative timetable for the preparation of the new Local Plan².
- 2.7 The Bromley Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP) was formerly part of Bromley's Development Plan, but has now expired, having reached the end of its plan period in 2025.

¹ A new planning bill is expected to be published in early 2025. This may provide further information on the new-style plan-making system.

² Significant evidence base gathering has taken place to date; as well as a call for sites consultation in 2021 and a Regulation 18 'Issues and Options' consultation in 2023.

2.8 SPDs are used to provide further guidance on planning policy within DPDs. They do not form part of the Development Plan for the Borough, but they are material considerations in the determination of planning applications.

2.9 The Council has five adopted SPDs:

- Affordable Housing SPD (adopted 2008, with subsequent updates via addendums)
- Planning Obligations SPD (adopted 2022)
- Bromley Town Centre SPD (adopted 2023)
- Orpington Town Centre SPD (adopted 2023)
- Urban Design Guide SPD (adopted 2023)

2.10 The programme for the preparation and review of SPDs is outlined in Table 2.

Community Infrastructure Levy

2.11 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge that local planning authorities may choose to levy on new development, to fund new infrastructure that is required to support growth and the delivery of the Development Plan. Bromley adopted a local CIL charging schedule in 2021.

Statement of Community Involvement

2.12 Bromley adopted its current Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) in July 2016. The SCI sets out the Council's policy for involving the community in its preparation, alteration and review of planning policy documents and in determining planning applications. The Council intends to review the SCI in 2025.

Neighbourhood Planning

2.13 Neighbourhood planning was introduced in the Localism Act 2011. Neighbourhood Plans are community led documents that set out planning policies for a local area. Neighbourhood Plans are prepared by designated Neighbourhood Forums in relation to specific designated Neighbourhood Areas; when adopted, a Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the Council's Development Plan. Neighbourhood Plans are required to be in general conformity with strategic policies in the Development Plan, and are subject to independent examination and a referendum.

2.14 There are currently no designated Neighbourhood Areas or Forums within the Borough. Local planning authorities are required to set out in their SCI their policies for giving advice and assistance to groups wishing to bring forward a neighbourhood plan in their area.

Table 1: Preparation of Development Plan Documents

Title of DPD	Role and Content	Geographical Coverage	Evidence base preparation; SA scoping	Regulation 18 consultation	Regulation 19 consultation	Submission to Secretary of State	Examination	Inspectors report and adoption
Review of the Bromley Local Plan	Review of the adopted Local Plan to take into account changes to national and regional planning policy and to reflect changes in the local area, where necessary.	Borough-wide	Ongoing, up to Q2 2025	Q2 2025	Q2 2026	Q3 2026 to Q4 2026	Q1 2027 to Q2 2027	Q3 to Q4 2027

Table 2: Preparation and review of Supplementary Planning Documents

Title of Supplementary Planning Document	Role and Content	Geographical Coverage	Adoption	Review?
Planning Obligations SPD	To provide details on the Council's requirements relating to planning obligations.	Borough-wide	2022	No review currently planned, but may be reviewed following adoption of new Local Plan.
Urban Design Guide SPD	To provide guidance on urban design to inform and engage developers, applicants, planning officers and other interested parties in bringing forward proposals for development in Bromley.	Borough-wide	2023	No review currently planned, but may be reviewed following adoption of new Local Plan.
Bromley Town Centre SPD	To provide detailed guidance to assist with the implementation of adopted Development Plan policies - Bromley Local Plan and the London Plan - that relate to Bromley Town Centre.	Bromley Town Centre	2023	No review currently planned, but may be reviewed following adoption of new Local Plan.
Orpington Town Centre SPD	To provide detailed guidance to assist with the implementation of adopted Development Plan policies - Bromley Local Plan and the London Plan - that relate to Orpington Town Centre.	Orpington Town Centre	2023	No review currently planned, but may be reviewed following adoption of new Local Plan.
Affordable Housing SPD	To provide guidance on affordable housing policies.	Borough-wide	2008 (with subsequent updates via addendums)	The Council will seek to revoke the SPD as it has been superseded by the adoption of the Local Plan and other SPDs.