



LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LDS)

2025-2027

1. Introduction

What is the Local Development Scheme?

- 1.1 Local planning authorities are required to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS) under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended by the Localism Act 2011 and the Housing and Planning Act 2016. A Local Development Scheme sets out all the planning policy documents to be produced by the authority over a 3-year period.
- 1.2 This LDS sets out:
 - The planning policy documents that Havering have already adopted;
 - The planning policy documents that Havering intend to produce;
 - The subject matter and geographical area of each of the proposed documents;
 - The timetable for the preparation of the documents over the next three years; and
 - The opportunities for the local community and stakeholders to be involved in preparing planning policies by setting out an indicative timetable for the preparation of each document.
- 1.3 The Government requires local planning authorities to produce an updated LDS by 6 March 2025. The updated LDS is expected to include specific dates for consultation on the Local Plan and its submission.
- 1.4 Progress on the implementation of the LDS will be reported annually in the Authorities Monitoring Report.

2. Planning Policy Context

National Planning Policy

- 2.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets the national policy context for preparation of local plans. Local plans must be consistent with national policy and should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the framework.
- 2.2 National Planning Policy for Waste was published in October 2014 and National Planning Policy for Traveller Sites was updated in December 2024.

Regional Planning Policy

- 2.3 The Greater London Authority Act 1999 requires the Mayor of London to produce a spatial development strategy – which has become known as ‘the London Plan’ - and keep it under review. London borough Local Development Documents (such as local plans) must be ‘in general conformity’ with the London Plan. A new

London Plan was published in 2021 and this forms part of Havering's Development Plan, against which planning applications must be determined.

- 2.4 The Mayor of London has also published London Plan Guidance (LPG) and Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on a range of topics. These documents provide additional guidance on the implementation of London Plan policies.

3. *Havering's adopted Planning Policy Documents*

Havering Local Plan 2016-2031 and Policies Map

- 3.1 The Havering Local Plan 2016-2031 was adopted in November 2021. The Local Plan sets the vision and objectives for the spatial development of the borough.
- 3.2 The Local Plan replaced the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) and the policies within the Romford Area Action Plan.

Site Specific Allocations

- 3.3 The Local Plan 2016-2031 does not include Site Specific Allocations and for this reason the Site Specific Allocations DPD 2008 and site allocations in the Romford Area Action Plan (2008) have been retained until they are replaced.

Joint East London Waste Plan

- 3.4 The Joint East London Waste Plan was adopted in 2012 by the four East London Waste Authorities: Havering, Newham, Barking and Dagenham, and Redbridge. The Waste Plan expired in 2021 and the four Waste Authorities are working collaboratively to produce a new East London Joint Waste Plan (ELJWP). The emerging ELJWP will replace the out-of-date 2012 ELJWP. The Waste Plan sets out a planning strategy for sustainable waste management enabling the adequate provision of waste management facilities) in appropriate locations for municipal wastes, and commercial and industrial waste, construction, excavation and demolition, and hazardous wastes.

Supplementary Planning Documents

- 3.5 Supplementary Planning Documents provide additional guidance on the implementation of policies in the Development Plan.
- 3.6 On adoption of the Local Plan 2016-2031 in November 2021, a number of previous SPDs were retained to support the new Local Plan, (refer to table 1 for further detail).

The following SPDs remain in place:

- Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD 2011
- Hall Lane Policy Area SPD 2009
- Emerson Park Policy Area SPD 2009
- Heritage SPD 2011 (including the Local List of Heritage Assets)

*The Romford Master Plan is going to Cabinet in March for approval to adopt. We will provide a factual update if it is adopted.

Other Planning Documents

3.7 There are a number of other planning documents that the Council prepares:

- *Statement of Community Involvement 2021* The purpose of the SCI is to set out the preferred options and legal requirements for involving the community and other stakeholders in the preparation of planning policies and the determination of planning applications.
- *Authority Monitoring Report* The Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to prepare and publish an Authority Monitoring Report containing information on the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which the policies set out in the Local Plan are being achieved. The AMR is published annually.

4. *Future Commitments*

4.1 The Council's commitments are set out in Tables 1 and 2 below. Table 1 sets out the existing documents and any plans for them to be reviewed and updated. Table 2 sets out the new documents that the Council intends to produce.

Table 1 – Existing planning policy documents and programme for their review

Existing document and date of adoption	Description	Geographical Coverage	Timescale for review
Local Plan 2016-2031 Adopted 2021 and Policies Map 2021	Sets out the Council's vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the future development of the Borough The Policies Map provides a spatial representation of the policies in the Local Plan	Borough wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation 18 consultation – Autumn 2025 • Regulation 19 consultation – Summer 2026 • Submission to the Secretary of State - Winter 2026 <p>The timeframe for adoption of the Local Plan is dependent on the Examination Process and is outside the control of the Council.</p>
Site Specific Allocations Development Plan Document 2008	Sets out the specific allocations for individual sites across the borough except for sites in Romford Town Centre which are set out in the Romford Area Action Plan and sites for Waste management which are identified in the Joint Waste Development Plan Document	Borough wide	To be revoked upon adoption of the Local Plan update, which will include updated site specific allocations
Site Specific Allocations in the Romford Area Action Plan 2008	Sets out the specific allocations for individual sites within Romford	Romford	To be revoked upon adoption of the Local Plan update, which will include updated site specific allocations for Romford
East London Joint Waste Plan (ELJWP)	Sets out a planning strategy for sustainable waste management enabling the adequate provision of	Havering, Barking and Dagenham,	Regulation 18 consultation on the new East London Joint Waste Plan (ELJWP) was undertaken in August 2024. Regulation 19

	waste management facilities in appropriate locations.	Redbridge, and Newham Local Authority Areas	consultation is expected to take place in mid 2025. Submission for examination is expected late 2025 / early 2026. The adoption of the Waste Plan is dependent on the Examination Process and is outside the control of the Council.
Heritage SPD 2011 including Local List of Heritage Assets	Seeks to ensure appropriate identification, protection, enhancement and management of Havering's heritage assets by providing additional guidance on the implementation of policies relating to heritage	Borough wide	The Local List of Heritage Assets was reviewed and underwent public consultation in summer 2023. The updated list was published in July 2024. There are no current plans to update the Heritage SPD 2011 ahead of the adoption of the new Local Plan.
Residential extensions and alterations SPD 2011	Provides design guidance to ensure householder development is sympathetic to the existing property and the street scene and does not detrimentally affect the living conditions of neighbouring properties	Borough wide	There are no current plans to update the Residential extensions and alterations SPD 2011 ahead of the adoption of the new Local Plan.
Hall Lane Policy Area 2009	Provides guidance on maintaining and enhancing the special character of the Hall Lane Policy Area	Hall Lane Policy Area	Hall Lane Policy Area was considered as part of the Character Study and recommendations made to obtain further evidence on the operation of the Policy Area. The Character Study is part of the evidence base for the new Local Plan
Emerson Park Policy Area 2009	Provides guidance on maintaining and enhancing the special character of the Emerson Park Policy Area.	Emerson Park Policy Area	Emerson Park Policy Area was considered as part of the Character Study and recommendations made to obtain further evidence on the operation of the Policy Area. The Character Study is part of the evidence base for the new Local Plan.

Statement of Community Involvement 2021	Sets out how the community and other stakeholders will be involved in the preparation of future planning policy documents and in decisions regarding planning applications	Borough-wide	The SCI remains up to date and will be reviewed in 2026.
Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans for each of the designated conservation areas	These documents identify the special interest of each conservation area and provide a clear basis for assessing how far planning proposals preserve or enhance their character or appearance.	Individual Conservation Areas across the borough	The Council is committed to a review of all Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans. Consultation will take place on updated Conservation Area Appraisals for Romford, Rainham and Gidea Park in 2025. Consultation on the remaining Conservation Area Appraisals will take place in 2026 / 2027.

Table 2 – Programme for the preparation of new planning policy documents

Policy Document	Description	Geographical coverage	Key Milestones
Romford Master Plan Supplementary Planning Document	The SPD is a strategic plan aimed at guiding future development within the area. The Masterplan aims to improve Romford's unique character and history, creating a vibrant, mixed-use town centre.	Romford	Adoption anticipated March 2025.
Planning obligations Supplementary Planning Document	This SPD will set out the council's approach to funding and delivering the infrastructure needed to support sustainable development and good growth across the borough through the use of planning obligations (S106). The document will explain the Council's approach to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and the interaction between CIL and S106. It will also detail the council's approach to securing non-financial obligations such as affordable housing or other restrictions over the use of the land. In addition, it will include the process and fees for monitoring S106 clauses.	Borough Wide	Consultation – 2025 Adoption – early 2026
Design guide	The NPPF 2021 states that all local planning authorities should prepare design guides or codes consistent with the principles set out in the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code, and which reflect local character and design preferences. Design guides and codes provide a local framework	The NPPF states that guides and codes can be prepared at an area-wide, neighbourhood or site specific scale.	The Council is currently considering the best way of implementing the new requirement for design guidance and is following the pilot schemes currently underway elsewhere in the Country.

	<p>for creating beautiful and distinctive places with a consistent and high quality standard of design. They should be produced as part of a Plan or as SPD</p>		<p>As part of the evidence base for this work and for the Local Plan in general, a Character Study was commissioned and was published in 2024. The Character Study provides high level design guidance and will be the basis for any future design guidance.</p> <p>Whilst the NPPF states the need for Design Code/Guide, it also states that the National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code 'should be used to guide decisions on applications in the absence of locally produced design guides or design code'</p>
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