

# Supplement for Scrutiny Committee

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**Wednesday 14 July 2021  
6.00 pm**

## **Oxfordshire Plan - Report and principal appendices**

**UPDATED**

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**To:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 21 July 2021  
**Report of:** Head of Planning Services  
**Title of Report:** The Oxfordshire Plan Regulation 18 Part 2 Consultation Document

Summary and recommendations	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	<p>To consider the approval of the Oxfordshire Plan consultation document which sets out a range of planning policy options and a series of spatial strategy options for Oxfordshire.</p> <p>When complete the Oxfordshire Plan will provide a high-level spatial planning framework for Oxfordshire up to 2050 and will be a statutory planning document supplementing Local Plans. The Plan aims to be transformational and occupies new policy areas, such as on climate change, environmental betterment, health impacts and zero carbon transport. It has now reached the Regulation 18 part 2 stage.</p>
<b>Key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Planning & Housing Delivery
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	All.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Council Strategy 2020-24

**Recommendations:** That Cabinet resolves to:

1. **Approve** the Regulation 18 (Part 2) consultation document for public consultation as attached;
2. **Authorise** the Head of Planning Services to make any necessary editorial corrections and minor amendments to the documents, and to agree the final publication style, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Planning & Housing Delivery subject to agreement with their counterparts in the other four partner Local Planning Authorities; and

3. **Adopt** the updated Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which will become the formal basis for the forthcoming Regulation Part 2 consultation.

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Consultation Document
Appendix 2	Statement of Community Involvement
Appendix 3	Duty to Co-operate Statement
Appendix 4	Statement of Common Ground
Appendix 5	Equalities Impact Assessment
Appendix 6	Sustainability Appraisal (SA)
Appendix 7	Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)
Appendix 8	Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment
Appendix 9	Evidence Reports being published alongside the consultation document

## Introduction and background

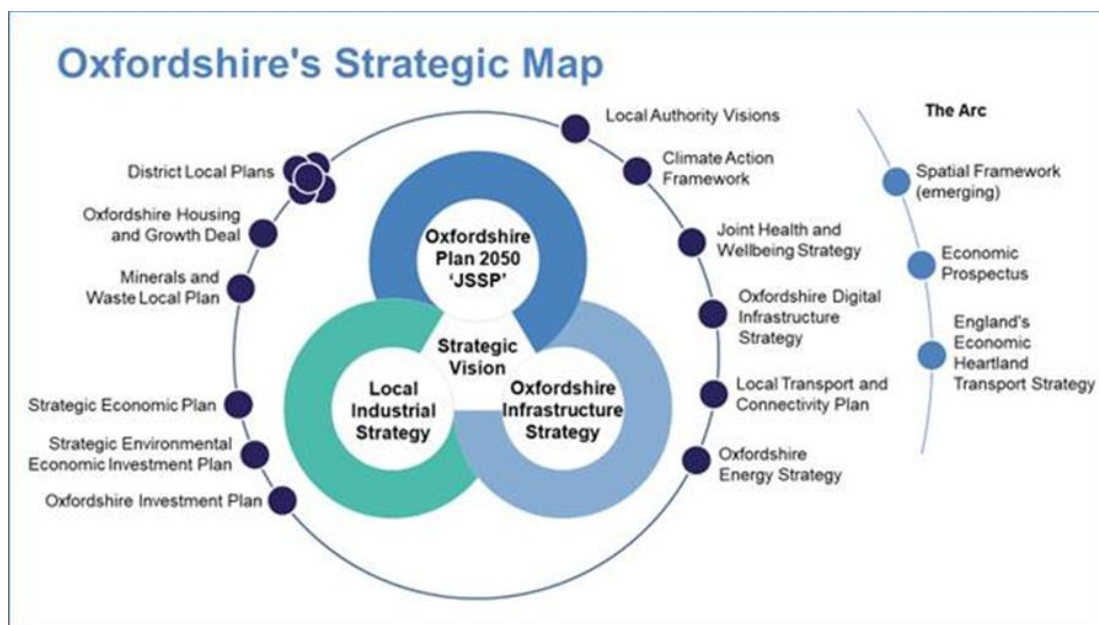
### The Partnership

1. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 (OP2050) is being produced by the five local planning authorities in Oxfordshire, working in close partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and OxLEP throughout. The city and district councils formally approve each key stage.
2. A core team was established to co-ordinate the production of the OP2050 working closely with officers at the councils.
3. Development of the consultation document and evidence base has involved the Growth Board's Oxfordshire Plan Members Advisory Group, the Oxfordshire Heads of Planning Group, a technical Liaison Group and specialist officer input throughout the plan-making process.

### Progress to date

4. The 2018 Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal included a commitment by the Oxfordshire Councils to prepare a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (The Oxfordshire Plan) alongside Government investment of £215m for affordable housing and infrastructure improvements.
5. The first major consultation on the Oxfordshire Plan (covering Plan vision, objectives, aspirations and possible spatial typologies) took place in February and March 2019 (Regulation 18 Part 1), and then a vision for the Oxfordshire Plan was developed in response to the consultation responses.
6. An extensive evidence base was commissioned, and Sustainability Appraisal scoping & ongoing testing has been undertaken.

7. The team also undertook number of further consultation steps including initiating a 'Call for Ideas' (promoted development sites and other project proposals), stakeholder events and engagement with young people.
8. The relationship was considered with other plans & strategies and strategic influencers such as the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS), Oxfordshire's Infrastructure Strategy (OXSIS), Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) and the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS).
9. Considered the nature of 'Good Growth' in Oxfordshire.
10. Developed Oxfordshire's Strategic Vision for the Growth Board, intended to provide a strategic framework for a number of Oxfordshire-wide documents, to enable the closer coordination of planning, transport, infrastructure and economic development, amongst others. It sits alongside the Oxfordshire Plan's vision and was prepared & approved by the collective leadership of the Oxfordshire Growth Board & has been agreed by all Oxfordshire councils.



11. The core team has also undertaken Duty to Co-operate scoping and continuous engagement with neighboring Councils. This has included the Oxford City Council and District Councils & County Council & LEP, together with authorities adjoining Oxfordshire including Thames Valley, Bucks and Swindon. It has also included the 'prescribed bodies', such as Natural England, Environment Agency, Historic England & NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups.
12. The team have also prepared a detailed Equalities Statement and a new Statement of Community Involvement, which sets out the basis for

engagement with the community, particularly the 'remote and online' arrangements in the time of Covid.

### **Structure of the Consultation document**

13. The Oxfordshire Plan consultation document comprises:

- Introduction and context
- Plan Vision and Objectives
- Plan Themes and Policies
- Strategic Spatial Options

### **Developing the Plan**

14. The Oxfordshire Plan is being prepared as a Development Plan under Section 28 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchases Act 2004 (as amended). Once adopted the Oxfordshire Plan will form part of the Development Plan of each District and where appropriate will carry weight in the determination of planning applications and appeals for development, alongside the adopted Local Plan.

15. The development of the Oxfordshire Plan follows the Local Plan regulations (Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 as amended).

16. We are now at the Regulation 18 stage, with significant discretion on content so long as our proposals are backed by evidence and the Sustainability Appraisal has played a major role in shaping the detail. The Regulation 18 is a consultation stage at which different options can be tested. The Regulation 19 stage (the draft Plan) is where the Plan takes shape with policy detail.

17. A consultation document has been prepared that takes a series of proposals from the Planning Authorities as its foundation. It has been expanded into a full draft consultation document following discussion with Councillors representing each Council on the Advisory Group and officers. The draft consultation document seeks to ensure the content is strategic, setting the framework for Oxfordshire over 30 years (twice the operational length of a normal Local Plan) and shaping future growth, policies and setting the content for new Local Plans.

18. The consultation document sets out to show how joint action at an Oxfordshire level, where issues impact on more than one District, can add to what is already in place in the adopted Local Plans. The document consults on options that have the potential to set a framework for Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans, with options on policy criteria with some matters more appropriately left to Local Plans or Neighbourhood Plans.

19. At the Regulation 18 stage we are concerned with considering options on policies and spatial distribution and have sought to present such in the consultation document as 'preferred options' with 'alternative options' where appropriate. This is not the final plan but shows the direction of travel. The Plan sets out how we intend to progress from Regulation 18 to the

Regulation 19 stage. Several local plans have been adopted since the Regulation 18 part 1 consultation in February 2019, so the Regulation 18 part 2 takes into account the development already planned in all the adopted Local Plans.

### **Scope of the Oxfordshire Plan**

20. As agreed through the 2018 Oxfordshire Growth and Housing Deal, the Oxfordshire Plan is being prepared as a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan covering 2020-2050.
21. The Oxfordshire Plan aims to be a different sort of plan. The Plan aims to be ambitious and transformational and occupies new policy areas; some require explanation in the plan at this stage; especially on climate change and environmental enhancement. The plan seeks to achieve cleaner, greener growth & higher quality development as a result of the proposed strategy and associated policies.
22. The consultation document describes 32 Policy Options that will be tested at the Regulation 18 stage. The document sets out why options are included, what the challenge is and why the response is proposed.
23. Possible policies for the Plan were identified following Reg 18 part 1, which the partnership considered. These have been subsequently expanded through consideration of evidence, such as the Sustainability Appraisal, into new policy proposals judged appropriate for consideration at the Oxfordshire level.
24. The proposed policy content covers strategic, Oxfordshire-wide policy options where issues related to more than one District. The document aims to set a long-term, overarching and high-level spatial planning framework for Oxfordshire for the period up to 2050.
25. Policies are in some case establishing an enabling/framework, others are more detailed. Others will be used in formulation of more detailed Local Plan policies.
26. Our development approach is set out under 5 themes that will create a County wide long-term framework. 32 strategic policies are proposed across five themes:
  - **Theme One:** Addressing climate change.
  - **Theme Two:** Improving environmental quality.
  - **Theme Three:** Creating strong and healthy communities.

- **Theme Four:** Planning for sustainable travel and connectivity.
- **Theme Five:** Creating jobs and providing homes.

27. Under these themes county-wide policies are being proposed, including policies on climate change, environmental net gain, health impact assessment and urban renewal due to the retail changes impacting on our town and city centres, business site intensification and high design standards for new development.
28. The Plan is closely aligned with the development of the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan and the OXIS infrastructure assessment. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan that will accompany the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan will be based on update of OXIS. This will complete before the Regulation 19 stage.
29. The plan will also have a Monitoring Framework at the Regulation 19 stage that is aligned with the OXIS monitoring framework.
30. The options consulted upon at Regulation 18 part 2 will be turned into final proposals by the Regulation 19 stage.

### **Strategic Spatial Options**

31. Finally, the Plan will also establish housing and economic growth requirements to 2050 and broad locations for growth. This document proposes consulting on the options for the distribution of growth through spatial options.
32. Five spatial strategy options have been identified. These are to be tested through the Regulation 18 part 2 consultation. The process for moving from Regulation 18 to Regulation 19 is set out.

The five spatial strategy options identified are:

- **Option 1:** Focus on opportunities at larger settlements and planned growth locations.
- **Option 2:** Focus on Oxford-led growth.
- **Option 3:** Focus on opportunities in sustainable transport corridors & at strategic transport hubs.
- **Option 4:** Focus on strengthening business locations.
- **Option 5:** Focus on supporting rural communities.

33. The adopted local plans already establish the distribution of significant growth to 2031/35/36 and are taken account of in the spatial strategy and proposed spatial options.
34. At this stage we are not identifying individual options that can necessarily accommodate all of Oxfordshire's growth over next 30 years, nor identifying any one of options taken in isolation as the eventual long-term spatial strategy. At the next stage when a draft Plan is published (Regulation 19) broad locations for growth will be identified, with Local Plans being the mechanism for final site allocations. The eventual long-term spatial strategy

is anticipated to draw from all of the five strategic spatial options at this next stage.

### **Level of new growth**

35. We have undertaken an assessment of the growth needs of Oxfordshire up to 2050, the Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment (OGNA), which will be published alongside the Regulation 18 part 2 consultation document given its important role as an evidence document. It sets out three scenarios for housing need. One that is based on the Government's standard methodology, a mid-range option, and a higher one that factors in additional economic growth.
36. The decision on which level of growth will be taken around Christmas 2021 to inform the Regulation 19 stage draft plan. In setting the level of planned housing provision, the OGNA will be one of the factors considered alongside a number of others.
37. Our strategy seeks to take account of the five District Local Plans that have been adopted in Oxfordshire and take account of the growth already committed in each District, totalling circa 75,000 houses. The consultation document clarifies that the housing need assessment is just a starting point, the current Local Plan growth up to 2031/35/36 has to be taken into account and leaves a smaller 'residual' figure of new development to be planned for in the Oxfordshire Plan.

### **The relationship with the Oxford-Cambridge Arc**

38. The consultation document also includes a section on the relationship with the Oxford to Cambridge Arc. Our aspiration is for our work on the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan to strongly inform and influence government's thinking on the Arc Spatial Framework.
39. MHCLG have announced the development of a Spatial Framework for the Arc, to take place in stages:
  - Policy Statement – February 2021 (MHCLG announced a focus on brownfield land, new settlements and climate change)
  - Vision consultation – Summer 2021
  - Options consultation - Spring 2022
  - Draft Framework consultation – Autumn 2022
40. The Oxfordshire Plan will help ensure that Oxfordshire has a strong voice in the development of the Ox-Cam Arc Spatial Framework and that our interests are taken into account.
41. Decisions on the development of the Arc will also feed into the site assessment that is to be undertaken as part of the work to prepare the Regulation 19 draft Plan.

### **Financial Implications**

42. The work to produce the Oxfordshire Plan Regulation 18 part 2 Consultation Document (and the associated evidence base and consultation) has been resourced through the Growth Deal capacity fund. It has involved the core Oxfordshire Plan Team with the support of other officers from each of the partner authorities. Future stages of work on the Oxfordshire Plan will need to be carried out with resources from within the partner authorities. Arrangements for future joint work in Oxfordshire (including the Oxfordshire Plan) have been agreed through the partnership of the Oxfordshire Growth Board; this includes decisions on resourcing and funding.

### **Regulations and Legal Advice**

43. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 at Section 28(1) provides that two or more local authorities may prepare a joint local development document.
44. Effective co-operation between the authorities to plan for issues with cross-boundary impacts, and the Statement of Common Ground, are good evidence of compliance with the duty to co-operate under Section 33A.
45. Section 19(3) provides that the authority must comply with the consultation requirements as set out in the Statement of Community Involvement.
46. Section 19(5) provides that the authority must carry out an appraisal of the sustainability of the proposals of the local plan and prepare a report of the findings, focussing on the environmental, economic and social impacts that are likely to be significant. The sustainability appraisal should meet all of the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
47. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (the Local Plan Regulations) at regulation 18(1) and (2) provide that a local planning authority must notify specific and general consultation bodies, that it considers may have an interest in the subject of the proposed local plan, and such residents or other persons carrying on business in the local planning authority's area, as the authority considers appropriate. The authority must invite comments from those consulted, on the subject of a local plan that the authority is proposing to prepare. Subsequently, the authority must take into account those representations received.
48. The method of consultation accords with regulation 35 and 36A (coronavirus- temporary modifications) providing for documents to be published on the authority's website.
49. Legal support and advice has been received throughout the key stages of the process, as with the preparation of a Local Plan.
50. The Plan follows the Local Plan Regulations and will be part of the Development Plan for each District. We are at Regulation 18 stage and have significant discretion about consultation document content, so long as it is backed by evidence. Regulation 18 is a testing/consultation stage.
51. The development of the consultation document is also informed by a significant evidence base, especially the Sustainability Appraisal.

## **Accompanying documents**

52. A number of accompanying documents have been provided to be available to Councillors when considering the Regulation 18 part 2 Consultation Document and whether to approve it for consultation. These include:

- An updated Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)
- A report on Duty to Cooperate.
- Statement of Common Ground (NPPF requirement, para 27)
- Equalities Statement

53. A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a statutory requirement that needs to comply with legislation and Government policy for plan-making and consultation on planning matters. The Statement of Community Involvement for the Oxfordshire Plan sets out the key stages for preparing the Oxfordshire Plan and how the Oxfordshire local planning authorities intend to inform, involve and consult communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and statutory consultees on the preparation of the plan. It sets out what is required and how and when people will be consulted in order to ensure that the plan is shaped by early, proportionate and meaningful engagement. The original SCI for the Oxfordshire Plan was approved in 2019. The Oxfordshire Plan SCI is now being updated to incorporate a number of changes to consultation methods to reflect current public health guidelines related to COVID-19 which impact on consultation methods. It is a temporary update that will be further reviewed in light of changes to public health guidelines.

54. As with the Oxfordshire Plan SCI 2019, the version on which approval is now being sought relates to, and is specific to, the Oxfordshire Plan. The partner local planning authorities will also have their own individual SCIs concerned with the production of their individual local plans (and other planning matters).

55. There are also three independent studies that are being made available to inform the decision to proceed to consultation:

- Sustainability Appraisal (SA)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)
- The Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment (OGNA)

56. Appendix 9 lists the extensive evidence base, additional reports and studies that will be published as part of the evidence base at the start of the consultation period.

## **Consultation Period**

57. The consultation is to commence on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021 for ten weeks, up to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

58. At the Regulation 18 part 2 stage we have discretion as to the length of time for the consultation period.
59. As noted earlier the purpose of this consultation is to seek public views and test the options presented throughout the consultation document. Councillors are requested to engage with the consultation process once it commences rather than seeking to answer the questions posed before the consultation begins.
60. We have planned for the engagement process to be online given the Covid uncertainties.

## **Website**

61. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 has a website <https://oxfordshireplan.org/> where the Regulation 18 part 2 consultation documents will sit. The website will be the key tool for the engagement during the consultation period.

62. The website will contain:

- Overview text about the Oxfordshire Plan, stage reached and consultation purpose.
- A consultation response form, including a series of questions included.
- A summary leaflet.
- A downloadable Regulation 18 part 2 consultation document.
- The ability to access the key accompanying documents that the Councils will receive.
- Link to the supporting evidence including the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) & the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).
- Link to the OGNA report
- Link to secondary evidence such as the Local Transport & Connectivity Plan (LTCP) and the OXIS which supports the Oxfordshire Plan but which is being consulted upon separately.
- Text confirming that the County Minerals and Waste Plan is separate.
- A download form for proposals to be submitted by site promoters.

## **Online events for which dates are being confirmed.**

- District-based webinars: 2 per district, 1st to take place in 3rd week of August (from 16th), 2nd to take place in 3rd week of September (commencing 20th)
- CPRE webinar date confirmed as 19<sup>th</sup> August.
- A number of specialist webinars covering Environment and Developers. Each of these is to take place in the week commencing Tuesday 31st August.
- OxLEP Business events: 2 events, one w/c 19th July and one in mid-September
- Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce: July 6<sup>th</sup>

## The future timetable

63. The scale of the work undertaken at the Regulation 18 part 2 stage puts the plan-making process in a good position to meet the future timetable that was agreed with MHCLG in February 2021.

64. We plan to reach:

Stage	Timeline
Scrutiny Meetings	8th to 15th July 2021
Cabinet/ Executive Meetings	19th to 22nd July 2021
<i>Second</i> Regulation 18 Consultation (on options)	30 <sup>th</sup> July - September 2021
Regulation 19 Consultation (draft plan)	May - June 2022
Submission	September 2022
Examination	November/December 2022
Inspectors Report	February/March 2023
Adoption	May/June 2023
Monitoring	<i>From adoption onwards</i>

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### **Background Papers**

None

## **Oxfordshire Plan – Regulation 18 (Part 2) Consultation Document**

**VERSION 27 (Full Text) with paragraph numbers  
At 1 July 2021**

## Foreword

1. Oxfordshire is a unique and special place shaped by its beautiful and varied landscapes, rich cultural heritage and areas important to nature conservation. Its towns, villages and the City of Oxford form part of a dynamic network of places that have grown to support an innovation-driven economy that is nationally and internationally significant, with Oxfordshire forming part of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc. These characteristics, together with Oxfordshire's connections to other places, mean that, for many, Oxfordshire is a prosperous and healthy place to live. But there are also persistent, multi-faceted inequalities in some of our places, and challenges linked to climate change, congestion, housing affordability and threats to the natural, built and historic environments.
2. The Oxfordshire Plan will change the way we plan for Oxfordshire's future. To fully make the most of our opportunities and to more effectively tackle the challenges that Oxfordshire faces requires a new partnership-based approach to planning: one that continues to value the vital role played by local and neighbourhood plans, but which also recognises that some issues require transformative change through concerted effort over the medium and longer-term, are better considered on a wider geographical scale and best tackled through joined-up policy responses that build resilience.
3. Climate change is one example. Decisions made locally have the potential to impact on outcomes in that area, but also more widely within Oxfordshire as well as beyond the county's boundaries. We also understand there are important linkages between climate change, where development is located, Oxfordshire's status as an international centre of world-leading innovation and research, movement and connectivity, the wellbeing of the natural environment, people's health and the importance of enhanced resilience across all these areas. Likewise, there are many factors that impact on people's wellbeing including housing, their physical and mental health, employment, income, education, the built and natural environment, access to green space and cultural facilities and a sense of community.
4. Not all these issues are within the sphere of influence of a statutory development plan, but statutory planning does have an important role to play. This strategic plan for Oxfordshire has been jointly prepared by the four district councils – Cherwell District Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council – and Oxford City Council, working in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership.
5. Oxfordshire has a global reputation for innovation. We want our Plan to be bold and ambitious, setting out challenging policies that place Oxfordshire at the forefront of sustainable development because we want Oxfordshire to be an even better-quality place to live, work, visit and invest in 2050. Realising our ambition will require a step-change in Oxfordshire's approach to place-shaping: one that is transformational. This document sets out an innovative strategy that plans positively and collaboratively for inclusive growth in ways that fully align and integrate sustainability objectives, providing a framework for local plans. Our aim is to enhance environmental, social and economic wellbeing through 'good growth' in ways that are distinctively 'Oxfordshire' and deliver the best possible

outcomes for our communities, environment and businesses, benefitting current and future generations.

6. We hope the public and stakeholders will support our new approach to planning for Oxfordshire.

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Map of Oxfordshire

List of proposed policy options for the Oxfordshire Plan

## **Introduction and Overview** *(page 7)*

- Why produce a joint plan for Oxfordshire?
- What is the Oxfordshire Plan?
- What is the Oxfordshire Plan seeking to achieve?
- Oxfordshire's Strategic Vision for Long-Term Sustainable Development
- Relationship with other plans and strategies
- The Oxford-Cambridge Arc
- Links with neighbouring areas and the Duty to Co-operate
- Notes on reading this consultation document
- Purpose of this consultation and how to get involved

## **Oxfordshire Plan Vision and Objectives** *(page 22)*

### **Themes and Policies** *(page 24)*

- Theme One: Addressing climate change *(page 24)*
- Theme Two: Improving environmental quality *(page 47)*
- Theme Three: Creating strong and healthy communities *(page 82)*
- Theme Four: Planning for sustainable travel and connectivity *(page 92)*
- Theme Five: Creating jobs and providing homes *(page 105)*

### **Spatial Strategy Options** *(page 132)*

Draft Spatial Strategy

Principles to apply

Level of committed growth

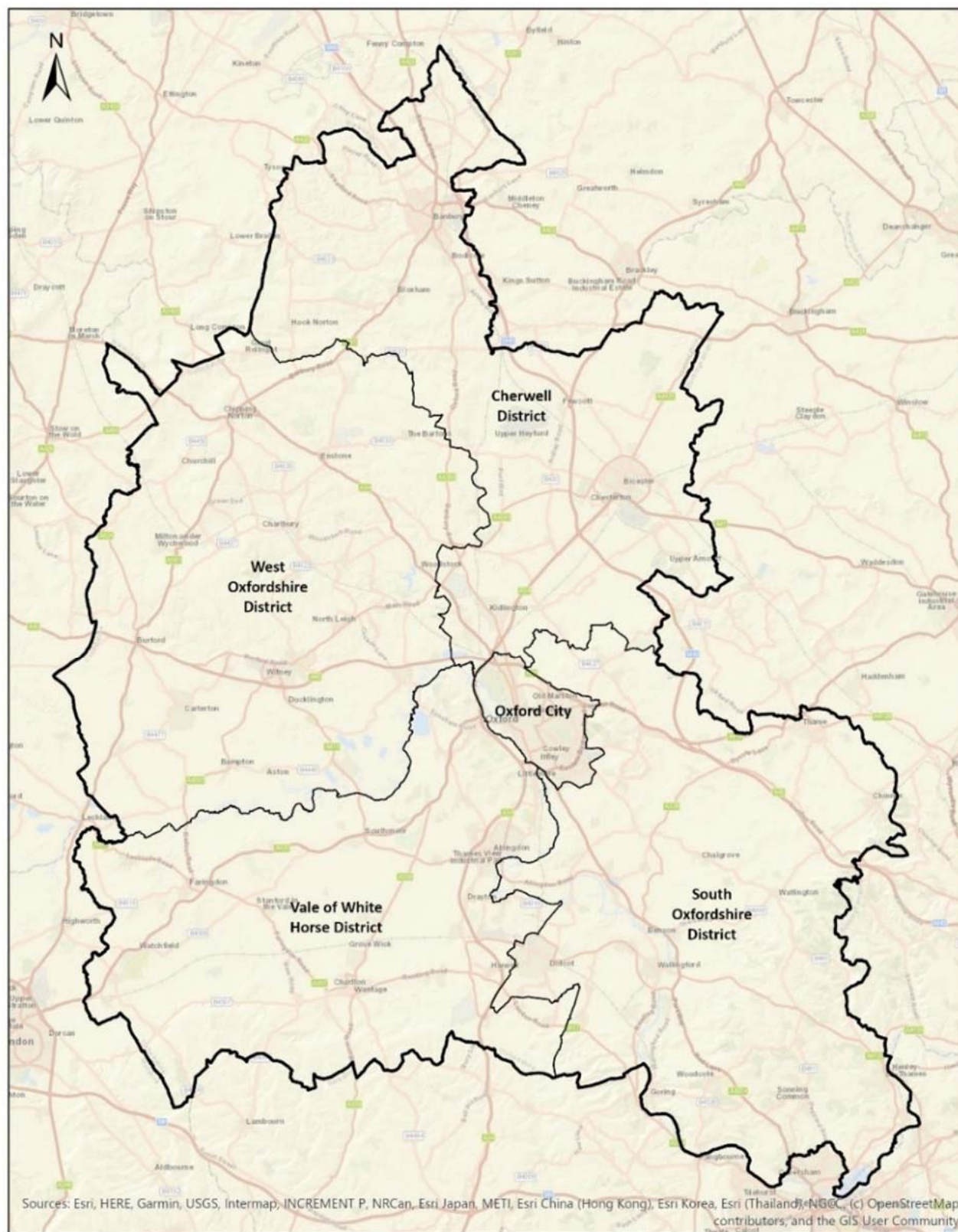
Spatial Strategy options

- Option 1: Focus on opportunities at larger settlements & planned growth locations
- Option 2: Focus on Oxford-led growth
- Option 3: Focus on opportunities in sustainable transport corridors & at strategic transport hubs
- Option 4: Focus on strengthening business locations
- Option 5: Focus on supporting rural communities

### **Next Steps: From Regulation 18 to Regulation 19** *(page 156)*

### **Draft Monitoring Framework** *(page 158)*

## Map of Oxfordshire



- City and District Boundaries
- Oxfordshire County Boundary

## List of Proposed Policy Options for the Oxfordshire Plan

### Theme One: Addressing Climate Change

- Policy option 01 - Sustainable Design and Construction
- Policy option 02 - Energy
- Policy option 03 - Water Efficiency
- Policy option 04 - Flood Risk

### Theme Two: Improving Environmental Quality

- Policy option 05 - Protection and Enhancement of Landscape Characters
- Policy option 06 - Protection and Enhancement of Historic Environment
- Policy option 07 - Nature Recovery
- Policy option 08 - Biodiversity Gain
- Policy option 09 - Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services
- Policy option 10 - Green Belt
- Policy option 11 - Water Quality
- Policy option 12 - Air Quality

### Theme Three: Creating Strong and Healthy communities

- Policy option 13 - Healthy Place Shaping and Impact Assessments
- Policy option 14 - Health Infrastructure
- Policy option 15 - High-Quality Design for New Development and Garden Town Standards for New Settlements
- Policy option 16 - Leisure, Recreation, Community and Open Space Facilities

### Theme Four: Planning for sustainable travel and connectivity

- Policy option 17 - Towards a Net Zero Transport Network
- Policy option 18 - Sustainable Transport in New Development
- Policy option 19 - Supporting Sustainable Freight Management
- Policy option 20 - Digital Infrastructure
- Policy option 21 - Strategic Infrastructure Priorities

### Theme Five: Creating jobs and providing homes

- Policy option 22 - Supporting the Creation of Jobs
- Policy option 23 - Protection of Economic Assets
- Policy option 24 - Town Centre Renewal
- Policy option 25 - Visitor Economy
- Policy option 26 - Culture and Arts
- Policy option 27 - Meeting Skills and Education Needs
- Policy option 28 - Homes: How Many? Commitments and Locations
- Policy option 29 - Urban Renewal
- Policy option 30 - Affordable Homes
- Policy option 31 - Specialist Housing Needs
- Policy option 32 - Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

## Introduction and Overview

### Why produce a joint plan for Oxfordshire?

7. Oxfordshire is a place of unique opportunities and assets, but there are also challenges.
8. Oxfordshire is taking a strategic approach to planning its future. We think this is the best way to realise the transformational opportunities that exist to tackle climate change, improve the environment, secure social justice and support long-term, sustainable, innovation-led economic growth. Addressing these issues to secure better outcomes requires a long-term co-ordinated approach across Oxfordshire. One of the particular opportunities associated with this approach to planning is that it helps create certainty for those making future decisions about investment, and offers greater potential that strategic infrastructure – physical, social and environmental – will be delivered in a co-ordinated way that helps ensure that growth is truly sustainable and inclusive.
9. This joint approach to planning builds on earlier collective work undertaken in Oxfordshire to agree how to accommodate the level of housing growth, including Oxford's unmet housing needs, identified in the 2014 Strategic Housing Market Assessment. That work highlighted the importance of deeper and closer engagement and a broader-based approach to planning for Oxfordshire.
10. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 is one of the commitments made by the six Oxfordshire authorities as part of the ambitious 2018 Housing and Growth Deal with Government. The Plan is being prepared by a core team working in close partnership with Oxfordshire's District Councils, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council and the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, and through the Oxfordshire Growth Board.

### What is the Oxfordshire Plan?

11. The Oxfordshire Plan is a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (or JSSP). It is a formal Development Plan Document being prepared under Section 28 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). Once adopted, the Plan will form part of the Development Plan for Oxford City Council ('the City Council') and each District Council ('the District Councils') in Oxfordshire: Cherwell District Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council.
12. The Oxfordshire Plan will set out the long-term, overarching and high-level spatial planning framework for Oxfordshire for the period to 2050. It will be used in the formulation of more detailed local plans and neighbourhood development plans and, where appropriate, its policies will carry weight in the determination of planning applications and appeals for development. It will also provide a spatial framework for a wide range of other plans, strategies and programmes relevant to Oxfordshire that have a bearing on the use of land. These include (but are not limited to) the Local Industrial Strategy, Oxfordshire's Infrastructure Strategy, the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan and the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy. Looking more widely, the Oxfordshire Plan will play an important role in helping shape the emerging Spatial Framework for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.

13. Key factors in the preparation of the Oxfordshire Plan are its scope and the appropriate level of detail. The Plan will only contain policies that are appropriate to its overarching role as part of Oxfordshire's portfolio approach to plan-making and strategy development. It will not, for example, include policies that are more appropriately made in local or neighbourhood plans, and its policies will add value by being Oxfordshire-specific and not simply replicating national policy. Following further consideration since the initial scoping published in 2018, it is proposed the Plan will include policies relating to:

- Oxfordshire's spatial strategy;
- tackling climate change;
- improving environmental quality;
- priorities for new infrastructure;
- the scale and broad location of new development;
- healthy place-shaping; and
- urban renewal.

14. Some policies will apply across Oxfordshire, while other policies will apply only to large-scale developments and/or to broad locations for new development. The Oxfordshire Plan should be read as a whole.

15. The policies in the Oxfordshire Plan will cover 30 years and reflect the changing levels of certainty there are over this period. While there is greater certainty over the earlier part of the Plan period, there is also less scope to effect transformational change. Uncertainty increases further into the plan period, particularly around external factors such as climate and technological change, together with future changes to planning legislation and national policy, but so too does the scope for emergence of new opportunities to deliver sustainable development in different and better ways. The Oxfordshire Plan has an important role to play in setting Oxfordshire on the pathway to deliver transformational change based on a different approach to place-making.

16. The City and District councils in Oxfordshire each have their own adopted local plans.

<b>Cherwell District Council</b>	Adopted July 2015	2011-2031
<b>Cherwell District Council</b>	Part 1 Partial Review: Oxford's Unmet Housing Need Adopted September 2020	2011-2031
<b>Oxford City Council</b>	Adopted June 2020	2016-2036
<b>South Oxfordshire District Council</b>	Adopted December 2020	2011-2035
<b>Vale of White Horse District Council</b>	Adopted December 2016	2011-2031
<b>West Oxfordshire District Council</b>	Adopted September 2018	2011-2031

17. The committed growth in these existing adopted local plans will be particularly important in influencing the policies for the first ten to fifteen years of the Oxfordshire Plan from 2020 to the early 2030s. The Oxfordshire Plan will set the policy framework for future local plans in each of the four Districts and the City of Oxford that follow the current round of plans.
18. Oxfordshire also has a Minerals and Waste Local Plan which is prepared by Oxfordshire County Council. Part 1 of that Plan was adopted in 2017. Part 2 (Site Allocations) is in preparation<sup>1</sup>.
19. The Oxfordshire Plan does not cover proposals that are defined as Nationally Significant Infrastructure. A separate planning process will apply in those cases as set down by the 2008 Planning Act, and the relevant supporting National Policy Statements.
20. The Oxfordshire Plan is being developed with a substantial technical evidence base and has been subject to testing through Sustainability Appraisal (SA) at key stages and to early Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening. The SA and HRA work continue to influence the development of the Plan.
21. The Plan is also being shaped by public and stakeholder engagement. An initial formal Regulation 18 Part 1 consultation 'Introducing the Oxfordshire Plan' took place in February & March 2019<sup>2</sup>. That consultation sought views on what the Plan's vision, aspirations, objectives and broad spatial strategy should be. The public's response to that consultation is set out in the Regulation 18 Part 1 consultation report<sup>3</sup>. Taken together, the responses gave a very clear overall steer that there is an appetite for an approach that:
- is ambitious, radical, innovative and creative,
  - is Oxfordshire-specific and reflective of local people's views,
  - prioritises climate change, and
  - focusses on social, economic and environmental wellbeing, and not solely on a narrow definition of growth.
22. This Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation document has responded to these earlier comments by setting out an ambitious and innovative set of policy approaches based on five themes (addressing climate change, improving environmental quality, creating strong and healthy communities, planning for sustainable travel and connectivity and creating jobs and providing homes) and a set of spatial strategy options.

## What is the Oxfordshire Plan seeking to achieve?

23. National planning policies require that Oxfordshire plans positively for growth in ways that achieve the three overarching objectives of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. These overarching objectives of sustainable development are intrinsically linked.

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<sup>1</sup> [New Minerals and Waste Local Plan | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Introducing the Oxfordshire Plan Feb 2019.pdf \(oxfordshireplan.org\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Reg-18-Part-1-Consultation-Summary.pdf \(oxfordshireplan.org\)](#)

24. The approach proposed in this consultation document seeks to deliver real and lasting positive change in Oxfordshire by creating the right environmental, social and economic conditions and by building resilience. The emerging Plan: contributes to protecting and enhancing our **natural, built and historic environment** by making prudent use of natural resources (including our land), improving biodiversity, improving air quality, tackling, mitigating and adapting to climate change and supporting low-carbon solutions; helps support **economic prosperity** by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places at the right times with timely provision of infrastructure to meet the needs of Oxfordshire's world-leading economy; supports our **communities** by planning for energy efficient homes sufficient in number and of the right tenures, types and sizes to meet the needs of Oxfordshire's residents – current and future – in well-designed communities with accessible, inclusive, high quality and accessible services and public spaces and in ways that support communities' health, social and cultural wellbeing.
25. Rather than seeing environmental, economic and social objectives as competing demands that need to be balanced, the approach proposed in the Oxfordshire Plan is to align and integrate these priorities so that they are mutually supportive. The emerging Plan recognises that the environment, economy, connectivity, social inclusion, housing and community assets are all key to Oxfordshire's wellbeing. The Oxfordshire Plan will be a key tool in achieving our ambitions for transformative and long-term sustainable development in ways that are distinctive to Oxfordshire and reflect local circumstances across the county. The aim for Oxfordshire is to deliver '*good growth*'.
26. What Oxfordshire means by 'good growth' is defined in the Oxfordshire Growth Board's 'Strategic Vision for Long-Term Sustainable Development 2050'<sup>4</sup> that has been adopted by each Council. This definition of 'Good Growth' is a 'golden thread' that will run through the Oxfordshire Plan. The definition has been assessed as part of the Sustainability Appraisal of the emerging Oxfordshire Plan.

**'Good Growth' in Oxfordshire will:**

- Be **clean and green**, placing the county at the leading edge of UK and global de-carbonisation efforts by maximising all opportunities to significantly reduce Oxfordshire's carbon footprint, and increasing natural capital across the county.
- Be **sustainable**, focusing development in ways that enhance quality of place and at locations which enable people to live and work nearby, improving digital connectivity and avoiding unnecessary travel in the first instance, but using opportunities to increase movement by sustainable and active modes of travel when needed.
- Embrace **innovation** based on our technology sectors and knowledge-intensive activity, and develop new innovative solutions for working, learning, mobility, health care, resource management, sustainable design and improved public services.

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<sup>4</sup> [Sustainable Development \(oxfordshiregrowthboard.org\)](https://www.oxfordshiregrowthboard.org)

- Be **healthy and inclusive**, with all development addressing inequalities and contributing positively to the overall health and wellbeing of Oxfordshire's communities, environment and economy.
- Facilitate **environmental improvements** and make **efficient** use of Oxfordshire's natural resources and land.
- Enhance and expand access to the county's internationally significant **historic environment** and **cultural and heritage assets**.
- Support diverse, accessible employment, generating a highly productive and **inclusive economy** based on our world-class research, innovation and technology.
- Build **resilience** to change, with growth planned in ways that: build on strengths and assets to support communities during periods of change; support economic diversity and can accommodate changes in technology; recognise changes in the way that people live and work and changing demographics; and respond to global impacts, particularly from climate and economic changes.
- Expect **high-quality** development which will have a positive impact on communities in terms of design, energy and water efficiency and public realm, utilises low impact building and construction methods and materials, and is properly supported by the necessary infrastructure including excellent digital connectivity. Everything we build or design in Oxfordshire will be fit for purpose in the world of 2050, respond to different circumstances, contribute to Oxfordshire's sense of distinctiveness and rich variety, and support connected communities.

*Source: Oxfordshire's Strategic Vision for Long-Term Sustainable Development, 2021*

## Oxfordshire's Strategic Vision for Long-Term Sustainable Development

27. The Strategic Vision was prepared and approved by the collective leadership of the Oxfordshire Growth Board and has been agreed by each of the Oxfordshire councils. The Strategic Vision was shaped by engagement with Oxfordshire's communities and stakeholders on a draft Strategic Vision (November 2020) and by expert, informal sustainability testing. The Strategic Vision sets out what Oxfordshire should look like in 2050 and how it can be achieved through a range of strategies acting together. It is a positive statement of shared strategic priorities designed to facilitate a step-change in the approach to planning for and delivering sustainable development in Oxfordshire, challenging the norm and drawing on new ways of thinking.
28. The ambition for Oxfordshire has been set high. The Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire's future is outcome-focussed, driven by improvements to people's wellbeing and recognises that the future of Oxfordshire has the potential to benefit not just the wellbeing of its own residents and communities, but also the wellbeing of the UK and communities across the globe.

### Strategic Vision 2050: Outcomes for Oxfordshire

By 2050, Oxfordshire will:

- have achieved carbon neutral status, and be accelerating towards a carbon negative future, removing more carbon than it emits each year. Energy production will be sustainable.
- be the first generation to leave the natural environment in a better state than that in which we found it. The natural environment will be more biodiverse, support social, economic and ecological resilience and have the capacity to adapt to change.
- have a healthier and happier population with better physical and mental health. Young people will feel confident, positive and excited about their future and people will spend more of their later life active, in good health and with care available in their communities to meet their changing needs.
- be a globally competitive economy which is sustainable, diverse and inclusive, generating high quality, productive and knowledge-based employment for our communities. It will utilise the county's strengths and resources, including its world-class universities and world-leading research, innovation and technology assets. There will be improved educational attainment and a skills system aligned to the needs of business and communities, helping to provide the conditions in which all Oxfordshire's people can benefit and thrive.
- be a more equal place, supported by inclusive growth that gives everyone a fair chance in life to prosper. Deprivation and disadvantage will have been tackled wherever it manifests itself in our urban and rural areas, and discrimination will have been removed.
- enjoy a built and historic environment which is rich and diverse, comprising high quality places where people want to live, work, visit and invest. Our rich and distinctive internationally recognised heritage assets, visitor economy and vibrant cultural offer will have been further enhanced and there will be improved access to them.
- have energy efficient, well-designed homes, sufficient in numbers, location, type, size, tenure and affordability to meet the needs of our growing economy, young people, residents and future generations.
- have transformed movement and connectivity within the county and beyond. There will be greater digital connectivity and physical mobility in and between places in ways that enhance environmental, social and economic wellbeing, with an emphasis on sustainable travel, including walking and cycling.
- have flourishing, diverse and vibrant communities rooted in pride with our local, national and international connections and a strong sense of civic identity. Individuals and families will support each other in partnership with sustainable public services, a thriving voluntary and community sector and be connected to dynamic and socially responsible businesses.

29. The Strategic Vision's definition of 'good growth' forms the basis for a set of Guiding Principles.

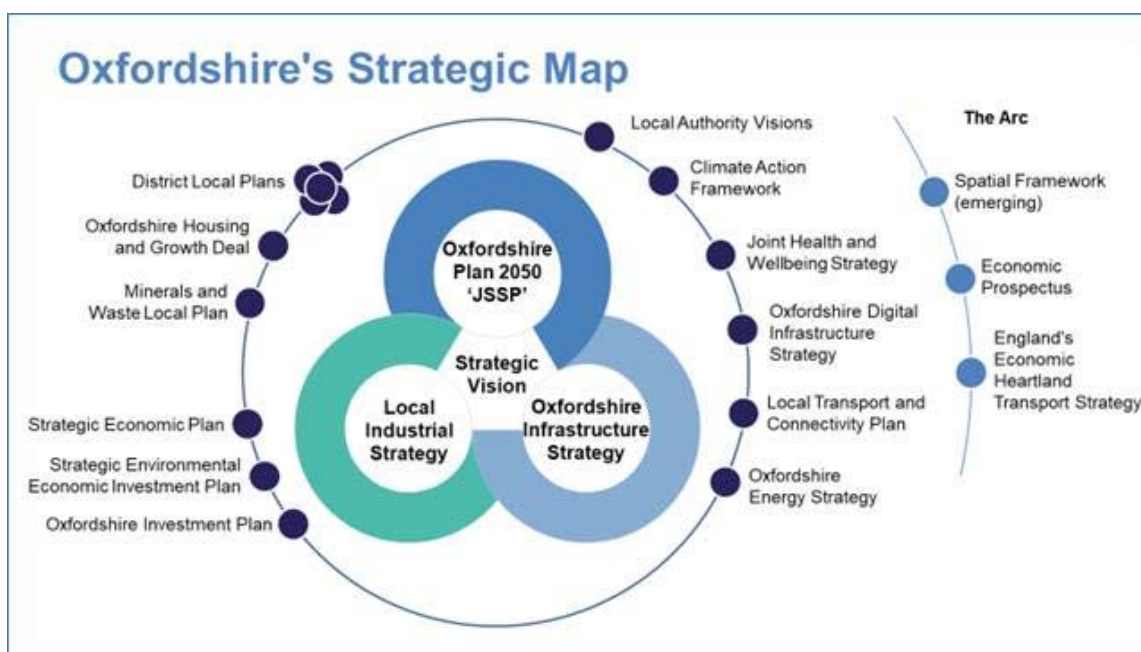
### **Strategic Vision 2050 Guiding Principles: Headlines**

1. We will reverse the impacts of climate change.

2. We will create the conditions to support a world-leading and innovation rich economy which is clean, prosperous, diverse, inclusive, successful and sustainable.
3. We will improve our overall health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities.
4. We will enhance our natural environment.
5. We will reflect our distinctive and diverse communities and places.
6. We will deliver homes that meet the needs of current and future generations.
7. We will embrace technological changes.
8. We will expect high-quality development.
9. We will help people to help each other by supporting communities and individuals to achieve positive change for themselves.
10. We will maximise the benefits of strong collaboration within Oxfordshire.
11. We will proactively and positively engage and collaborate beyond Oxfordshire.

30. Taken together, the Strategic Vision outcomes, the definition of 'good growth' and the Guiding Principles form the foundation for Oxfordshire's over-arching approach to long-term sustainable development for Oxfordshire and for developing plans, strategies and programmes.

31. The Strategic Vision will be delivered by a wide range of plans, strategies and programmes, including the Oxfordshire Plan.

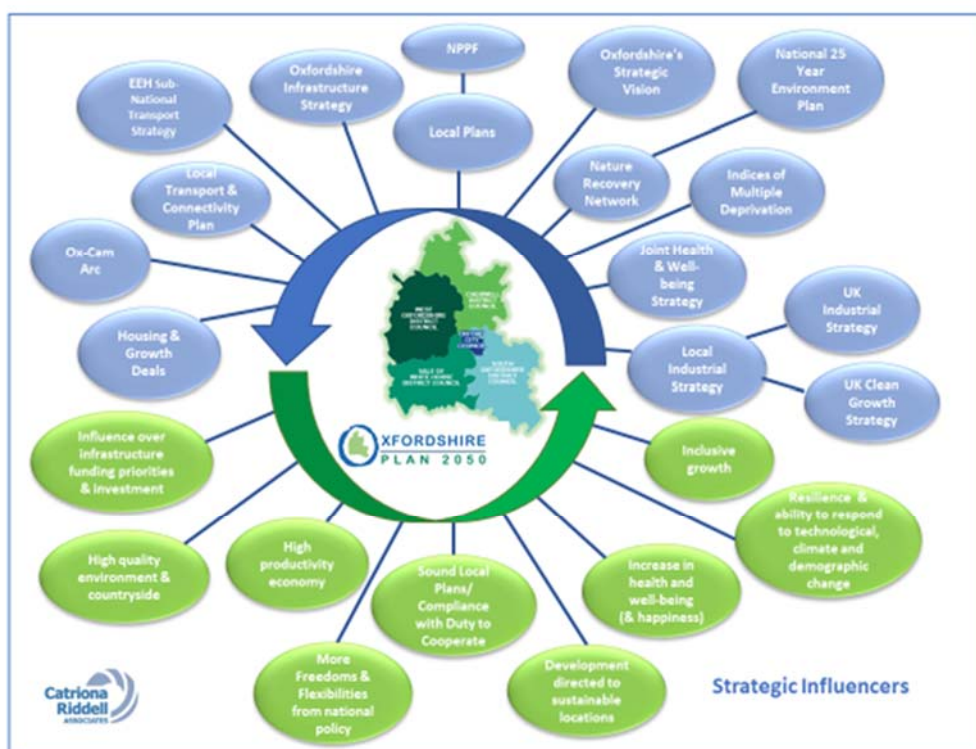


32. The Strategic Vision does not define what its ambition looks like spatially because that is the role of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. However, the Strategic Vision's definition of 'good growth' and the Guiding Principles help define the role that place-making might play in delivering the Strategic Vision outcomes. The Strategic Vision is being used as a tool – built on a wide consensus – to inform development of the policies, spatial options and overall spatial strategy in the

Oxfordshire Plan, with appropriate weight attached to it and as part of the process of demonstrating that the Oxfordshire Plan's overall strategy is being selected against reasonable alternatives on a robust, consistent and objective basis.

## Relationship with other plans and strategies

33. There are already other plans, strategies, policies and investment programmes (in existence or emerging), as well as legislative requirements, that will influence strategic-level place-shaping in Oxfordshire, including where development should take place. The Strategic Vision refers to these as 'strategic influencers'. We have 'mapped' the main strategic influencers in the following diagram.
34. This context will continue to evolve as new strategic influencers emerge at national, sub-national or local level, or as others change. Oxfordshire will be shaped by these strategic influencers to varying degrees over the next 30 years and this is reflected in the emerging Oxfordshire Plan. In many cases the relationships between these strategic influencers and the Oxfordshire Plan is a two, rather than one-way process.
35. The existing local plans will be particularly important in influencing the first 10-15 years of the Oxfordshire Plan. The Oxfordshire Plan will act as the framework for the next generation of local plans that are prepared for each District and the City of Oxford.
36. Once adopted, the Oxfordshire 2050 plan will set a policy and growth framework for Oxfordshire. It will form part of the Development Plan for each District and once adopted will be a material consideration for LPAs to consider in the formulation of more detailed plans locally and, where appropriate, its policies will carry weight in the determination of planning applications and appeals for development.



## Oxford-Cambridge Arc

37. In the medium to longer-term, Oxfordshire's role within the Oxford-Cambridge Arc (the Arc) is likely to be an increasingly important influence. The Arc is a globally significant area between Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge, forming a key national economic priority based on UK and world-leading innovation. Taken together, the Arc area houses one of the fastest growing economies in England, supporting over 2 million jobs and adding over £110 billion to the economy every year. The whole of Oxfordshire, with its world-class universities and world-leading research, innovation and technology assets, forms the western part of the Arc.
38. The Arc has generated close cooperation between Councils, LEPs and Universities across the Arc and the Oxfordshire Growth Board has played an active role in developing the Arc since its inception.
39. The Arc is becoming a focus for shared economic activity, joint working and shared prosperity and considering the joint infrastructure across a large area which has a major potential for GDP growth, based on its economic strengths in key sectors, its universities, innovation and intellectual capital.
40. The Arc provides a forum for joint work to deliver on zero carbon commitments, address water stress and increase electricity supply through local provision and support for renewables. Likewise, the emerging Oxfordshire Plan places an emphasis on tackling climate change, enhancing the environment, strengthening communities and securing sustainable transport as well as the quality of new growth that results.

41. The Government's ambition is to build a better economic, social and environmental future for the Arc, with high-quality, well-connected and sustainable communities making the Arc an even more beautiful place to live, work and visit.

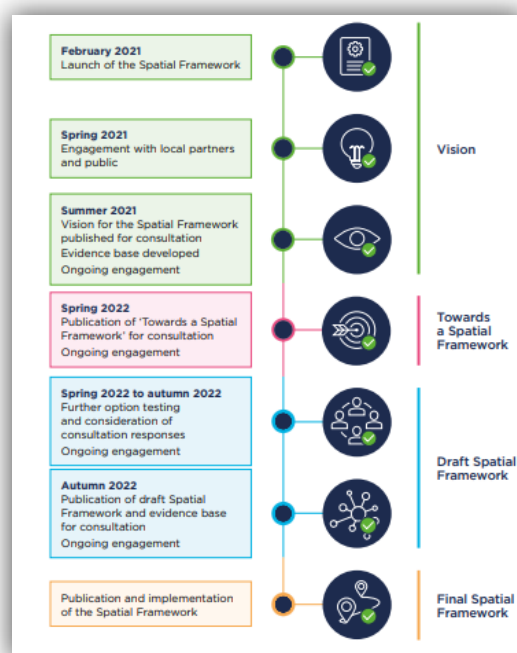
42. To achieve this ambition, the Government, alongside local partners, is developing a Spatial Framework for the Arc. This will be a long-term strategic plan that helps co-ordinate infrastructure, environment and new developments in the area. The Arc Spatial Framework is being led by Government. In February 2021 the Government published its 'Introduction to the Arc Spatial Framework'<sup>5</sup> and announced its intention to explore the establishment of an Arc Growth Body to 'give a clear economic leadership voice to the area'.



43. The February 2021 document sets out the opportunities and challenges for the Arc and establishes a set of core principles that will underpin development of the Framework. The Framework will form a fully integrated single land use and infrastructure plan comprising both planning and transport policies. The Framework is likely to include policies relating to employment space, policies to enable new settlements to come forward, policies to support habitat recovery and provision of green space, policies relating to brownfield development and expansion of existing settlements, policies enabling housing needs to be met in full, strategic transport policies, climate resilience and air quality policies and strategic policies to facilitate utilities investment.

44. Once complete, the Framework will have the status of national planning policy. This will give the Arc Framework significant weight in the planning system for guiding local plan preparation and in decision-making, sitting alongside the NPPF as an important 'material consideration'. The Arc will also have national transport policy status, allowing it to guide the plans prepared by local transport bodies.

45. The Introduction to the Framework includes an indicative timeline. The timeline does not include a publication date for the final Spatial Framework, but the intention is to publish a draft for consultation in



<sup>5</sup> [Planning for sustainable growth in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Autumn 2022. The next key stage is publication of a Vision for the Spatial Framework in summer 2021 following engagement with local partners and the public.

46. The respective timetables for the Oxfordshire Plan and the Arc Spatial Framework mean that the Oxfordshire Plan – together with the Strategic Vision – will be able to help ensure that Oxfordshire has a strong voice in the development of the Arc Spatial Framework and that its interests are taken into account. Likewise, as work on the Arc Spatial Framework gathers pace, it will help inform the choice of options to be considered at the next stage (Regulation 19) of the Oxfordshire Plan process.
47. The Oxford-Cambridge Arc Economic Prospectus was published in Autumn 2020<sup>6</sup>. This sets the collective ambition of the Arc Leadership Group, the Arc Universities Group and the Arc Local Enterprise Partnerships Group.



48. The ambition is that *'By 2050, the Arc will be the world leading place for high-value growth, innovation and productivity. A global hub where ideas and companies are generated and thrive, home to exemplary models of 21<sup>st</sup> century development, with a high-quality environment and outstanding quality of life, and with a strong economic focus that drives inclusive clean growth'.*

## Links with other neighbouring areas and the Duty to Co-operate

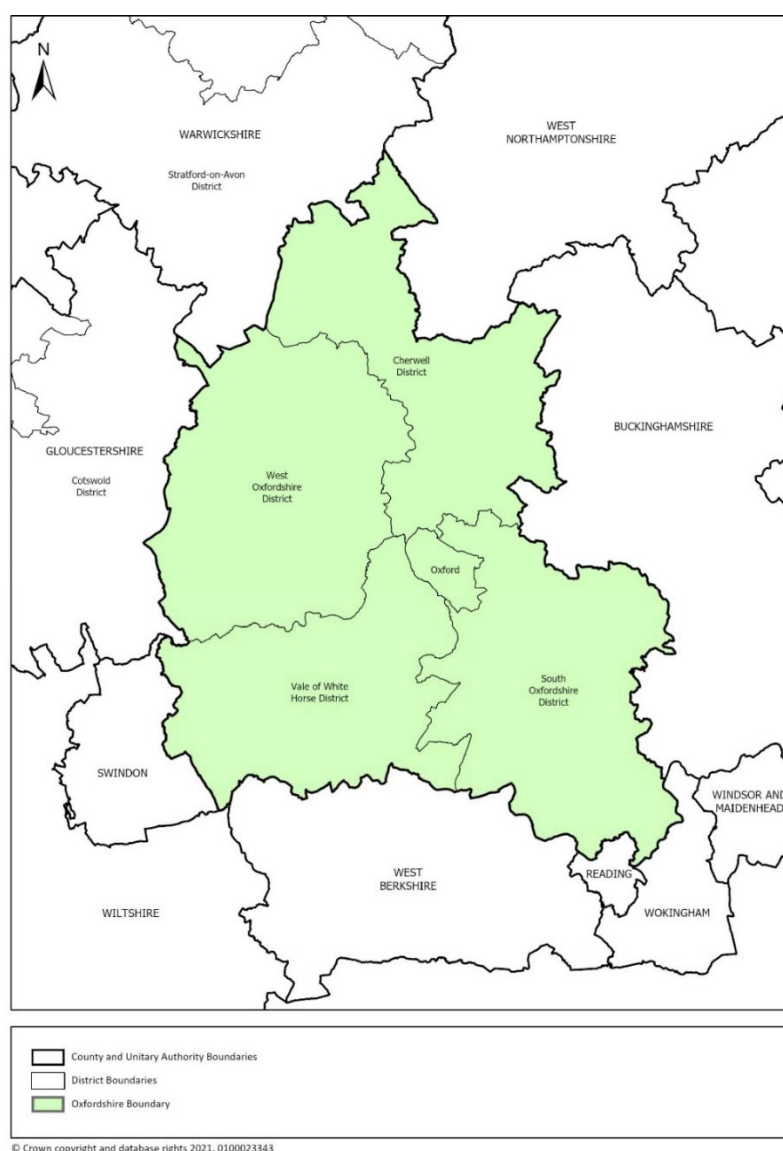
49. As a formal Development Plan document, the Oxfordshire Plan is being prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Duty to Co-operate. The Duty to Co-operate is a legal requirement set out in section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as inserted by section 110 of the Localism Act 2011. The Duty is reflected in the National Planning Policy Framework 2019<sup>7</sup> (paragraphs 24-27).
50. The City Council and District Councils have worked constructively, actively and on an on-going basis with the County Council and LEP under the auspices of the Oxfordshire Growth Board and other partners within and beyond Oxfordshire to

<sup>6</sup> [Oxford-Cambridge Arc economic prospectus | Oxford City Council](#)

<sup>7</sup> [National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

develop policies for strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries as an integral part of the preparation of a positive and justified strategy.

51. Whilst the Oxfordshire Plan focuses on the county of Oxfordshire, it is important to recognise that social, environmental and economic relationships do not stop at Oxfordshire's boundary. For example, many people travel in and out of Oxfordshire for work or to access services such as education and healthcare. We are engaging with the authorities that adjoin Oxfordshire to make sure that these relationships are given appropriate consideration throughout the plan-making process as we recognise that change in Oxfordshire will also be influenced by links with neighbouring areas such as the Thames Valley, Buckinghamshire and Swindon.
52. We are also working closely with organisations known as 'prescribed bodies' in producing the Oxfordshire Plan, to ensure that cross-boundary strategic planning matters are appropriately addressed. This includes Natural England, the Environment Agency, Historic England, Highways England and NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups.



53. It is important to note that the Oxfordshire Plan intends to meet Oxfordshire's development needs within the Oxfordshire boundary. We are not looking to

neighbouring authorities to accommodate any of Oxfordshire's development needs; in particular we are not looking to neighbouring authorities to accommodate any of our housing needs. Engagement with adjoining authorities has confirmed that Oxfordshire is not being asked to accommodate any unmet development needs from elsewhere.

54. Further detail on how we are engaging with neighbouring authorities and prescribed bodies can be found in the Duty to Co-operate Statement. This engagement will continue throughout the plan-making process.

55. In addition, a Statement of Common Ground has been agreed by each of the Oxfordshire authorities and the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership which sets out how the partners are working together to address strategic planning matters in Oxfordshire.

## Notes on reading this consultation document

This consultation document sets out different approaches that the Oxfordshire Plan might take. It has been produced so that we can share our current thinking with communities and stakeholders, and so that we can ask for views on what the Oxfordshire Plan should do.

This document sets out the different approaches that the Oxfordshire Plan might take in two ways:

### 1. The Policy Options

The Oxfordshire Plan will set out policies that will guide new development in Oxfordshire. These policies will be based around five key themes:

- i. Addressing climate change;
- ii. Improving environmental quality;
- iii. Creating strong and healthy communities;
- iv. Planning for sustainable travel and connectivity; and
- v. Creating jobs and providing homes.

This document sets out different options for policies that might be included in the Oxfordshire Plan. There are two types of option:

**Preferred Policy Option** – This is what we think the Oxfordshire Plan should do, based on the evidence that we have and the engagement that we have undertaken with communities and stakeholders so far.

**Alternative Policy Option** – This is a different approach that the Oxfordshire Plan could take, that we also need to consider.

Some policy options are quite high-level and set out a broad approach that we might take. Other policy options are more detailed and suggest specific requirements for new development.

### Viability

It is important to remember that we will be producing further evidence to inform the continued development of the Oxfordshire Plan, including an assessment of how

different policy options might affect the financial viability of development, both individually and as a set. This will be completed during the preparation of the Regulation 19 document. We need to make sure that the policies in the Oxfordshire Plan are deliverable.

## **2. The Spatial Options**

The Oxfordshire Plan won't allocate sites for development, but it will set out broad locations for growth in Oxfordshire over the next 30 years. This document sets out five high-level options for how we might look to distribute development in Oxfordshire.

We want to know what you think about the different policy and spatial options in this document. Your views will help us to decide what is included in the Oxfordshire Plan.

### **Purpose of this consultation & how to get involved**

This is an important step in the preparation of the Oxfordshire Plan.

We have previously consulted the public and stakeholders on what the Plan's vision, aspirations, objectives and broad spatial strategy should be, consulted on a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and invited submissions in response to a 'Call for Ideas', which included ideas on strategic locations. In addition, the Oxfordshire Growth Board's informal Open Thought initiative added to the debate and ideas by tapping into the wealth of knowledge in Oxfordshire to help identify solutions to accommodate changes in how we will live and work, how we will connect with each other and how we will manage and respond to climate change.

We have now reached the next stage of formal consultation on the Oxfordshire Plan: Regulation 18 Part 2. This document sets out options for thematic-based policies and a number of spatial strategy options that will shape the future of Oxfordshire. We are seeking the public's and stakeholder views on these options and whether there are other options that the Oxfordshire Plan should consider.

Our consultation will run for 10 weeks from the 30<sup>th</sup> of July to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

Based on the responses received, we will propose our preferred policies and strategy for growth in Oxfordshire (in a Regulation 19 stage Draft Plan), with a further round of consultation in May 2022, prior to the Oxfordshire Plan being submitted for independent Examination.

We are also inviting 'Call for Ideas' submissions. This is because it is important that up-to-date information is available on sites to inform development of the Regulation 19 stage Draft Plan.

### **Responding to the consultation**

Anyone wishing to respond during the consultation can do so at [www.oxfordshireopenthought.org](http://www.oxfordshireopenthought.org)

Visitors will find all the details of the emerging Plan online, including the five key themes of addressing climate change, improving environmental quality, creating strong and healthy communities, planning for sustainable travel and connectivity and

creating jobs and providing homes. There will also be options for how much we grow and where that growth might happen.

The consultation document is available for download in Word format.

People can give their views via the interactive form on the Open Thought website.

People can give their views via the interactive form on the Open Thought website. Alternatively, if they wish to submit their thoughts in writing, they can send them by email to [info@oxfordshireplan.org](mailto:info@oxfordshireplan.org) or can post them to Oxfordshire Plan 2050, Speedwell House, Speedwell Street, Oxford, OX1 1NE.

## Oxfordshire Plan Vision and Objectives

56. A draft vision for the Oxfordshire Plan was consulted upon at the Regulation 18 Part 1 stage:

57. *'In 2050 the people of Oxfordshire are living in sustainable communities with a high quality of life and strong sense of community. The integrity and richness of the county's historic character and natural environment are valued and conserved. A wide range of secure and good quality housing options are within reach for all. Existing and new communities are well connected, integrated, distinct, attractive and desirable places to live; their design and layouts facilitate healthy lifestyles and sustainable travel options. Productivity has increased and residents are well-skilled and able to access a wide range of high-value job opportunities and share in wealth creation. The private and public sector continue to have the confidence to invest in the county. Oxfordshire has embraced the technological, demographic and lifestyle changes of recent decades and new developments are fit for the future and resilient to climate change. The wellbeing of residents and workers is enhanced through being part of this special place'.*

58. The following objectives for the Oxfordshire Plan were formed following the Regulation 18 Part 1 consultation:

### **Oxfordshire Plan Objectives**

1. To demonstrate leadership in addressing the climate emergency by significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
2. To conserve and enhance Oxfordshire's historic, built and natural environments, recognising the benefits these assets contribute to quality of life, local identity and economic success.
3. To protect and enhance Oxfordshire's distinctive landscape character, recreational and biodiversity value by identifying strategic green and blue infrastructure, improving connectivity between environmental assets and securing a net gain for biodiversity.
4. To improve health and wellbeing by enabling independence, encouraging active and healthy lifestyles, facilitating social interaction and creating inclusive and safe communities.
5. To sustain and strengthen Oxfordshire's economic role and reputation by building on our key strengths and relationships.
6. To ensure that the benefits and opportunities arising from Oxfordshire's economic success are felt by all of Oxfordshire's communities.
7. To meet Oxfordshire's housing needs, including affordable housing, and to ensure that housing delivery is phased appropriately to support the needs of our communities.
8. To ensure that new housing is flexible to meet the varied needs of people through all stages of life.
9. To deliver high quality, innovatively designed development that ensures efficient use of land and resources.

10. To reduce the need to travel and to support people in making sustainable transport choices by providing inclusive, integrated, safe and convenient pedestrian, cycle and public transport infrastructure linking communities.
11. To ensure that communities are digitally connected and that innovative technologies are supported.

## Themes and Policies

### Theme One: Addressing Climate Change

59. Climate change is the most significant threat facing humankind today, with the threat of increased flood risk, severe drought and more extreme weather patterns resulting from greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. Such threats will have serious consequences for the health and wellbeing of communities without taking proactive steps to address the causes and mitigate the impacts of climate change.
60. It is essential that climate change considerations run through the Oxfordshire Plan strategy, to support the integrity and resilience of the natural environment and Oxfordshire's communities.
61. Climate change is central to each of the Oxfordshire Plan themes and policies, as to properly address climate change, a coherent, joined-up approach encompassing development standards, transport and infrastructure and healthy ecosystems is required.
62. Recent years have seen stronger national commitments to address the causes of climate change with strategies to accelerate clean growth and reduce greenhouse gas emissions becoming increasingly more prevalent.
63. In 2019, the UK became the first major economy to pass net zero emissions law in an attempt to end the UK's contribution to global warming by 2050. Amendments to the Climate Change Act 2008 commit the UK Government to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 100% (compared to 1990 levels) in the UK by 2050. The UK's 2050 net zero target is one of the most ambitious in the world and key to meeting the United Nations Paris Climate Agreement, which aims to limit global temperature increases to no more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and sets a long-term goal of net zero carbon emissions<sup>8</sup>.
64. It is recognised that local areas will play a key role in developing opportunities for low carbon energy and in making efforts to meet national and international commitments to tackling climate change.
65. The Oxfordshire Energy Strategy<sup>9</sup> is a key strategic influencer on the Oxfordshire Plan and sets objectives to;
- Secure smart, modern, clean energy infrastructure to support planned housing, industrial and commercial growth and
  - Lead nationally and internationally to reduce county-wide emissions by 50% by 2030, on 2008 levels and set a pathway to achieve zero carbon by 2050.
66. Since the adoption of the Oxfordshire Energy Strategy, all Oxfordshire authorities, including the County Council have declared climate emergencies which recognise the importance of addressing climate change, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, with commitments for net zero carbon emissions.

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<sup>8</sup> [Paris Climate Agreement](#) (2015) UNFCCC

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/energystrategy>

	Date of Declaration	Council operations Target	District wide target
Cherwell District Council	25/07/2019	2030	2030
Oxford City Council	28/01/2019	2030	2040
South Oxfordshire District Council	03/04/2019	2025	2030
Vale of White Horse District Council	13/02/2019	2030	2045
West Oxfordshire District Council	26/06/2019	2030	2050
Oxfordshire County Council	02/04/2019	2030	2050

67. The Climate Emergency declarations provide an impetus for Oxfordshire's local authorities to strive for carbon reductions in their own operations and through those things that they can influence such as planning for development within their areas.

68. One of the main mechanisms for addressing county-wide emissions arising from development is the county's planning framework, with adopted local and neighbourhood plans setting the vision, objectives and policies for sustainable development.

69. The adopted local plans for Oxfordshire set clear objectives for addressing climate change and achieving net zero carbon development, particularly the recently adopted Oxford Local Plan 2036 and South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035 which set clear pathways for achieving net zero residential development by 2030, using a combination of low carbon technology, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

70. There is a varied policy approach taken across local plans, however, with some deferring to buildings regulations to determine standards for the design and construction of buildings.

71. Achieving net zero in Oxfordshire will require reductions in emissions from all sources and it is the intention of the Oxfordshire Plan to drive these down as far as possible. The Oxfordshire Plan will also seek to establish a framework in which environmental enhancements can be directed to where they can be most effective in mitigating the impacts of climate change and offsetting any residual carbon emissions that cannot be eradicated at source.

72. It is important that the Oxfordshire Plan takes a proactive approach to addressing climate change and supporting the transition to a low carbon future as required by the National Planning Policy Framework. It is considered that taking a proactive approach to guiding development and environmental enhancements will be beneficial to the health and wellbeing of communities and in supporting a green recovery in Oxfordshire. There are a wealth of business and organisations driving innovation in the green economy and many more involved in the supply chains and supporting business sectors. Driving up standards in the Oxfordshire Plan and setting clear ambitions for addressing the causes, building resilience to

and mitigating the impacts of climate change will bring multiple benefits to the county, provided the right investments can be made in the right places at the right time and the necessary skills and opportunities are built within our communities.

73. The Oxfordshire Plan aims to deliver against its climate change ambitions through a range of approaches including a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (improved building standards, increased renewable energy generation) and minimising vulnerability to and improving the resilience of communities and the natural environment (Natural Capital, Nature Recovery, Water Environment and biodiversity net gain).

Theme One – Meets the following Objectives of the Oxfordshire Plan

No 1. To demonstrate leadership in addressing the climate emergency by significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

No 2. To conserve and enhance Oxfordshire's historic, built and natural environments, recognising the benefits these assets contribute to quality of life, local identity and economic success.

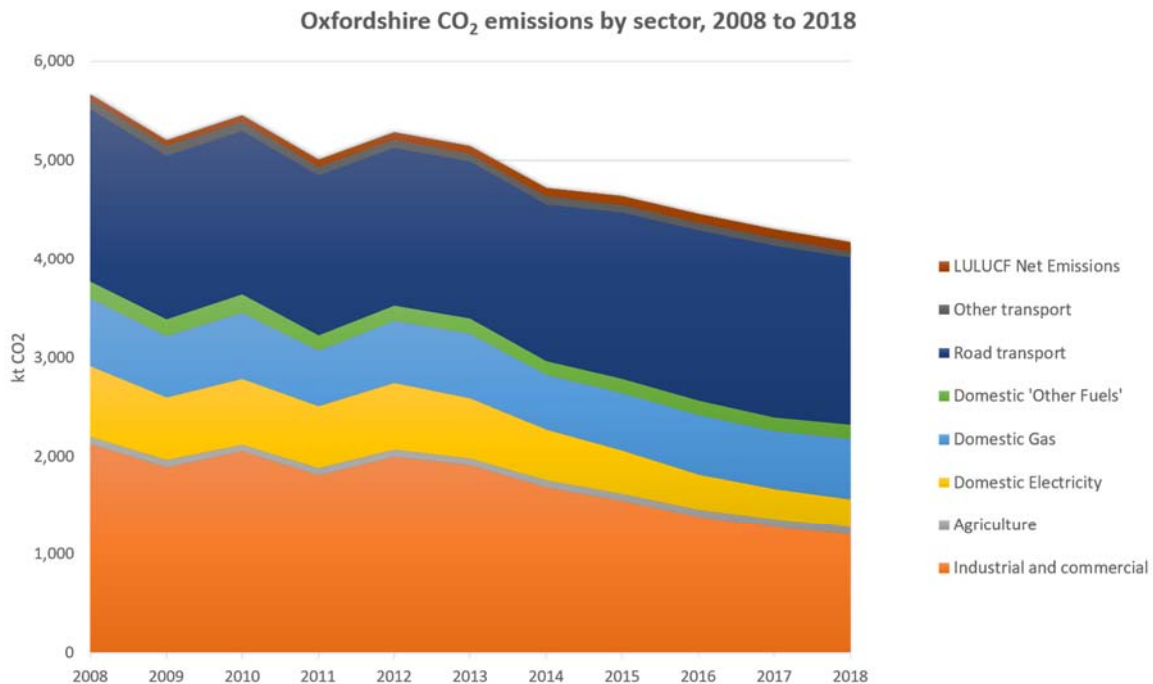
No 9. To deliver high quality, innovatively designed development that ensures efficient use of land and resources.

## **Policy Option 01 - Sustainable Design and Construction**

74. Central to Oxfordshire's efforts to achieve net zero carbon, in accordance with challenging targets will be to address the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Oxfordshire.
75. An assessment undertaken as part of the Oxfordshire Energy Strategy identifies the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Oxfordshire as road transport and housing.
76. The diagram below illustrates the contribution that a number of key sectors have historically made to overall carbon dioxide emissions in Oxfordshire<sup>10</sup>. Although there has been a decrease in overall emissions since 2008, they remain high with road transport, residential development, public services and commercial services contributing the majority of these.

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<sup>10</sup> [Aether, Oxfordshire Greenhouse Gas emission projections, 2018 update](#)



77. To successfully achieve net zero carbon emissions, the focus needs to be on the highest emitters in a way that ensures targets are met, without impacting on the delivery of necessary infrastructure and services to meet the needs of Oxfordshire's communities.
78. It is essential that the Oxfordshire Plan takes steps to mitigate the impact of new development by reducing its carbon footprint.
79. There are a significant number of planned houses in the pipeline that will be constructed to existing building standards and will therefore contribute less to achieving the ambitious national and local carbon reductions targets that have been set.
80. The Government have confirmed<sup>11</sup> that from 2025, the Future Homes Standard will ensure that new homes produce at least 75% lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to those built to current standards. In the short-term this represents a considerable improvement in the energy efficiency standards for new homes. Homes built under the Future Homes Standard will be 'zero carbon ready', which means that in the longer-term, no further retrofit work for energy efficiency will be necessary to enable them to become zero carbon homes as the electricity grid continues to decarbonise.
81. From 2021, new homes will be expected to produce 31% less CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to current standards. This will deliver high-quality homes that are in line with our broader housing commitments and encourage homes that are future-proofed for the longer-term.
82. Notwithstanding the Government commitment to improve building regulations, it is important to note that local authorities have the ability to set local targets for

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.oxfordshiregrowthboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Future-Homes-Standard-Government-response.pdf>

the design and construction of new buildings. The NPPF does not prevent local authorities from setting higher ambitions particularly in relation to energy efficiency standards that exceed Building Regulations.

83. There is already evidence of Oxfordshire authorities setting a clear pathway to zero carbon through their local plan policies, as well as examples of individual developments and strategic growth locations achieving far greater carbon reductions than comparable scale developments within the same localities.

84. Such achievements are a clear signal that net zero carbon can be achieved in developments at a range of scales, when there are strong policies in place and when developers have an opportunity to test construction techniques and use of materials supported by sufficient investment.

85. For Oxfordshire to go further than existing and proposed Government standards, a consistent county-wide definition of net zero carbon needs to be established. This requires consideration of existing and emerging definitions for zero carbon.

### **The Eco Town Definition**

The definition of zero carbon for eco-towns set out in the Planning Policy Statement (2009) is that, over a year, the net carbon dioxide emissions from all energy use within the buildings on the eco-town development, as a whole, are zero or below. The initial planning application and all subsequent planning applications for the development of the eco-town should demonstrate how this will be achieved.

The definition excludes embodied carbon and emissions from transport but includes all buildings – not just houses but also commercial and public sector buildings which are built as part of the eco-town development.

### **UKGBC Net Zero Carbon Buildings – A Framework Definition (UK Green Building Council)**

From November 2018 to March 2019, UKGBC brought together an extensive range of industry stakeholders, including a task group<sup>12</sup>, to build consensus on a framework definition for net zero carbon buildings in the UK<sup>13</sup>.

The primary focus of the framework is to set in place a path to achieve net zero carbon buildings in both construction and operation (in-use energy consumption), whilst beginning to provide direction for addressing whole-life carbon in the industry.

The Framework definition of Net Zero Carbon Buildings consists of two definitions:

1. Net zero carbon – construction (for new buildings and major renovations). When the amount of carbon emissions associated with a building's product and construction stages up to practical completion is zero or negative, through the use of offsets or the net export of on-site renewable energy.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.ukgbc.org/uncategorised/zerocarbon-taskgroup>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.ukgbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Net-zero-Carbon-Buildings-A-framework-definition.pdf>

2. Net zero carbon – operational energy (for all buildings in operation). When the amount of carbon emissions associated with the building's operational energy on an annual basis is zero or negative. A net zero carbon building is highly energy efficient and powered from on-site and/or off-site renewable energy sources, with any remaining carbon balance offset.

A third definition, 'new zero carbon – whole-life' is also proposed at a high level, but further work is needed to develop the detail of this approach.

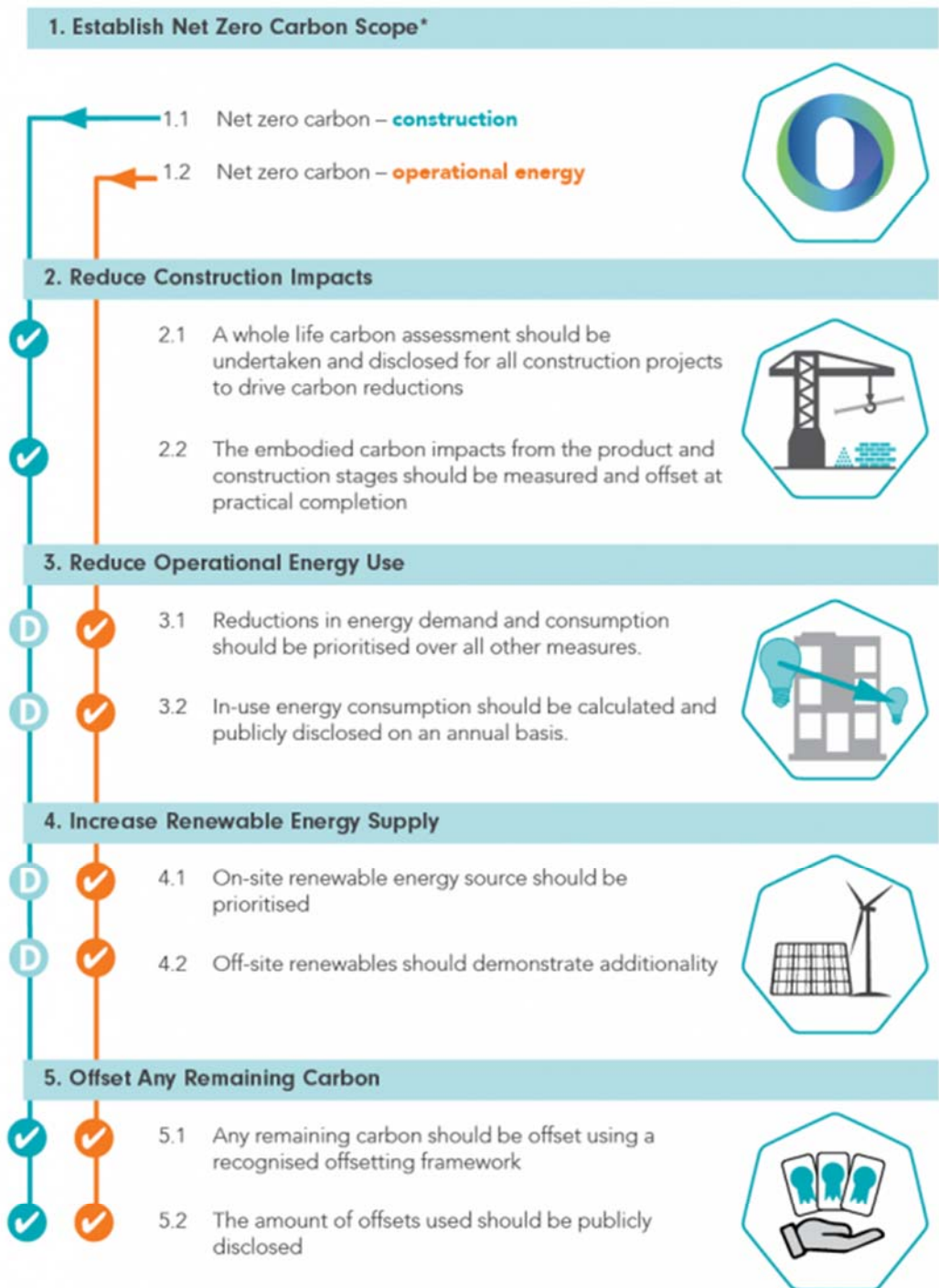
The framework includes five steps, shown in diagram below. Some of the steps are relevant to the definition for construction and some to the definition for operational energy. However, a building targeting net zero carbon for construction should be designed to achieve net zero carbon for operational energy.

Each step has a set of principles that have been ordered in terms of priority and should be reviewed in that order. Each principle sets out the approach that should be followed, including a rationale for the principle, associated technical requirements and, where relevant, any areas for future development.

Broadly speaking the definitions seek to:

- ensure that a whole-life carbon assessment is undertaken,
- prioritise reductions in energy demand and consumption over all other measures,
- report annually on in-use energy consumption,
- prioritise on-site renewable energy sources and require any off-site renewable energy to demonstrate additionality,
- offset any remaining carbon using a recognised offsetting framework and publicly disclose this.

## Steps to Achieving a Net Zero Carbon Building



**D** New buildings and major refurbishments targeting net zero carbon for construction should be designed to achieve net zero carbon for operational energy by considering these principles.

\* Please also note, a further scope for net zero whole life carbon (1.3) will be developed in the future.

Source: Net zero carbon buildings – A framework definition (UKGBC, April 2019)

## London Energy Transformation Initiative

The London Energy Transformation Initiative (LETI) was established in 2017 to support the transition of London's built environment to net zero carbon, providing guidance that could be applied to the rest of the UK.

A network of over 1,000 built environment professionals have worked collaboratively to compile evidence-based recommendations for London Plan and London Environment Strategy policies. The LETI Climate Emergency Design Guide defines what good looks like in context of the climate emergency for new buildings.

The guidance focusses on delivering net zero carbon new buildings which means having regard to whole-life carbon, which in the context of the document means;

- Operational carbon – net zero operational carbon means that buildings burn no fossil fuels, are 100% powered by renewable energy and achieve a high level of energy performance in line with national climate change targets.
- Embodied carbon – The carbon emissions emitted producing a building's materials, their transport and installation as well as disposal at the end of life.

A key recommendation of the guidance is that the Energy Use Intensity (EUI) of a building should replace carbon emission reductions as the primary metric used in policy, regulations and design decisions. EUI is an annual measure of the total energy consumed in a building. EUI is regarded as a good metric as it depends on how the building performs in use.

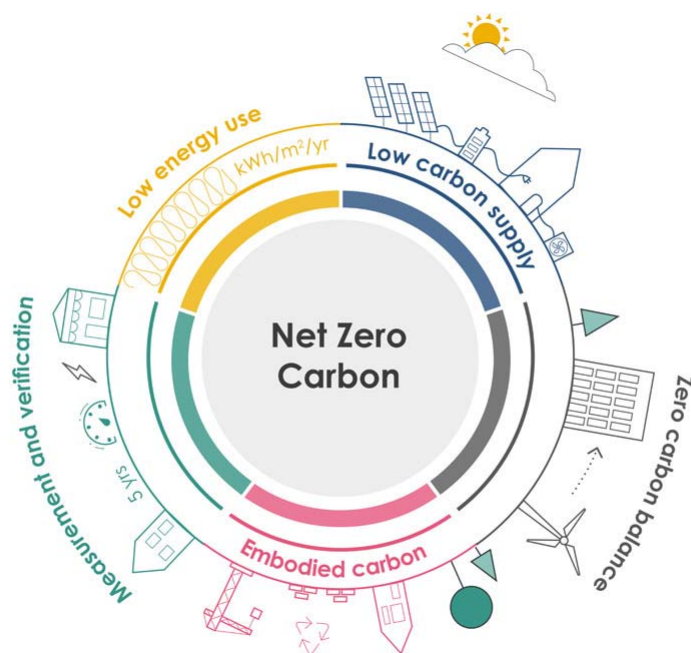
EUI includes all the energy consumed in the building including regulated energy (heating, hot water, cooling, ventilation and lighting) and unregulated energy (plug loads and equipment e.g. kitchen white goods, ICT and AV equipment). It does not however include charging of electric vehicles.

The guidance makes recommendations for operational energy which includes the fabric efficiency of building materials, window areas and energy consumption. It also makes recommendations for embodied carbon emissions.

To achieve Net Zero Operational Carbon, LETI propose ten key requirements for new buildings:

1. Total energy use of different building typologies not to exceed Energy Use Intensity (EUI) targets for energy uses in buildings including regulated and unregulated energy.
2. A fabric first approach ensuring that space heating demand for all building types is below 15kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr.
3. Annual energy use and renewable energy generation to reported for the first year post completion as part of a measurement and verification process.
4. Embodied carbon of construction materials should be assessed to reduce impacts of construction process.
5. Heating and hot water should not be generated from fossil fuels.

6. Average annual carbon content of heat supplied (gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh) should be reported.
7. On-site renewable electricity should be maximised.
8. Energy demand response and storage measures should be incorporated, and the building annual peak energy demand should be reported.
9. An annual carbon balance calculation should be undertaken to demonstrate that a building achieves a net zero carbon balance.
10. Any energy use not met on-site should be met by investment into additional renewable energy capacity off-site.



Source: London Energy Transformation Initiative

## The Circular Economy

In addition to different definitions for net zero carbon development, it is also useful to consider circular economy principles and how these relate to resource consumption, waste and carbon emissions.

A circular economy keeps products, components and materials at their highest use and value. In a circular economy, every item or material is useful and valuable to another part of the economy. It provides an alternative to the current 'linear' economy – in which we make, use and dispose of products, components and materials and recover little value from them.

Significant greenhouse gas emissions arise from consumption habits in society. A circular economy seeks to shift away from a linear pattern of resource extraction, use and wastage to one in which products and materials are retained and used at their highest use value for longer through maintenance, repairs and upgrades.

As construction waste accounts for the largest proportion of waste within the Oxfordshire waste cycle<sup>14</sup>, circular economy principles are relevant to the Oxfordshire Plan, particularly efforts to achieving net zero carbon emissions through the design and construction of new development.

The use of natural or recycled materials in construction, designing buildings for adaptability and changing uses over time as well as the ability to dismantle and recover materials at the end of a building's life would all help to minimise resource extraction and waste arising from construction in Oxfordshire. This would help to minimise carbon emissions associated with construction and development over the lifetime of the Plan.

Consideration of circular economy principles through the Oxfordshire Plan has potential to deliver a wide range of benefits beyond tackling waste and reducing carbon emissions with positive social implications, new jobs, improved skills and new business opportunities<sup>15</sup>.



Source – Useful Projects – Circular Economy in construction

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/planning-minerals-and-waste/AnnualMonitoringReport2018.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> <https://usefulprojects.co.uk/circular-economy-in-construction/>

86. The Government's proposals to strengthen Building Regulations and to define future standards for new buildings have the potential to deliver a consistent approach for the delivery of zero carbon buildings and take a big step on the pathway to net zero carbon. However, they may not be ambitious enough to meet targets for achieving net zero carbon in Oxfordshire.
87. Consideration should be given to elements of other emerging design standards which could assist in accelerating our efforts, particularly where better regard is had to the whole-life carbon of buildings, including embodied carbon, operational energy use and renewable energy generation.
88. The various industry consensus definitions developed by LETI and the UKGBC are more ambitious in scope compared to recently adopted local plan policies which focus on achieving carbon reductions rather than addressing whole-life carbon.
89. Well-designed places are those that respond to the impacts of climate change through energy efficiency, minimising greenhouse gas emissions and embodied carbon, as well as adapting to anticipated events such as rising temperatures and increased flood risk.

## **Policy Options**

90. The preferred policy approach is to define an Oxfordshire-wide definition for net zero carbon design and construction for development in Oxfordshire. This will assist in achieving the County's objectives in achieving net zero carbon emissions over the lifetime of the Oxfordshire Plan with multiple benefits including supporting the health and wellbeing of communities and encouraging clean growth and innovation, consistent with Strategic Vision and Oxfordshire Plan objectives.

## **Preferred Policy Option**

### **Policy Option 01: Sustainable Design and Construction**

To include in the Oxfordshire Plan a policy setting out sustainable design and construction requirements to be applied to major residential and non-residential developments within Oxfordshire.

This policy would be subject to viability and deliverability testing but with the objective to achieve net zero whole-life carbon for both residential and non-residential buildings, taking account of embodied carbon, low energy use and renewable energy supply.

Developments should be fossil fuel free and fossil fuels should not be used to provide space heating, hot water or fuel for cooking. Demand for energy should be balanced by the provision of on-site renewable energy generation.

Carbon offsetting would only be permitted where it is demonstrable that net zero carbon cannot be achieved on site.

A financial contribution based on defined calculation would be made to carbon offsetting projects including off-site renewable energy generation or carbon sequestration consistent with defined natural capital and nature recovery approaches defined in the Plan.

Buildings should be designed to be resilient to the effects of a changing climate, including overheating.

New buildings should be designed to be durable but flexible and adaptable to changing needs over time.

Residential and non-residential buildings should be designed and built to maximise the use of natural or recycled material in construction and to enable disassembly at the end of a building's life in accordance with circular economy principles.

### **Alternative Policy Option 01-1**

91. One alternative policy option is to defer standards for the design and construction of new buildings to district local plans. National policy does not prevent local authorities from setting higher ambitions, particularly in relation to energy efficiency standards that exceed Building Regulations.

92. This is not a preferred option as different targets and timescales for achieving net zero carbon development in local plans could hinder efforts to achieve net zero carbon emissions in Oxfordshire during the lifetime of the Plan.

### **Alternative Policy Option 01-2**

93. Another alternative is to defer guidance on sustainable design and construction to building regulations and the Future Homes and Future Buildings Standards.

94. This is not a preferred option as failure to introduce more stringent national standards for the design and construction of new development could hinder Oxfordshire's efforts to achieve net zero carbon emissions during the lifetime of the Plan.

## **Policy Option 02 - Energy**

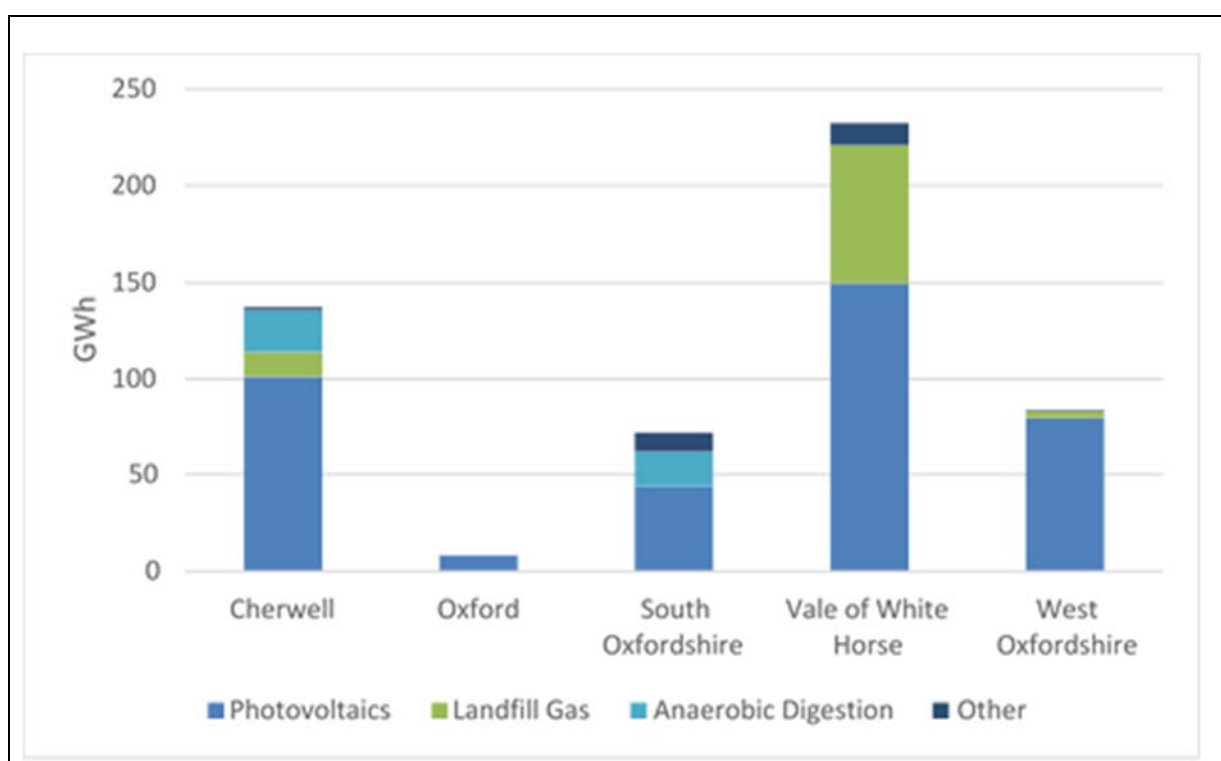
95. Building standards can contribute significantly to carbon emissions reductions, by reducing the amount of energy required to operate a building and reducing the amount of energy lost through the fabric performance of a building.

96. In order to achieve net zero targets however, it is necessary to consider the net zero carbon energy balance, to ensure that there is sufficient renewable energy to meet energy requirements of development.

97. It is important to consider the future of energy infrastructure as part of the Oxfordshire Plan as the energy system, the generation and transmission and amount of electricity consumed, are likely to be very different by 2050. The electrification of heat, rise in the use of electric vehicles and increases in

renewable energy generation will place new and significant burdens on an already constrained electricity network.

98. The Government's Energy White Paper (December 2020)<sup>16</sup> builds on their Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution (November 2020)<sup>17</sup> and establishes the Government's goal of a decisive shift from fossil fuels to clean energy in power, buildings and industry, while creating jobs and growing the economy and keeping energy bills affordable. It addresses how and why our energy system needs to evolve to deliver this goal and provides a foundation for the detailed actions to be taken.
99. The way in which we produce and use energy is at the heart of the Energy White Paper. Meeting challenging targets for net zero carbon emissions will mean eliminating the use of fossil fuels to power the economy and heat our homes and an increase in clean electricity which will become the predominant form of energy.
100. Existing energy infrastructure in Oxfordshire covers the generation, transmission and distribution of energy and includes gas, electricity and renewable energy. Homes and businesses across the county are served energy from a variety of different sources with varying proportions across all energy types.
101. There is already a significant amount of energy generated in Oxfordshire from a range of renewable sources, but with substantial variations in type and volume across the districts. The following diagram illustrates this:



102. Electricity network operators in Oxfordshire are transitioning from Distribution Network Operators (DNO) to Distribution System Operators (DSO)

<sup>16</sup> [Energy White Paper: Powering our Net Zero Future](#)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-ten-point-plan-for-a-green-industrial-revolution>

to accommodate the changes that will be required to enable net zero carbon. This transition requires flexibility in the management of the electricity network to ensure that the supply and demand for electricity are balanced. It has implications for spatial planning in Oxfordshire and will influence the distribution of future development.

103. The Climate Change Committee (CCC)<sup>18</sup> has forecast that by 2050 demand on electricity networks could treble as the UK moves toward its net zero carbon emissions future. Key to delivering the ambitions of the Oxfordshire Energy Strategy is to ensure that the local network infrastructure is sufficient for new generation and demand.
104. High level analysis of capacity at primary electricity sub stations in Oxfordshire<sup>19</sup> identified a number of major electricity infrastructure projects which still required funding, to support the level of planned housing and employment growth to 2031.
105. The capacity of existing infrastructure and the cost and complexity of future upgrades to support planned growth in Oxfordshire are important considerations for the future planning of the county, both in terms of how much growth can be accommodated and where.
106. The significant demand that Oxford's substations already face undermines the feasibility of connecting new sources of generation to the distribution network. This could either stop new renewable generation from being deployed or make it prohibitively expensive.
107. Energy consumption analysis by local authority area in Oxfordshire shows relatively consistent levels as well as consistent fuel type proportions over the past 10 years, with bioenergy and wastes only partially replacing other traditional fuel sources. Oxfordshire's reliance on petroleum products and gas must reduce at a fast rate in order to meet national 2030 targets and clean energy goals.
108. This need is exacerbated by the population growth expected in the county. Electricity consumption has shown a reduction between 2008 and 2019 in all local authority areas through efficiency gains. However, alongside population growth, other factors will result in a need to address electricity consumption (e.g. transition to electric vehicles and decarbonisation of heat). Targets for electric vehicle use raise specific concerns over the requirements for large-scale investment in the electrical grid and network infrastructure.
109. Oxfordshire is home to two national demonstrator projects part funded by the UK's Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund<sup>20</sup> with investment in industry and research to accelerate innovation in smart local energy systems.
  - Energy Superhub Oxford is focused on the electric vehicle (EV) charging network with a transmission-connected network of rapid electric vehicle charging, hybrid battery energy storage, low carbon heating and smart energy management technologies that reduces stress on local grids.

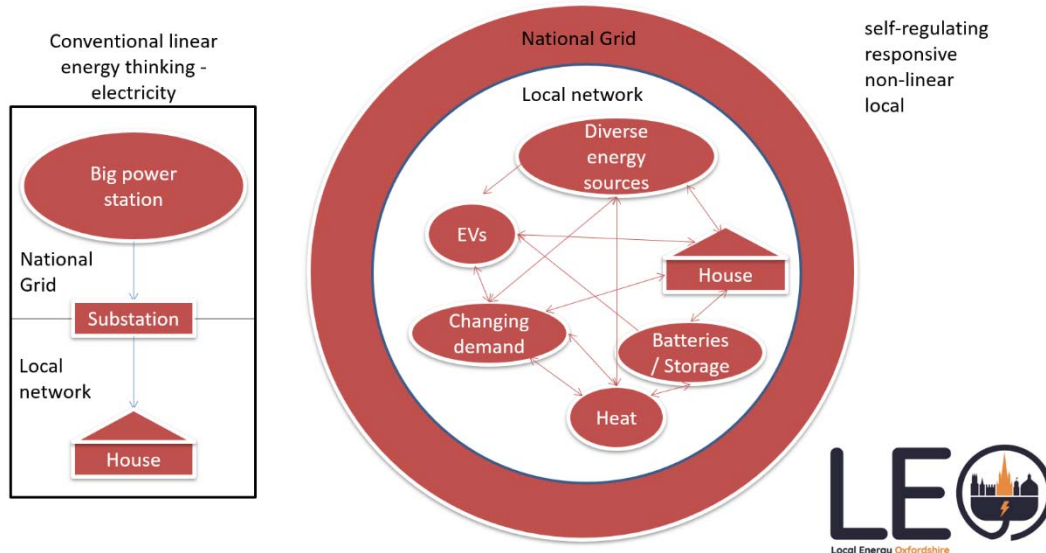
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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.theccc.org.uk/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/sites/default/files/uploads/Oxfordshire%20Energy%20Strategy.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/our-work/our-main-funds/industrial-strategy-challenge-fund/clean-growth/prospering-from-the-energy-revolution-challenge/>

- Project Local Energy Oxfordshire (LEO) is one of the most ambitious, wide-ranging, innovative, and holistic smart grid trials ever conducted in the UK. LEO will improve our understanding of how opportunities can be maximised and unlocked from the transition to a smarter, flexible electricity system and how households, businesses and communities can realise its benefits.



110. Both projects are important in demonstrating how integrated, intelligent local systems can deliver power, heat and mobility to users in new and better ways. The lessons learned will be influential in shaping the Oxfordshire Plan strategy including the distribution of development and investment in infrastructure.
111. The economic benefits of a low carbon transition in Oxfordshire will be realised by supporting ambitious and innovative clean generation projects across the county and supporting projects that reduce energy demand across all sectors and increase energy efficiency for domestic, industrial and commercial buildings.
112. The Oxfordshire Plan provides an opportunity to develop new ways of partnership working and to deliver innovative projects in the county. Establishing local smart energy networks will ensure that housing and economic growth is supported by clean energy and contributes to meeting net zero carbon targets.
113. There is a need to significantly increase the proportion of renewable electricity generated within the county to achieve a net zero carbon energy balance. Energy systems and the grid must adapt, to operate in a way that allows growth and supports the de-carbonisation of both heat and transport and takes account of implications for electricity demand and distribution.
114. The future of energy in Oxfordshire may have implications for the future distribution of development, and delivery of strategic scale renewable energy generation will have land use implications.
115. It is important for the Oxfordshire Plan to consider future infrastructure needs and land use implications of future energy infrastructure, particularly

increases in renewable energy generation capacity, to set a framework for delivery as part of a sustainable spatial strategy for Oxfordshire.

## **Policy Options**

116. The preferred policy option is to maximise the use of renewable energy in new developments in Oxfordshire, to ensure that rising demands for electricity are matched with zero carbon energy provision, to achieve a net zero carbon energy balance and to support efforts to achieve net zero carbon emissions over the lifetime of the Oxfordshire Plan.

117. This is considered to be a strategic matter, as to ensure there is sufficient renewable energy generation capacity in the county may require land to accommodate renewable energy generation technology.

## **Preferred Policy Option**

### **Policy Option 02: Energy**

The Oxfordshire Plan would seek to minimise energy demand and maximise the use of renewable energy, where viable, meeting all demands for heat and power without increasing carbon emissions.

Target for 100% of energy needs for major developments to be met from renewable energy sources.

Developments would be required to maximise energy efficiency whilst integrating renewable and smart energy technologies in order to minimise energy demand.

Installation and integration of these technologies should be delivered at the development stage to avoid more costly retrofitting after completion.

The Oxfordshire Plan would support the delivery of strategic and community scale renewable energy schemes, particularly where their establishment can support development and the transition to a smart, local energy system for Oxfordshire.

## **Alternative Policy Option 02-1**

118. One alternative policy option is to not set county-wide targets for renewable energy in new developments and to defer to local plans and individual developments.

119. This option is not preferred, as establishing different approaches to renewable energy generation for new developments through local plans could undermine efforts to achieve targets for net zero carbon emissions in Oxfordshire over the lifetime of the Oxfordshire Plan.

## **Alternative Policy Option 02-2**

120. Another alternative policy option is to set a percentage target for renewable energy generation in new developments e.g. minimum 10%.

121. This option is reasonable as the continued decarbonisation of the National Grid will help to ensure that a zero carbon energy balance could be achieved nationally and locally during the lifetime of the Plan, particularly with increased renewable energy generation locally. It is not the preferred option as a lower target would potentially fall short of local targets of net zero carbon emissions during the lifetime of the Oxfordshire Plan.

## Policy Option 03 - Water Efficiency

122. It is essential that Oxfordshire's communities, natural environment and businesses have access to the water they need, both now and in the future.
123. Water resources serving Oxfordshire and the wider South East region are under increasing pressure. This is due to a range of factors including climate change, population growth and limitations on the amount of water that can be taken from rivers and aquifers to avoid harm to the natural environment.
124. Thames Water's current Water Resource Management Plan forecasts that, without action, there will be a substantial shortfall between water supply and water demand within the next 25 years, significantly increasing the possibility of droughts.<sup>21</sup>
125. The Oxfordshire authorities are working closely with Thames Water, the Environment Agency and other key stakeholders to understand water resource issues to 2050 and beyond. This engagement has fed into the production of the Water Cycle Study which will inform the Oxfordshire Plan. (A Phase 1 Scoping Study has been published as part of this consultation and a further, more detailed assessment will be undertaken prior to Regulation 19.) The evidence is clear that we need to make best possible use of Oxfordshire's water resources.
126. Water efficiency standards for new development are set out in the Building Regulations.<sup>22</sup> Currently, for new homes, water consumption must not exceed 125 litres per person per day. (On average, a person in England uses 141 litres of water per day.<sup>23</sup>) However, local planning authorities can, where there is a clear local need, require new homes to meet a higher optional requirement of 110 litres per person per day.<sup>24</sup> All adopted local plans in Oxfordshire apply the optional requirement of 110 litres per person per day.
127. In 2019, the Government consulted on the possibility of introducing a more ambitious national water efficiency standard for residential development.<sup>25</sup> However, the outcome of that consultation is not yet known.

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<sup>21</sup> Thames Water (April 2020) [Water Resources Management Plan 2020-2100](#)

<sup>22</sup> HM Government (2015, with 2016 amendments) The Building Regulations 2010 Approved Document G; Sanitation, Hot Water Safety and Water Efficiency; Requirement G2 and Regulation 36

<sup>23</sup> DEFRA (July 2019) [Consultation on Measures to Reduce Personal Water Use](#).

<sup>24</sup> MHCLG (March 2015) [Planning Practice Guidance; Housing: Optional Technical Standards](#); Paragraph: 014; Reference ID: 56-014-20150327

<sup>25</sup> DEFRA (July 2019) [Consultation on Measures to Reduce Personal Water Use](#).

128. The Building Regulations do not set specific water efficiency standards for non-residential development, but state that reasonable provision must be made to prevent undue water consumption.
129. There are examples of best practice that we can also look to. For example, the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has developed a set of performance targets as part of their '2030 Climate Challenge'. *'The performance targets align with the future legislative horizon and set out a challenging but achievable trajectory to realise the significant reductions necessary by 2030 in order to have a realistic prospect of achieving net zero carbon for the whole UK building stock by 2050'*. This includes water use performance targets for different types of development (homes, offices and schools).<sup>26</sup>
130. Measures to improve water efficiency include rainwater harvesting (the collection of rainwater directly from the surface it falls on) and grey water recycling (the collection and treatment of used water from baths, showers and bathroom taps). Once collected, treated and stored, this water can be used for non-potable purposes such as toilet flushing, garden watering and clothes washing using a washing machine. Evidence suggests that rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling schemes are more efficient, cost effective and have a lower carbon footprint when they operate at a 'community-scale'.<sup>27</sup>
131. In planning to 2050, it is reasonable to assume that more ambitious water efficiency standards may become achievable as technology, design and construction methods evolve and become more affordable over time.
132. Ambitious policies in the Oxfordshire Plan are consistent with the opportunity that the Oxfordshire Plan represents to secure the transformational change that the Plan is seeking to achieve.

## Policy Options

133. One option is to not have a strategic policy on water efficiency in the Oxfordshire Plan and to instead leave it to local plans to set policies in relation to water efficiency. However, responding to county-wide and regional pressures on water resources is a strategic cross-boundary planning matter. It is therefore considered appropriate to include a county-wide strategic water efficiency policy in the Oxfordshire Plan.
134. If it were left to local plans to set policies on water efficiency, there is a risk that different approaches might be taken. This could result in less certainty and clarity for developers and communities. It may also make it more difficult to meet proposed ambitions around the delivery of transformational change, addressing the impacts of climate change and responding to county-wide and regional pressures on water resources.
135. For this policy option there is a preferred policy option and two alternatives that follow the text box.

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<sup>26</sup> RIBA (2021) [2030 Climate Challenge \(Version 2\)](#)

<sup>27</sup> Artesia Consulting on behalf of OFWAT (April 2018) [The Long Term Potential for Deep Reductions in Household Water Demand](#)

## **Preferred Policy Option**

136. The preferred approach is for the Oxfordshire Plan to set ambitious minimum water efficiency standards for new development in Oxfordshire. This would help to ensure a consistent approach across the county. It is considered appropriate given increasing pressures on water resources, both within Oxfordshire and across the wider region. Setting ambitious policies in the Oxfordshire Plan is consistent with the opportunity that the Oxfordshire Plan represents to deliver long-term transformational change and to address the impacts of climate change. Local plans could provide further detail as appropriate.

### **Policy Option 03: Water Efficiency**

The Oxfordshire Plan would seek to require the most ambitious minimum water efficiency standards possible for new development.

For residential development, this would include exploring the potential to go beyond the current optional requirement of 110 litres per person per day. (For example, RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge Targets of 75 litres per person per day.)

For non-residential development, this would include exploring the potential to set minimum water efficiency standards for some uses. (For example, RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge Targets or BREEAM standards.)

The Oxfordshire Plan would also require development at strategic growth locations to maximise water efficiency through the delivery of community-scale rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling schemes.

It would be important for the Oxfordshire Plan to provide flexibility to adapt to any new, more ambitious water efficiency standards that may be introduced or become achievable over the plan period.

#### **Alternative Policy Option 03-1**

137. Require water neutrality in Oxfordshire. (This is when the total demand for water is the same after new development is built, as it was before. It means that any new demand for water would be offset by making existing homes and buildings in Oxfordshire more water efficient.)

138. This approach could be implemented alongside the preferred option of setting ambitious minimum water efficiency standards. It would represent transformational change and would further help to address the impacts of climate change. However, this is not a preferred option as at it is unclear how this approach could be delivered, funded and monitored.

#### **Alternative Policy Option 03-2**

139. Set less ambitious water efficiency standards in the Oxfordshire Plan. For example:

- i. align with the current optional requirement of 110 litres per person per day for new homes;
- ii. do not set water efficiency standards for non-residential development; and/or
- iii. encourage (rather than require) development at strategic growth locations to maximise water efficiency through the delivery of community-scale rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling schemes.

140. This is not a preferred policy option as it would not deliver transformational change. There are opportunities to do more to address the impacts of climate

change and to respond to county-wide and regional pressures on water resources.

## **Policy Option 04 - Flood Risk**

141. Many communities across Oxfordshire have been affected by flooding. Flooding causes both immediate and long-term disruption to people's lives, businesses and wildlife.
142. The risk of flooding is expected to increase in future years, with climate change altering weather patterns and increasing the severity and frequency of extreme weather events. It is important to ensure that the impacts of climate change on flood risk are appropriately managed and mitigated so that Oxfordshire's communities, businesses and natural environment are resilient, with the ability to adapt and thrive in the long-term, to 2050 and beyond.
143. The Oxfordshire Authorities are commissioning a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) to inform the production of the Oxfordshire Plan. The SFRA will provide up-to-date information on flood risk, from all sources, and will be based upon the latest evidence and modelling, including the latest climate change projections. The SFRA will consider the individual and cumulative impacts on flood risk of growth proposed through the Oxfordshire Plan in combination with growth proposed in other plans (including Oxfordshire's adopted local plans and plans for adjoining areas as appropriate). Information in the SFRA will be used to apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development. It will also identify infrastructure and other adaptations necessary to manage flood risk to 2050 and beyond. The SFRA will be published at the next stage of consultation (Regulation 19).
144. In considering flood risk management and adaptation in Oxfordshire, the priority will be to work with natural processes wherever possible, utilising natural flood management methods. This approach can help to deliver wider benefits for people and wildlife by helping to restore habitats, improve water quality and increasing resilience to climate change.
145. As natural flood management works best when a 'catchment-based approach' is taken (where efforts are coordinated to manage the flow of water along the whole length of a river catchment from its source to sea), the Oxfordshire authorities will work with the Environment Agency and other stakeholders to implement this approach.
146. Ambitious policies in the Oxfordshire Plan would enable the local planning authorities to work together to secure a transformational change across the entire Thames catchment.

## **Policy Options**

147. We could leave it to local plans to set policies in relation to flood risk; but increasing resilience to climate change is a strategic cross-boundary planning matter. It is considered appropriate to include a county-wide flood risk management policy in the Oxfordshire Plan. This is not the preferred option as there is a risk that local plans might take different approaches to flood risk. This

could result in less certainty and clarity for developers and communities. It may also make it more difficult to meet proposed ambitions around the delivery of transformational change and increasing resilience to climate change.

## Preferred Policy Option

148. The preferred approach is for the Oxfordshire Plan to provide a strategic planning framework for managing flood risk in Oxfordshire. This framework would set out flood risk management and drainage requirements relevant to development across Oxfordshire. It would be consistent with the opportunity that the Oxfordshire Plan represents to deliver long-term transformational change and to address the impacts of climate change, with a specific emphasis on nature-based solutions.

149. There is a significant amount of existing development in the functional floodplain (Flood Zone 3b) in Oxfordshire. The preferred policy approach incorporates recommendations from the Environment Agency to increase the resilience of existing development in Flood Zone 3b. In taking this approach, the impact on design (specifically building heights) needs to be considered. However, given the severity of the risks associated with flood risk, the preferred approach prioritises flood resilience. If this approach is consistently applied, then over time building heights would become more aligned as increasing numbers of homes are rebuilt or raised. Local plans could provide further detail as appropriate.

### Policy Option 04: Flood Risk

The Oxfordshire Plan would require the following:

- 1) Development to take account of both its impact on flood risk and the potential impacts of flood risk on the development and its future occupiers/users.
- 2) Development to utilise natural flood management and drainage methods, including:
  - the use of appropriate green infrastructure;
  - the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS);
  - the use of design measures (such as the use of permeable external surface materials);
  - maximising opportunities to restore natural river flows and floodplains;
  - avoiding building over or culverting watercourses; and
  - removing existing culverts wherever possible.
- 3) Major development to comply with Oxfordshire County Council's Local Standards and Guidance for Surface Water Drainage on Major Development in Oxfordshire (published November 2018)<sup>28</sup> or any subsequent standards/guidance which might supersede this. Additional SuDS features may be required where there are impact pathways on habitats of national and international importance.

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/LOCAL-STANDARDS-AND-GUIDANCE-FOR-SURFACE-WATER-DRAINAGE-ON-MAJOR-DEVELOPMENT-IN-OXFORDSHIRE.pdf>

- 4) Where existing built development in Flood Zone 3b is proposed to be redeveloped or extended, opportunities would be taken to ensure that the new development is resilient to flooding over its lifetime. Replacement buildings in Flood Zone 3b to have finished floor levels above the 1 in 100 year flood level, plus an allowance for climate change.
- 5) Flood risk evidence to support local plans to identify areas of the functional floodplain (Flood Zone 3b) where householder development and small non-residential extensions are having a cumulative impact on flood risk. Opportunities to manage development in Flood Zone 3b that would otherwise be permitted under the General Permitted Development Order 2015 (as amended) to be considered.
- 6) The Oxfordshire authorities to work with the Environment Agency and other stakeholders to support a catchment-based approach to flood risk management across the Thames catchment area. Schemes that utilise natural flood management methods and deliver wider benefits for Oxfordshire's communities, wildlife and businesses would be supported and prioritised.
- 7) Flood risk management and mitigation measures identified within the SFRA to be incorporated within the policy framework as appropriate.

#### **Alternative Policy Option 04-1**

150. Include a strategic flood risk policy in the Oxfordshire Plan but reduce the scope of this policy. For example:

- i. Support the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) but do not require compliance with specific local guidance/standards; and/or
- ii. Support increasing the resilience of existing development in Flood Zone 3b, but do not set specific requirements.

151. This is not a preferred option as there is a risk that local plans might set different flood risk management and drainage requirements across Oxfordshire. This could result in less certainty and clarity for developers and communities. It may also make it more difficult to meet proposed ambitions around the delivery of transformational change and addressing the impacts of climate change.

## Theme Two: Improving Environmental Quality

152. Oxfordshire's natural, historic and built environments are what makes Oxfordshire distinct and special, attracting people to live and stay in Oxfordshire and underpinning the health and wellbeing, quality of life and sense of identity of Oxfordshire's communities.
153. The natural environment is the foundation of Oxfordshire's prosperity and through its varied ecosystems, geodiversity and landscapes provide people with a range of benefits upon which human wellbeing depends. Such benefits include thriving wildlife, food, clean water and air and reduced risks from environmental hazards, such as flooding and drought.
154. Protection and enhancement of all-natural assets is needed to build resilience in nature and within our communities and it therefore needs to be central to plan-making in Oxfordshire.
155. From the county-wide landscape scale to the individual development and community scale, nature is important to the health and resilience of people and wildlife.

Theme Two – Meets the following Objectives of the Oxfordshire Plan

No 1. To demonstrate leadership in addressing the climate emergency by significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

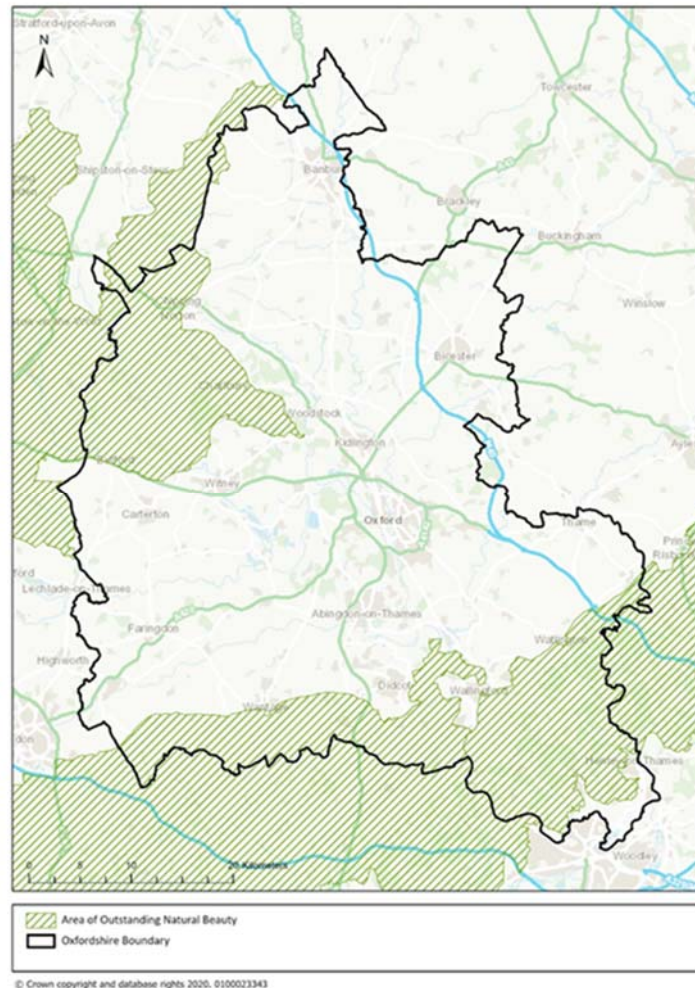
No 2. To conserve and enhance Oxfordshire's historic, built and natural environments, recognising the benefits these assets contribute to quality of life, local identity and economic success.

No 3. To protect and enhance Oxfordshire's distinctive landscape character, recreational and biodiversity value by identifying strategic green and blue infrastructure, improving connectivity between environmental assets and securing a net gain for biodiversity.

### Policy Option 05: Protection and Enhancement of Landscape Characters

156. Oxfordshire's landscapes are particularly important in defining the character of the county and what makes it distinctive.
157. The protected landscapes of the Chilterns, Cotswolds and North Wessex Downs Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty cover over a quarter of the land area of the county. These distinctive and varied landscapes, defined by their underlying geology, land use practices and the many water courses that cross them are highly valued and protected for their natural beauty, distinctiveness and tranquillity.

158. Great weight has been given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and their settings in Oxfordshire and this has shaped the pattern of development in the county over time.
159. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are important considerations in these areas, and the Oxfordshire Plan will continue to support this, as AONBs continue to have the highest level of protection in relation to their landscape and scenic beauty.



Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

160. Oxfordshire has many attractive landscapes and townscapes of distinct character, which are valued by residents and visitors alike. The National Landscape Character map of England shows Oxfordshire to be covered by eight different National Character Areas, which are defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, history and cultural and economic activity.
161. At a county level, these areas are reflected in the Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study (OWLS) as regional character areas. In addition, OWLS define a number of landscape types which are recognisable by common characteristics defined by geology, topography, landcover and settlement pattern.

## Preferred Policy Option

162. Landscape protection and enhancement is an important factor in plan-making and as such, is a key objective of the Oxfordshire Plan. The significance of any impacts on landscape are dependent on the sensitivity of landscape and the nature of any changes proposed. An understanding of such sensitivities will be central in guiding the Oxfordshire Plan spatial strategy.
163. The preferred policy option is to establish a positive strategy for the protection and enhancement of landscape and townscape features in Oxfordshire, due to the significance and importance of these features on the identity, sense of place, health and wellbeing and prosperity of Oxfordshire's communities.
164. It is necessary for the Oxfordshire Plan to have regard to the landscape and townscape character of the county in terms of shaping policies, defining the spatial strategy and determining the spatial distribution of growth. Further detailed evidence on landscape sensitivity and impacts will be required as the Oxfordshire Plan evolves, but it is important to recognise the importance landscape and townscape character will have on determining the overarching spatial strategy for the Oxfordshire Plan.

#### **Policy Option 05: Protection and Enhancement of Landscape Characters**

The Oxfordshire Plan would establish a positive strategy for the conservation and enhancement of landscape and townscape features at a county-wide landscape scale, taking account of topography, vegetation, tranquillity, dark skies, settlement pattern and landscape protection status.

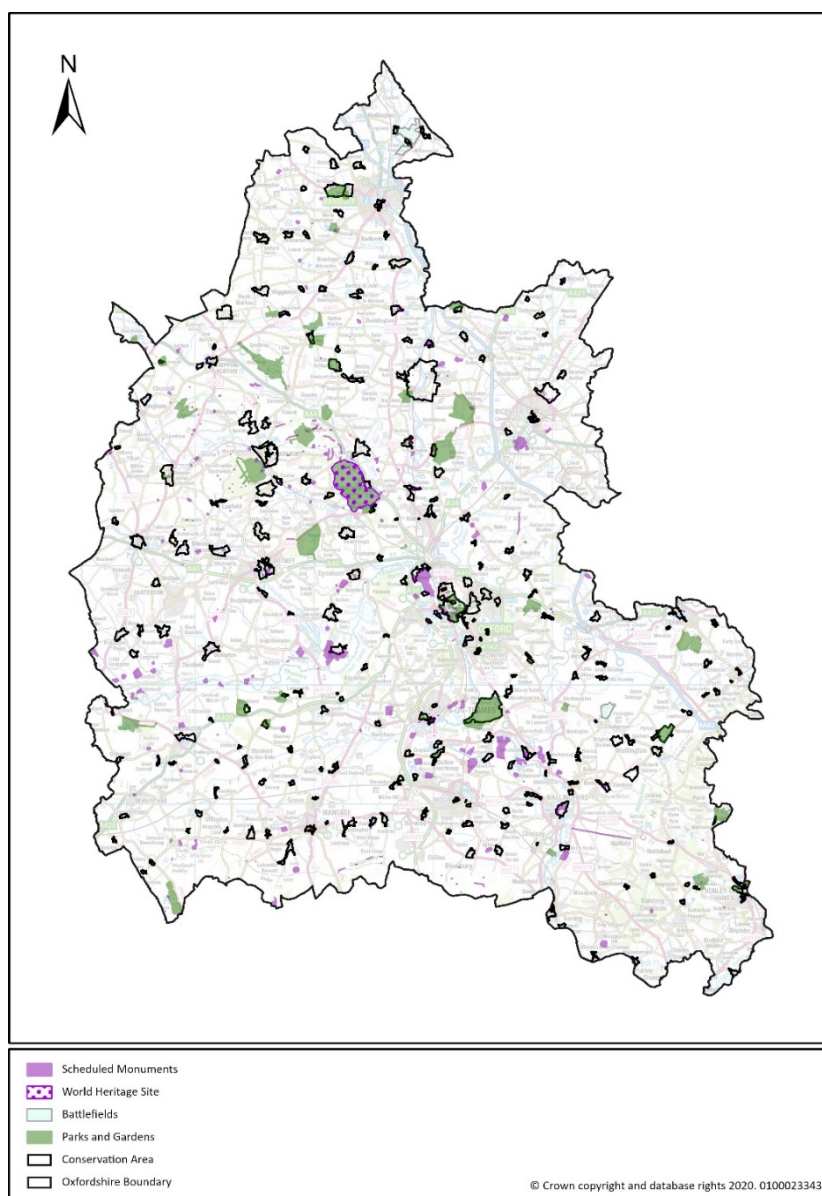
Landscape character and visual impact assessments would be required to support major new developments and urban extensions as well as the preparation of the Oxfordshire Plan itself and subsequent plans and strategies guiding development in Oxfordshire.

Regard should be had to the Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study and relevant landscape character studies relating to parts of Oxfordshire.

#### **Policy Option 06: Protection and Enhancement of Historic Environment**

165. Oxfordshire has a rich and varied cultural heritage that defines the distinctive character of the county with a wealth of heritage sites, from the prehistoric, the Roman occupation and the Saxon, Norman, Medieval, post-medieval and Victorian periods.
166. There are numerous fine examples of heritage assets throughout the Oxfordshire landscape include the Neolithic long barrow at Wayland Smithy, the Iron Age hillforts such as Uffington Castle and Sinodin Hill, Roman temples at Frilford, Wiggington and the Lowbury Hill and the chalk figure of the Uffington White Horse, one of the most iconic examples of Iron Age art in the world.

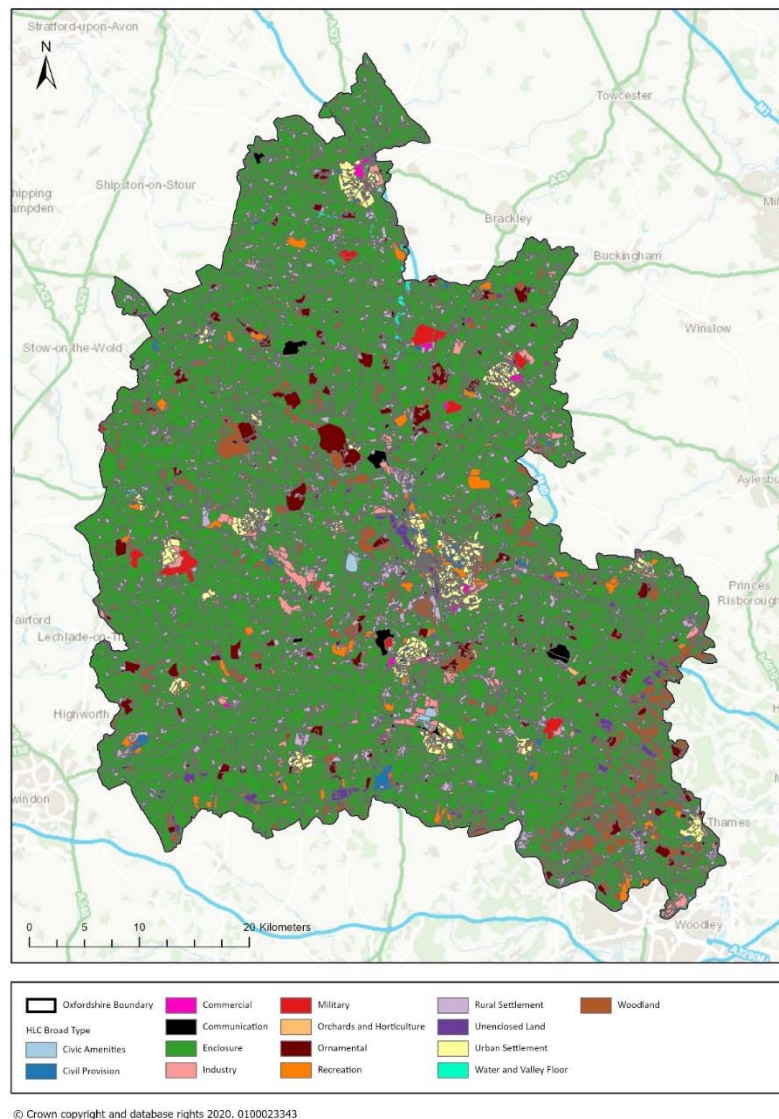
167. In addition, the county contains the internationally renowned medieval collages and buildings of Oxford, one of the region's most important tourist destinations. Other significant heritage assets include Blenheim Palace World Heritage Site, Rousham Park and former RAF Upper Heyford. These heritage assets, as well as locally listed buildings, form a valued and important resource that underpins Oxfordshire's distinctiveness and sense of place.
168. It is vital that the Oxfordshire Plan recognises the importance of the county's cultural heritage, not just in defining the sense of place and identity, but for the value that it brings to the local economy, supporting the enterprise base and attracting significant tourist spending through the visitor economy.
169. These archaeological and historic heritage assets are a finite resource that are highly valued by the local community as well as both nationally and internationally. They form an important backdrop to the characteristic sense of place of Oxfordshire that makes it such a vibrant and attractive place to live and work. The historic environment also plays an important role in community identity. These irreplaceable historic assets are easily disturbed and destroyed by unsympathetic development unless carefully managed.



Oxfordshire Heritage Assets

170. Approaches to the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment and heritage assets are well established in national and local policy through local plans. The Oxfordshire Plan has the potential to add value by setting a positive strategy for the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment at a landscape scale.
171. Historic Landscape Characterisation identifies specific characteristics of an area or to better understand what makes a place special or distinct and helps to build an understanding of sensitivity, vulnerability and capacity for change. Historic landscape characterisation mapping has been undertaken for the whole of Oxfordshire in order to identify broad historic landscape types across the county.

172. This assessment gives a broad understanding of the county's historic character and indicates patterns of historic and current land use. As the assessment covers the whole of the Oxfordshire landscape, it also gives an understanding of archaeological potential within different parts of the county as well as the potential to support biodiversity, so there are synergies with other parts of the Plan relating to climate change and the natural environment.
173. An understanding of the historic importance of landscapes can help shape the Oxfordshire Plan spatial strategy to ensure that they are protected and enhanced for the value that they bring in terms of recreation, education, sense of place and historic character.



Historic Landscape Characterisation Broad Types

## Preferred Policy Option

174. The preferred policy option is to establish a positive strategy for the conservation and enhancement of Oxfordshire's historic environment, due to the significance and importance of Oxfordshire's historic environment on the identity, sense of place, health and wellbeing and prosperity of Oxfordshire's communities.

175. The Oxfordshire Plan should have regard to the location, scale and importance of Oxfordshire's heritage assets in terms of shaping policies, defining the spatial strategy and determining the spatial distribution of growth. Further detailed evidence on heritage impact will be required as the Oxfordshire Plan evolves.

### **Policy Option 06: Protection and Enhancement of Historic Environment**

The Oxfordshire Plan would establish a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of Oxfordshire's historic environment at the strategic scale, taking account of the county's historic environment and heritage assets including historic landscapes, archaeology, Scheduled Monuments, World Heritage Site, Historic Parks and Gardens, Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings and their settings.

Development proposals would be required to assess the impact on the historic environment and heritage assets including both known and potential heritage assets including assessing the likelihood of currently unidentified assets being identified.

Regard would be had to the county's Historic Environment Record and local assessments relating to heritage assets including important views, conservation areas and locally listed buildings.

Detailed historic characterisation work would be required to assess the impact of major development, including new settlements, urban extensions or rural development including proposals for the Oxfordshire Plan and spatial strategy on the significance of heritage assets.

Development should conserve and enhance the historic environment and the setting of heritage assets.

### **Policy Option 07 - Nature Recovery**

176. It is recognised that nature is declining around the world at unprecedented rates and that there has been continued decline of biodiversity nationally and locally over the past decade. Although there have been some conservation successes in Oxfordshire, nature is still in decline.

177. A key finding of the 2017 'State of Nature in Oxfordshire' report<sup>29</sup> was that there is continued fragmentation and loss of connectivity across the county's landscapes, affecting the future viability of habitats and species. Long-term decline in woodland and farmland biodiversity in particular has continued, threatening a number of associated species with extinction.

178. Agricultural changes are one of the main contributing factors to habitat degradation and fragmentation with losses of semi-natural grasslands and floodplain meadows resulting from more intensive agricultural methods.

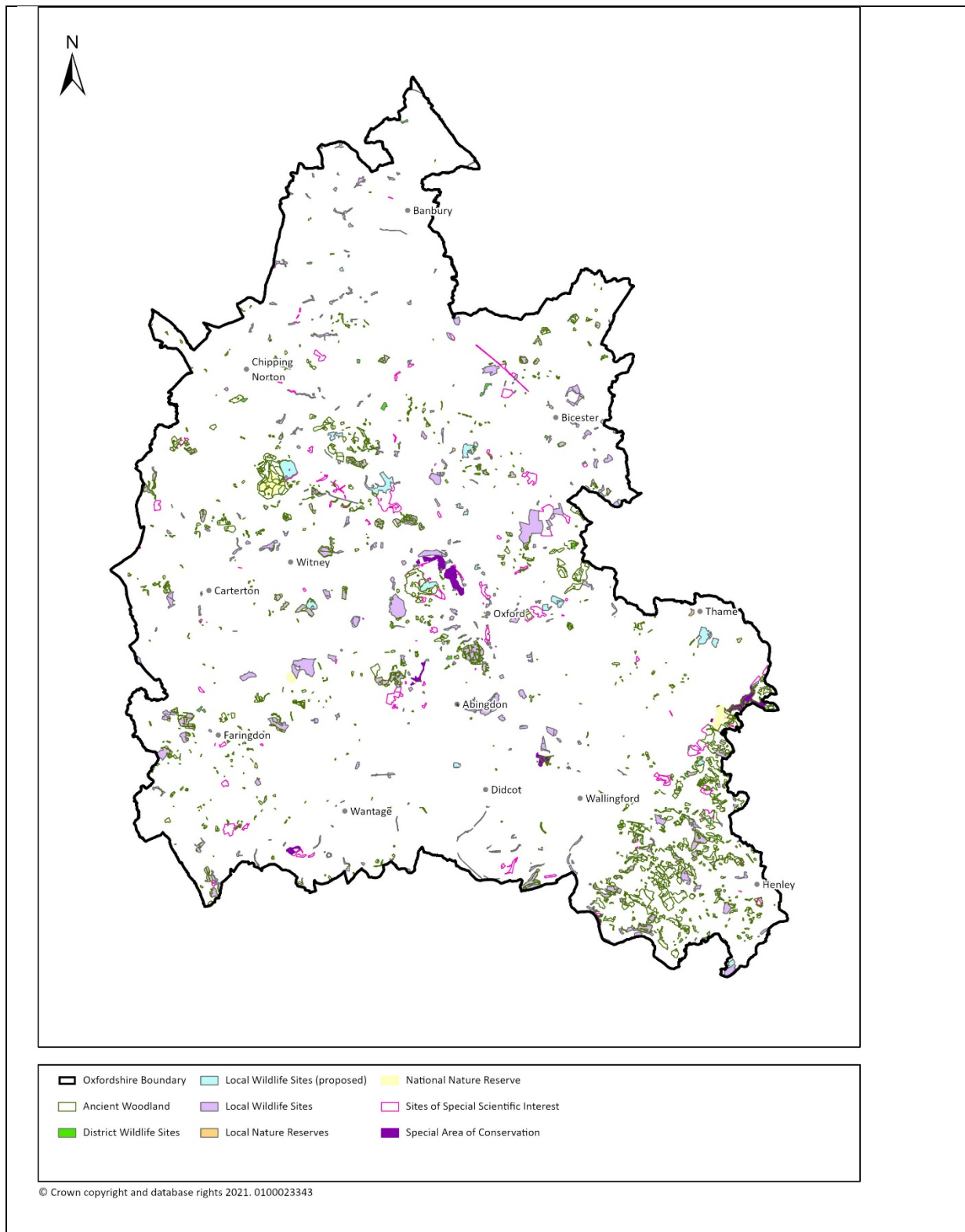
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<sup>29</sup> State of Nature in Oxfordshire 2017, Wild Oxfordshire

179. Climate change is also a significant contributory factor with changes in temperature and rainfall resulting in negative impacts on species composition and the integrity of habitats. Pollution and growing urbanisation and invasive species are also known to contribute to species decline.
180. Despite widespread degradation and loss of habitats, Oxfordshire retains some of the finest and rarest habitats anywhere in the country such as the wet grasslands of Otmoor. It is important that the Oxfordshire Plan aims to protect all that is good and valuable while aiming to repair and recover that which has been lost through harmful land use practices in recent years.
181. Key actions identified for Oxfordshire in the State of Nature Report included the need to create larger and more connected areas of high-quality habitat and to assist landowners and farmers in identifying financially viable ways of managing land in a more nature friendly way. Better planning for green and blue infrastructure is regarded as being beneficial for both people and nature.
182. The Oxfordshire Plan has an opportunity to take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking account of flood risk, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating and drought from rising temperatures.
183. It is proposed that the Oxfordshire Plan takes a holistic approach to nature recovery and environmental enhancement, enabled by the Plan's county-wide coverage. This allows the plan to look at threats and opportunities for the natural environment at the landscape scale which isn't necessarily possible for district-level local plans.
184. The Oxfordshire Plan aims to protect and enhance the natural environment of Oxfordshire, including its natural capital assets, landscapes and wildlife. A key focus of this approach is on minimising impacts on and delivering net gains for biodiversity.
185. Supporting the health and resilience of habitats and species and supporting biodiversity is fundamental to the delivery of ecosystems services for the multiple benefits that they bring to the health and wellbeing of the planet and the human populations that comprise Oxfordshire's communities.
186. There is a wide distribution of wildlife rich, protected sites across Oxfordshire. Such sites benefit from protected status, meaning that national policy and adopted local plan policy steers harmful uses away from such sites and aims to deliver enhancements where possible.
187. This well-established approach may have been successful in protecting individual sites but less successful in arresting the fragmentation of habitats and building resilience amongst species to a changing climate. Wildlife within protected habitats cannot survive indefinitely in isolation but need to be part of a wider network of habitats connected at the landscape scale.
188. Conservation Target Areas (CTAs) were introduced to Oxfordshire in 2006 to identify areas where targeted conservation action could deliver the greatest benefits. There are currently 37 CTAs in Oxfordshire, covering over 20% of the

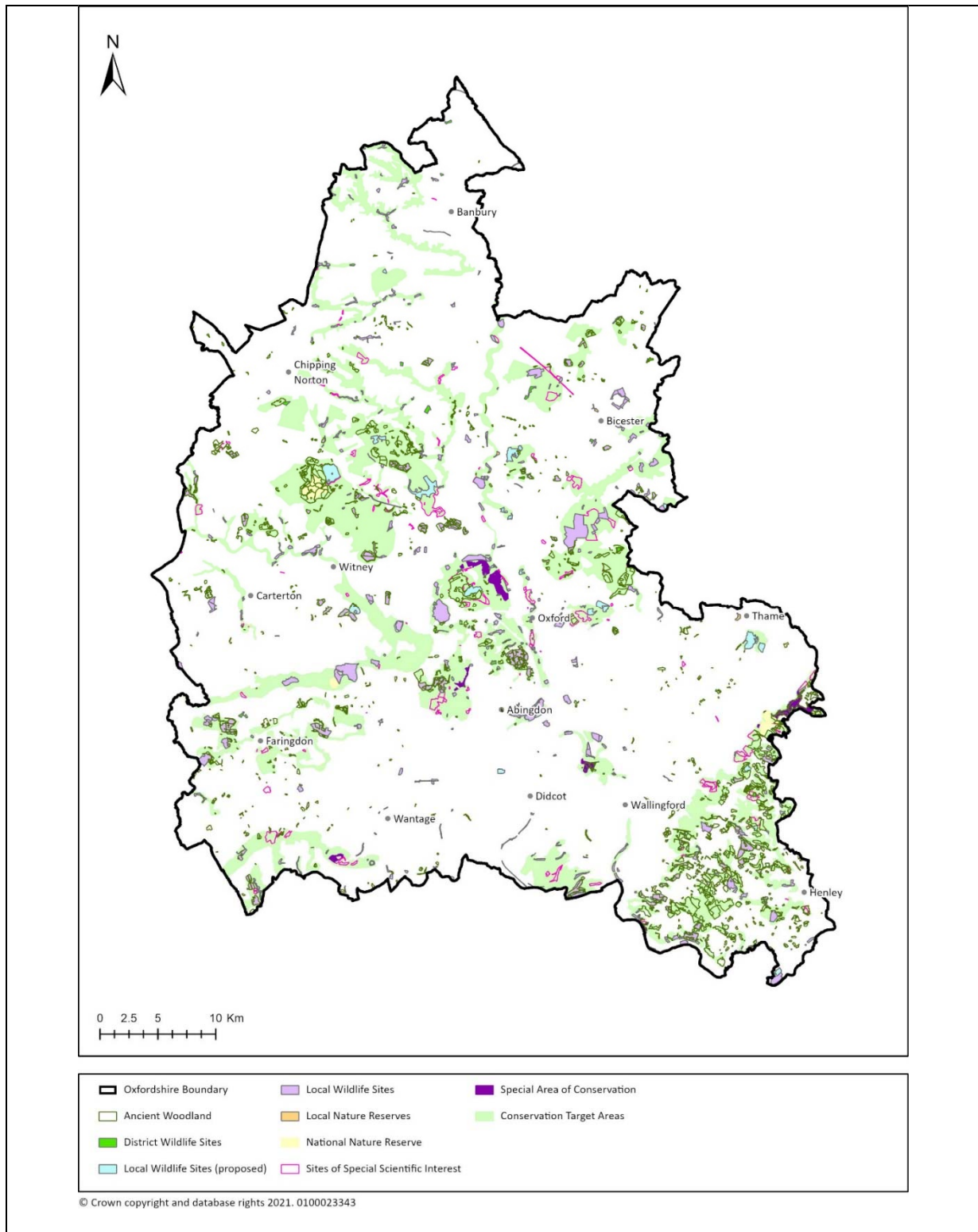
county providing a focus for co-ordinated delivery of agri-environment schemes and biodiversity enhancements delivered through the planning system.

189. The Oxfordshire Plan presents an opportunity to build on the CTA approach, to map and plan for ecological connectivity and enhancement at a landscape scale and to link key wildlife sites to achieve measurable gains in biodiversity.
190. The establishment of a Nature Recovery Network (NRN) for Oxfordshire is considered to be an important step in defining the key spatial elements required to deliver more coherent and robust ecological networks for the county and to ensure that future development avoids harmful impacts on nature and makes a meaningful contribution to nature's recovery.
191. For nature to recover it is important to look beyond currently protected sites and take action to extend and link existing sites, both to support wildlife and to recover the range of economic and social benefits that nature provides.
192. Looking at ecological networks at the landscape scale, provides an opportunity to consider where existing habitats can be improved and increased in size, to improve connectivity between patches of habitat and to restore natural processes.
193. The primary role of a Nature Recovery Network for Oxfordshire would be to support abundant wildlife but should also enhance natural beauty, conserve geodiversity and provide opportunities and benefits for people including flood alleviation, recreation and climate change resilience and adaptation.
194. The map below shows the distribution of many of the protected wildlife sites across Oxfordshire. Although these sites benefit from protected status and many sit in a rural setting surrounded by countryside, they are not necessarily resilient to change and are in many cases disjointed from other similar habitat types as a result of intervening land uses. Species living within such sites may be threatened by not being able to migrate under changing environmental conditions. It should be noted that the map is not exhaustive and does not include all protected sites and habitats in Oxfordshire, such as all local designations.



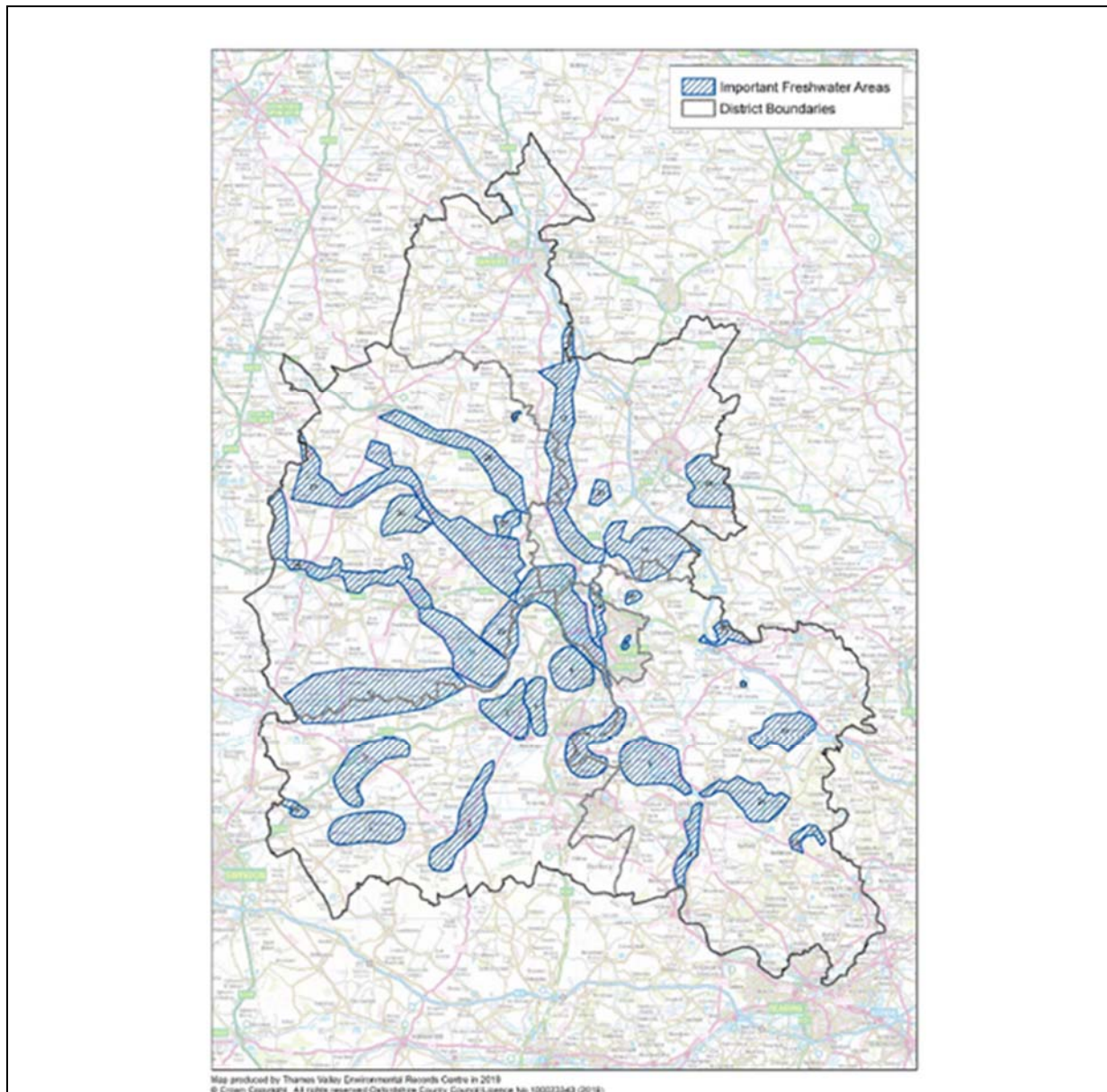
195. The following map illustrates how protected sites for wildlife are set within the existing network of Conservation Target Areas in Oxfordshire.

196. Conservation Target Areas were first established in Oxfordshire in 2006 and since then have been recognised in local plans as a focal point for conservation work and deliver biodiversity net gains in a more co-ordinated manner. Local plans in Oxfordshire ensure that the aims of CTAs are considered as part of the plan-making and decision-taking process for changing land uses in Oxfordshire.



197. Establishing a Nature Recovery Network for Oxfordshire could build on the foundation of the CTAs and expand to include important freshwater areas, to ensure that the network includes both aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

198. Important freshwater areas<sup>30</sup> are those areas that are most important for freshwater wildlife. In order to identify coherent ecological networks to be protected through plans and strategies, it is necessary to understand the extent and geographical distribution of such areas. Important freshwater areas are illustrated on the map below.



199. There is significant overlap between the CTAs and Important Freshwater Areas, emphasising that aquatic and terrestrial habitats should be considered in tandem in identifying ecological networks and making space for nature. For freshwater networks, there are a number of terrestrial habitats that are important to the health of freshwater areas, such as woodlands in the upper catchments of river systems, which regulate both the flow and quality of water entering rivers systems.

200. There are several catchment management plans already in place in Oxfordshire which guide conservation and flood management and improved

<sup>30</sup> <https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/research/important-freshwater-areas/>

water quality along water courses in the county. Such management plans consider the interaction between land uses in river catchments with a focus on how nature-based solutions can deliver benefits to both people and nature. Examples of such work include natural flood risk management schemes which aim to reconnect rivers with their floodplains, remove blockages to wildlife and delay the responsiveness of river channels to rainfall and to slow and store surface water runoff.

201. Combining both Conservation Target Areas and Important Freshwater Areas provides a strong spatial overview of where conservation efforts could be targeted in Oxfordshire to deliver multiple benefits, reducing fragmentation of sites and waterbodies and helping to build climate change resilience in the natural environment.
202. Building a greater understanding of how these valuable areas for biodiversity can be better connected, will assist in the formation of a coherent ecological network for Oxfordshire, setting the framework for future planning for development and conservation and enhancement of the natural environment.
203. Analysis has been undertaken in Oxfordshire to identify the most important areas for biodiversity and the areas that are most important for connecting these together<sup>31</sup>. The analysis has enabled the identification of a draft Nature Recovery Network for Oxfordshire. A draft NRN has been refined through a process of engagement and consultation to define three distinct zones in Oxfordshire with 'soft boundaries' that can be subject to further refinement through the process of creating a future nature recovery strategy.
204. The draft NRN for Oxfordshire comprises the following components and the map which follows indicates the extent of the areas.

#### **Core Zone:**

The Core zone of the NRN contains the most important sites for biodiversity in the county. The identification of the core zone of the NRN does not diminish the protection afforded to such sites through existing national and local policy, which will continue to benefit from a high level of protection.

Special Protection Areas	Cherwell District Wildlife Sites
Special Areas for Conservation,	Oxford City Wildlife Sites
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	BBOWT reserves
Ramsar sites	Woodland Trust woodlands
Local Nature Reserves	Other sites of local importance for
Local Wildlife Sites (including	nature conservation
proposed)	All priority habitats

The core of the NRN is the main priority for nature conservation. Actions within the core zone should focus on the protection and management of important sites to support the greatest amount of biodiversity.

#### **Recovery Zone:**

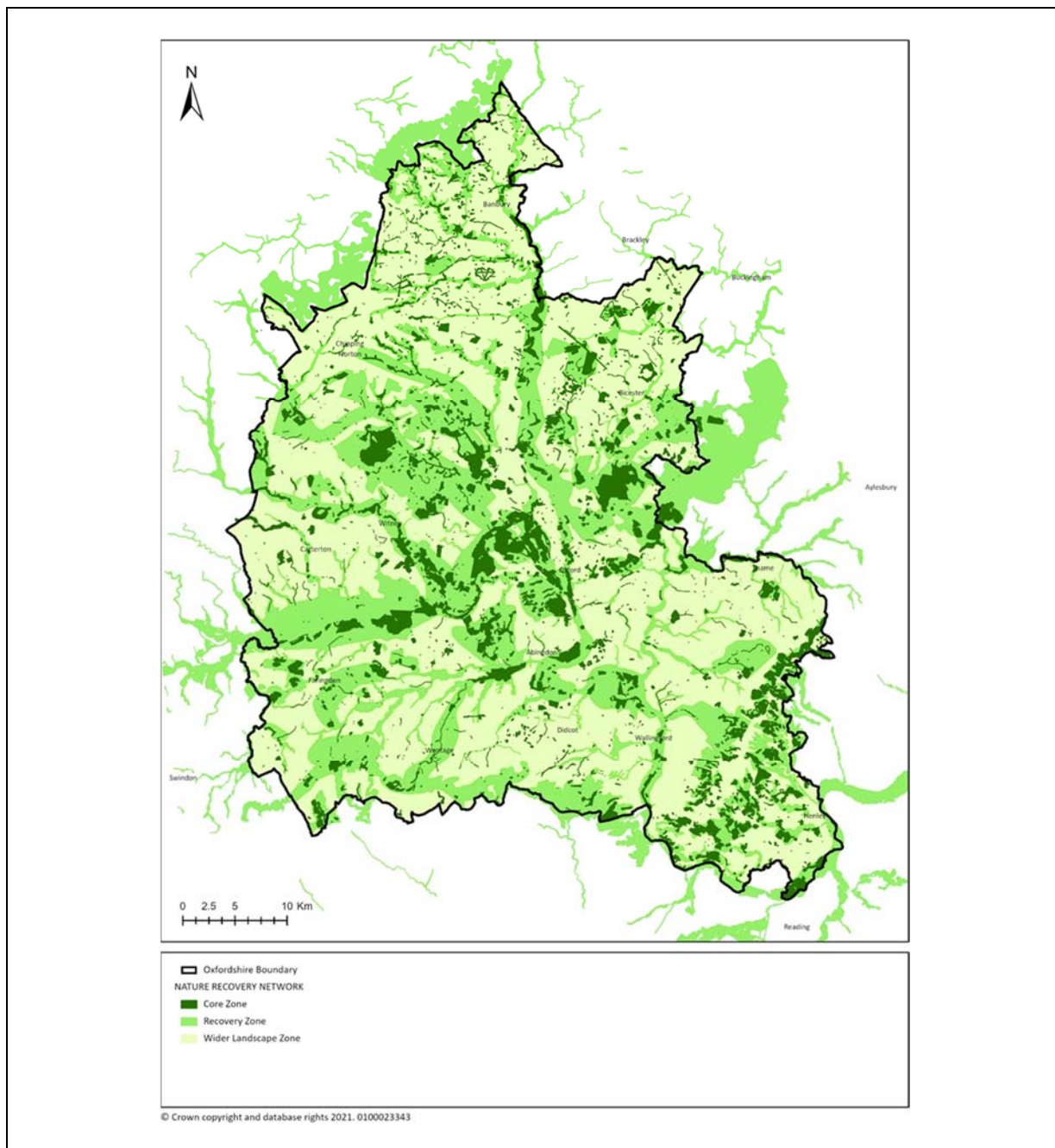
<sup>31</sup> Link to TVERC technical report.

The recovery zone consists of Conservation Target Areas, Important Freshwater Areas and a freshwater network, with additional areas of land added to provide better connectivity.

The recovery zone is where new habitat creation and habitat restoration should be focussed. Habitat creation and restoration in this zone will better link parts of the core network, either by buffering and connecting core sites or by providing corridors or stepping-stones between core sites.

**Wider Landscape Zone:**

The wider countryside is still important for nature's recovery. The focus within the wider landscape zone should be on strengthening landscape character and making room for nature, including hedgerow restoration and creation, managing farmland with nature in mind or improving access to the countryside.



## Policy Options

### Preferred Policy Option

205. The preferred option is to identify those parts of the county that are important for establishing a well-connected ecological network and to use this mapped resource to shape the policies, define the spatial strategy and determine the spatial distribution of development in the Oxfordshire Plan. Utilising the draft Nature Recovery Network to shape the Oxfordshire Plan will ensure that future development and ecological enhancements are directed to locations where they can minimise harm and secure the greatest benefits in supporting nature's recovery and building resilience in communities and ecosystems to climate change.

## **Policy Option 07: Nature Recovery**

The Oxfordshire Plan would utilise the draft Nature Recovery Network for Oxfordshire to guide the spatial distribution of sustainable development and the spatial strategy for the Oxfordshire Plan, as part of a commitment to strengthening ecological networks, delivering biodiversity net gains and building resilience to climate change in Oxfordshire, recognising the importance of the county's habitats, natural resources and landscapes in supporting biodiversity, connecting habitats and aiding nature's recovery.

The Nature Recovery Network would build on the established CTAs for Oxfordshire and would not diminish any of the protections afforded to protected sites, habitats or species but will seek to better connect them.

The proposed draft Nature Recovery Network would be comprised of three zones:

- *Core Zone* - the most important sites for biodiversity in Oxfordshire - including all nationally and locally designated sites, nature reserves, priority habitats and ancient woodland.
- *Recovery Zone* - comprising the Conservation Target Areas, Important Freshwater Areas and additional areas added to provide better habitat connectivity.
- *Wider Landscape Zone* - covering the rest of the county, recognising the important contribution that agricultural and urban landscapes beyond the Recovery zone can make to nature's recovery.

The draft Nature Recovery Network would provide a framework for future plan-making (Including the Oxfordshire Plan) and decision-taking, ensuring that future developments do not undermine efforts to connect habitats and to make landscapes more permeable to biodiversity.

The Nature Recovery Network provides a spatial illustration of a connected ecological network for Oxfordshire and sets the context for a future Nature Recovery Strategy in accordance with the 25 Year Environment Plan. The Oxfordshire Plan would support the establishment of a Nature Recovery Strategy for Oxfordshire.

The Nature Recovery Network would provide a focus for biodiversity net gains and wider environmental net gains as part of a co-ordinated approach to environmental protection and enhancement for Oxfordshire.

## **Alternative Policy Option 07-1**

206. One discounted policy option has been to not progress the development of the Nature Recovery Network map in the Oxfordshire Plan and to leave it to the subsequent Nature Recovery Strategy for Oxfordshire to define. This would defer to the established approach of site, species and habitat protection, Conservation Target Areas and application of mitigation hierarchy for biodiversity to be applied through local plans.

207. This option is not preferred as the Oxfordshire Plan provides an opportunity to plan more holistically for ecological connectivity at the landscape scale. Not utilising the draft Nature Recovery Network to shape the Oxfordshire Plan spatial strategy might undermine future efforts to establish ecological networks and to plan for nature recovery through a future Nature Recovery Strategy.

## **Policy Option 08 - Biodiversity Gain**

208. Biodiversity net gain is an approach which aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than before.
209. Oxfordshire has a diverse and distinctive landscape which supports a variety of habitats. The Oxfordshire State of Nature report (2017)<sup>32</sup> found that there continues to be long-term declines in farmland and woodland biodiversity and that there is continued fragmentation and loss of connectivity across the county's landscape, affecting the future viability of habitats and species.
210. Such issues of fragmentation and ecological connectivity can be addressed to a significant extent through the establishment of a Nature Recovery Network.
211. In order to account for past losses and degradation of the natural environment however, achieving significant biodiversity net gains through planning are likely to be desirable.
212. Preparation of the Oxfordshire Plan provides an opportunity to set high level ambitions for biodiversity and wider environmental net gains in the county and to set a consistent approach and framework for plan-making and decision taking across the county.
213. Approaches to biodiversity net gain have already been developed in parts of Oxfordshire with local plans setting requirements and targets for biodiversity net gain through new development as well as varying targets set at individual site level for planned garden communities. The use of biodiversity metrics is recognised as an important mechanism through which the biodiversity value of land pre- and post-development is measured.
214. The Oxfordshire Plan has the potential to add value and perform a key role in achieving biodiversity net gain through new developments through to 2050, which is key to reducing harmful impacts on wildlife, supporting recovery of nature, reversing long-term declines in biodiversity and addressing climate change.
215. The Oxfordshire Plan aims to protect and enhance Oxfordshire's distinct landscape character, recreational and biodiversity value. Achieving net gain for biodiversity is one way the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 can help to achieve this. This Plan will provide an opportunity to be ambitious and align the views of key stakeholders across the county, providing a county-wide framework for all the local authorities to work within. National policy is clear that the natural and local

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<sup>32</sup> [State of Nature | Wild Oxfordshire](#)

environment should be enhanced through minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity.

216. Nationally, biodiversity net gain is proposed to be set at 10% for all new development<sup>33</sup>. Planning to 2050 provides an opportunity to set clear ambitions for environmental improvement and it is not considered unreasonable to have targets in the Oxfordshire Plan which go beyond existing and proposed national and local targets.
217. A key challenge in securing biodiversity net gains through development will be the effect on viability but this is a challenge that must be addressed if the Oxfordshire Plan is to meet objectives for net zero carbon and to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
218. A Natural England biodiversity net gain study<sup>34</sup> showed there is little or no effect on the viability of housing developments with up to 20% biodiversity net gain, and that there is a strong case for more.
219. The preference should be for biodiversity net gains to be delivered on site, following the mitigation hierarchy and, where this is not possible, it should be delivered as close to the loss as possible. The Nature Recovery Network would provide a focus for off-site biodiversity net gains, with the Core Zone and Recovery Zone providing opportunities to deliver the greatest benefits for biodiversity and ecological connectivity.

#### The mitigation hierarchy

Avoid harm,  
Minimise impacts,  
Rehabilitation / restoration,  
Compensation (on-site),  
Offset (off-site).

220. Securing biodiversity net gains will have knock-on positive effects, delivering direct and indirect benefits to environmental enhancement, nature resilience and the provision of ecosystem services to support health and wellbeing of communities.

### Policy Options

221. The protection and enhancement of Oxfordshire's wildlife, habitats and ecological networks is central to the Oxfordshire Plan.
222. All development proposals in Oxfordshire should have regard to impacts on priority habitats, designated sites, Conservation Target Areas and the Nature Recovery Network for Oxfordshire.

### Preferred Policy Option

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<sup>33</sup> Environment Bill 2020 [Environment Bill - Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament](#)

<sup>34</sup> Biodiversity Net Gain Study (Vivid Economics, June 2018)

223. The preferred option is to set an ambitious target for biodiversity net gain as a standalone policy as one of the primary mechanisms through which nature's recovery can be delivered through the Oxfordshire Plan. Setting an ambitious target above national requirements emphasises the importance of supporting nature's recovery and improving environmental quality through the Oxfordshire Plan.

224. It is recognised that there could be viability implications for achieving higher biodiversity net gain targets in parts of Oxfordshire, but it is also noted that higher targets are being sought within individual developments and strategic developments in other parts of the county.

### **Policy Option 08: Biodiversity Gain**

The Oxfordshire Plan proposes to set minimum target for biodiversity net gain across Oxfordshire to protect, enhance, restore, increase and connect the natural environment and secure measurable net gains in biodiversity.

20% biodiversity net gain - Standard benchmark for the whole of the county.

Biodiversity net gain will be measured using the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric.

*The delivery of biodiversity net gain should follow the mitigation hierarchy with a preference to deliver gains on site. Where on site delivery is not possible, gains should be delivered within the administrative boundary of the Local Authority and wherever possible within a Conservation Target Area.*

### **Alternative Policy Option 08-1**

225. Establish differential biodiversity net gain targets for different parts of the county with higher targets (e.g. 25%) in opportunity areas for environmental enhancement including Green Belt, AONBs, Conservation Target Area, as well as Broad Areas for Growth identified in the Oxfordshire Plan and a lower target (10% national minimum) for the rest of the county.

226. This alternative policy option may assist in drawing out the challenge of viability that is anticipated in different parts of the county, whilst prioritising areas where biodiversity net gain from development is particularly sensitive and necessary.

### **Alternative Policy Option 08-2**

227. Leave to national standards and do not set minimum biodiversity net gain targets in the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

228. This is not the preferred policy option as reliance on the UK-wide 10% net gain would fall short of Oxfordshire's efforts to support nature's recovery and account for past losses to biodiversity.

## Policy Option 09 - Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

229. Earlier policy options considered the merits of establishing a Nature Recovery Network (NRN) for Oxfordshire and for setting relatively high targets for biodiversity net gain, in order to increase space for nature and to increase the resilience of the natural environment to climate change and other pressures.
230. The emphasis of the NRN and biodiversity net gain are very much on building resilience in nature and supporting wildlife conservation, but investment in the natural environment to deliver wider environmental net gains can deliver economic and social benefits too.
231. Maintaining stocks of natural capital in good condition both in terms of quality and quantity will ensure a sustainable flow of ecosystems services underpinning human health and wellbeing.
232. A focus on natural capital and the ecosystem services that habitats provide gives a more holistic way of considering our relationship with the natural environment and how the protection and enhancement can deliver multiple economic, social and environmental benefits.
233. Natural Capital is the elements of nature that directly or indirectly produce value to people, including ecosystems, species, freshwater, land minerals and air, as well as natural processes and functions.
234. The core elements of natural capital that are important in terms of the ecosystems services they provide are biodiversity (plants and animals), geodiversity (soil, rock), water and the air we breathe.
235. These stocks of natural capital provide a wide range of ecosystem services which can broadly be grouped into three categories:

Types of ecosystems services		
Provisioning Services	Cultural Services	Regulating Services
Food crops Livestock Wood Fish Fresh water supply	Recreation Aesthetic value Education and knowledge Interaction with nature Sense of place	Flood control Erosion control Water quality Carbon storage Air quality Cooling and shading Noise regulation Pollination Pest control

236. The protection and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity is fundamental to protecting stocks of natural capital and the flows of ecosystem services that underpin human health and wellbeing.
237. The approach to biodiversity protection and enhancement outlined in previous sections through the Nature Recovery Network and targets for biodiversity net gain will ensure that enhancements are delivered closest to where impacts arise or where they can deliver the most positive impacts.

238. Detailed work has been undertaken in Oxfordshire to provide a baseline understanding of the supply of natural capital across the county and the ability of habitats to provide ecosystem services. The baseline assessment covers 18 types of ecosystem services illustrated in the table above.
239. A robust methodology for natural capital assessment has been developed by Oxford University<sup>35</sup> which has been influential in steering assessments and approaches in neighbouring counties and throughout the Oxford-Cambridge Arc<sup>36</sup>.
240. The Oxfordshire Natural Capital mapping project provides a spatial overview of parts of the county that perform well in terms of the provision of ecosystem services. A summary of some of the key ecosystem services is illustrated in the map which follows.
241. Darker green colours on the map indicate habitats that perform well in terms of regulating and cultural services (as listed in the table above) and lighter green areas are those that perform less well. Many of the dark green areas represent areas of woodland such as the Chilterns in South Oxfordshire and the Wychwood Forest in West Oxfordshire. Areas of woodland score particularly well in terms of regulating services such as carbon sequestration, flood risk mitigation, shading and cooling and are valuable in terms of cultural services such as creating a sense of place and for recreation. It is important to note that the mapping makes no assessment of the quality of natural capital assets which may vary across the county.
242. Darker green areas are areas that should be protected and enhanced in order to preserve the beneficial ecosystem services they provide.
243. Lighter green areas on the summary map represent habitats that potentially perform less well in terms of the ecosystem services that they provide, although this doesn't distinguish between those habitats that provide multiple services and those that only provide one service. These areas may present opportunity areas to deliver environmental net gains, particularly where they relate to existing and future development, where demand for certain ecosystem services may be greatest. It is important to note that almost all of the land in Oxfordshire provide ecosystem benefits to people in one form or another.
244. As a predominantly rural county, dominated by agricultural land, most of the land coverage in Oxfordshire scores well in terms of provisioning services such as food production and water supply. In order to differentiate between the best areas for food production and those that are potentially less productive, the orange colours on the summary map indicate areas of best and most versatile agricultural land. This is land which is most flexible, productive and efficient and can best deliver future crops for both food and non-food.
245. An understanding of the supply of natural capital and ecosystem services for Oxfordshire is regarded as important, not only in terms of protecting what we have, but also in terms of increasing the supply, particularly where demand for services arises such as in new development locations.

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<sup>35</sup> Provide link to natural capital report with methodology

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.oxcamlncp.org/our-project>



Oxfordshire's Green Infrastructure is an essential part of realising the county's long-term ambitions and economic aspirations.

248. Analysis has been undertaken to highlight a number of areas that present barriers to economic growth, with a significant economic cost to Oxfordshire each year.

**Top seven sustainability challenges in Oxfordshire and their annual cost to the economy**

Issue	Annual cost to Oxfordshire GVA
Mental Health	£1,300,000,000
Obesity	£427,000,000
Air pollution	£207,000,000
Transport – congestion	£170,000,000
Transport – accidents	£135,000,000
Inactive lifestyles	£120,000,000
Noise	£119,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,496,000,000</b>

*Source – Making the case for investment in Green Infrastructure – Brillianto - Oxfordshire County Council*

249. Green infrastructure is a key part of natural capital, though natural capital also includes intensive farmland, which is not usually considered as green infrastructure.
250. The natural capital maps developed to support the Oxfordshire Plan can be used to identify high value natural capital assets, and these can then be used to help identify strategic networks of green and blue infrastructure, and options for strengthening these networks.
251. An understanding of the supply and demand for ecosystem services coupled with investment in green infrastructure will enable the delivery of nature-based solutions to address the sustainability challenges identified in Oxfordshire. Investment in green infrastructure is most effective where it is spatially targeted and designed to deliver multiple benefits in the same location. It is for this reason that our understanding of natural capital and ecosystem services provision should be central to plan-making and environmental investment in Oxfordshire.
252. Applying natural capital approaches will help integrate the value of nature in all decision-making and develop a better understanding of impacts and dependencies on nature.

A recently compiled business case for green infrastructure investment in Oxfordshire identified a number of headline benefits.

- A 1% increase in the amount of greenspace in a ward generates a 1% increase in the value of a residential property in England.
- Vegetation may reduce noise by as much as 50%.
- A noise reduction of just 1 decibel for every property in the county would be worth £8m p.a. to the Oxfordshire economy.
- Investment in cycling infrastructure could take one car off the road for as little as 80 pence per day.
- Reducing speed limits in residential areas could reduce traffic accidents by half.
- People with good access to green space are 24% more likely to be physically active.
- A 10% increase in physical activity in adults would be worth over £6m to the Oxfordshire Economy.
- Oxfordshire's woodlands remove 175,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) per year from the atmosphere with an estimated value of £6 million each year.
- Green roof energy savings are 30 kwh/m<sup>2</sup> or 14 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup> or £5-6 m<sup>2</sup> per year for heating and air conditioning.
- River woodland is worth £6,000 per year per hectare for its flood regulation benefits. Sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) are half the cost of traditional drainage over a 60-year life span.
- During an extreme rainfall event green roofs can retain up to 90% of rainfall.
- One square metre of green roof can offset the annual particulate matter emissions of one car.
- Planting of vegetation in streets can reduce street-level pollution concentrations by up to 60%.
- Oxfordshire's rural woodlands remove 400 tonnes of air pollutants and thereby save £6.5 million in healthcare cost per year.
- Converting intensive agriculture to a mixture of woodland and pasture near cities can generate benefits of £1,300 per hectare per year.

*Source – Making the case for investment in Green Infrastructure – Brillianto - Oxfordshire County Council*

253. Taking a natural capital approach with ambitious targets will enable the Oxfordshire Plan to deliver sustainable development that secures investment in nature across Oxfordshire.

## **Policy Options**

254. One discounted option has been to include natural capital considerations within place-shaping principles rather than defining an Oxfordshire-wide approach to the assessment of supply and demand for ecosystem services.
255. This is not the preferred option as it would represent a more traditional approach to green infrastructure delivery established in adopted local plans and

would not capitalise on the detailed evidence available to shape the Oxfordshire Plan.

### **Preferred Policy Option**

256. The preferred option is to identify the parts of the county that are important and valuable for natural capital and ecosystems services and to use this mapped resource to shape the policies, define the spatial strategy and determine the spatial distribution of development in the Oxfordshire Plan.
257. Utilising the Natural Capital mapping to shape the Oxfordshire Plan would ensure that future development and environmental enhancements are directed to locations where they can minimise harm and deliver multiple benefits for the environment and communities as well as building resilience in communities and ecosystems.

#### **Policy Option 09: Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services**

The proposal is that the Oxfordshire Plan will utilise the Natural Capital baseline mapping for Oxfordshire so that it can be used to guide strategic planning for development and green infrastructure investment at the strategic and site scale including the Oxfordshire Plan spatial strategy.

The Oxfordshire Plan would establish a Natural Capital Approach to planning in Oxfordshire, placing natural capital considerations at the heart of planning for development, infrastructure, and environmental enhancements including nature-based solutions.

A natural capital approach will recognise the importance of healthy and thriving ecosystems in supporting the health and wellbeing of communities, supporting climate change resilience and provision of ecosystems services.

The Oxfordshire Plan would require an assessment of natural capital and ecosystem services impact for major developments, policies, plans or programmes including the identification of strategic environmental opportunity areas and green infrastructure.

The use of an eco-metric may better enable the quantification of environmental value in order to establish the type and scale of investments to secure net gains.

Local plans should be guided by the baseline assessment of natural capital assets and ecosystem services developed for Oxfordshire to influence the spatial distribution of development and investment in green infrastructure and nature-based solutions.

#### **Policy Option 10 – Green Belt**

258. The aim of Green Belt is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open. Not all countryside and greenspace are classified in this way.

Green Belt is a specific policy protection that only applies to certain designated areas.

259. Oxfordshire has an expansive area of Green Belt that surrounds the city of Oxford and which extends in to all four rural districts surrounding the city.
260. The first Oxford Green Belt policies were introduced in 1958 with a tight inner boundary surrounding the city of Oxford and extending for 5 or 6 miles in every direction washing over a number of surrounding villages.
261. The rationale for the protection of the Green Belt in Oxfordshire has been expanded over time but with the main purposes of protecting the special character of Oxford and its landscape setting, checking the growth of Oxford and preventing ribbon development and urban sprawl and preventing the coalescence of settlements.
262. If applied to Oxford, the national definition of Green Belt and the 5 purposes that it serves are as follows;
- a) to check the unrestricted sprawl of Oxford;
  - b) to prevent neighbouring settlements merging into one another;
  - c) to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
  - d) to preserve the setting and special character of Oxford; and
  - e) to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.
263. The extent of Oxford's Green Belt is illustrated on the map below:



264. Making changes to the Green Belt boundary, i.e. taking land out of the Green Belt or adding new areas to it, requires exceptional circumstances to be demonstrated. The consideration of Spatial Options could lead to further Green Belt release if exceptional circumstances could be demonstrated.
265. As the NPPF records in para 137 *'Before concluding that exceptional circumstances exist to justify changes to Green Belt boundaries, the strategic policymaking authority should be able to demonstrate that it has examined fully all other reasonable options for meeting its identified need for development.'*
266. The extent of the Oxford Green Belt has reduced in recent years, particularly on the inner edge, adjacent to Oxford, where there has been pressure for development to meet housing needs, and a lack of reasonable alternatives to deliver this new development. Allocations for development that satisfied the 'exceptional circumstances' test have resulted in land being removed from the Green Belt in sustainable locations through the adopted Local Plans.
267. Looking forward to 2050 and having regard to the importance of openness and permanence of the Green Belt, the Oxfordshire Plan could present an opportunity to enhance the Green Belt for beneficial uses as the NPPF sets out in para 141 *'Once Green Belts have been defined, local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance their beneficial use, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and*

*recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land.'*

268. So, for the Oxfordshire Plan, the beneficial uses could include the list of uses identified in the NPPF and also the provision of accessible natural green space, creation of ecological networks and local food production and with direct and indirect benefits for the health and wellbeing of Oxfordshire's residents and the protection and enhancement of landscape, heritage and biodiversity.

### **Policy Option**

269. It is proposed that the Oxfordshire Plan should have regard to the Green Belt in determining the spatial strategy for Oxfordshire to 2050 and NPPF paras 136 and 137. Subject to meeting the NPPF requirements this could include identification of opportunities to enhance the Green Belt for its beneficial uses.

### **Preferred Policy Option**

270. The preferred option is for the Oxfordshire Plan to consider NPPF para 141 and having completed the appropriate assessment the Plan would then focus on Green Belt enhancement in order to strengthen the important roles that the Green Belt plays, as well as supporting key objectives of the Oxfordshire Plan to improve the health and wellbeing of communities, deliver environmental enhancements and support nature's recovery.

#### **Policy Option 10 – Green Belt enhancement**

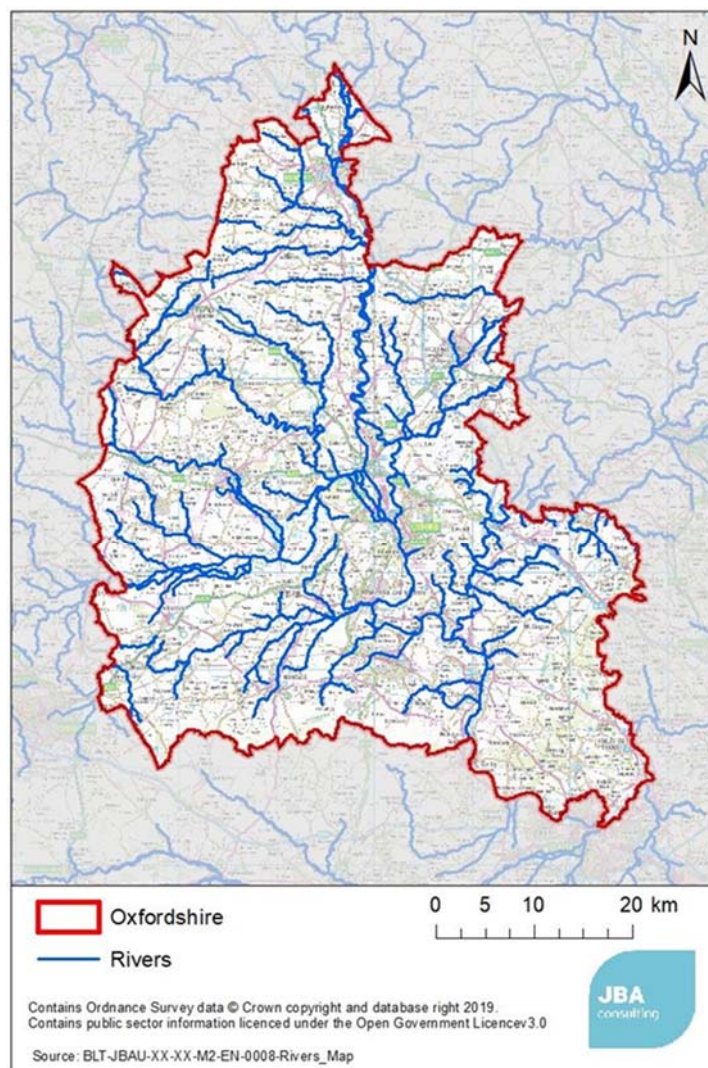
The Oxfordshire Plan would identify strategic opportunities to enhance the existing Oxford Green Belt i.e. provide access, opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation, enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or improve damaged or derelict land.

### **Policy Option 11 - Water Quality**

271. Oxfordshire's rivers, lakes, streams and canal are an integral part of the county's ecosystems, heritage and identity. They provide a wide range of services, including:
- providing/supporting a diverse range of habitats and wildlife (including nationally and internationally protected habitats) such as chalk streams;
  - providing water supplies for homes and businesses;
  - providing opportunities for sports, leisure and recreation;
  - contributing to landscape character and sense of place; and
  - supporting tourism.
272. In addition, Oxfordshire's groundwater resources have an important role in providing drinking water (a third of drinking water in England comes from

groundwater<sup>37</sup>), supporting agriculture and naturally recharging rivers, lakes and streams.

Map showing surface waterbodies in Oxfordshire<sup>38</sup>



273. The quality of Oxfordshire's waterbodies affects the health and wellbeing of our communities, natural environment and businesses.

274. Activities that can affect the quality of Oxfordshire's waterbodies include pollution from wastewater or sewage, pollution from built development and transport, physical modifications to the size and shape of natural river channels and pollution from agriculture.<sup>39</sup>

275. It is important that the Oxfordshire Plan helps to:

- prevent new and existing development from contributing to water pollution;
- prevent new and existing development from being affected by unacceptable levels of water pollution; and

<sup>37</sup> Environment Agency: <http://apps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/37833.aspx>

<sup>38</sup> JBA Consulting (July 2021) Oxfordshire Strategic Water Cycle Study – Phase 1 Scoping

<sup>39</sup> DEFRA & Environment Agency (December 2015) Part 1: Thames River Basin District River Basin Management Plan

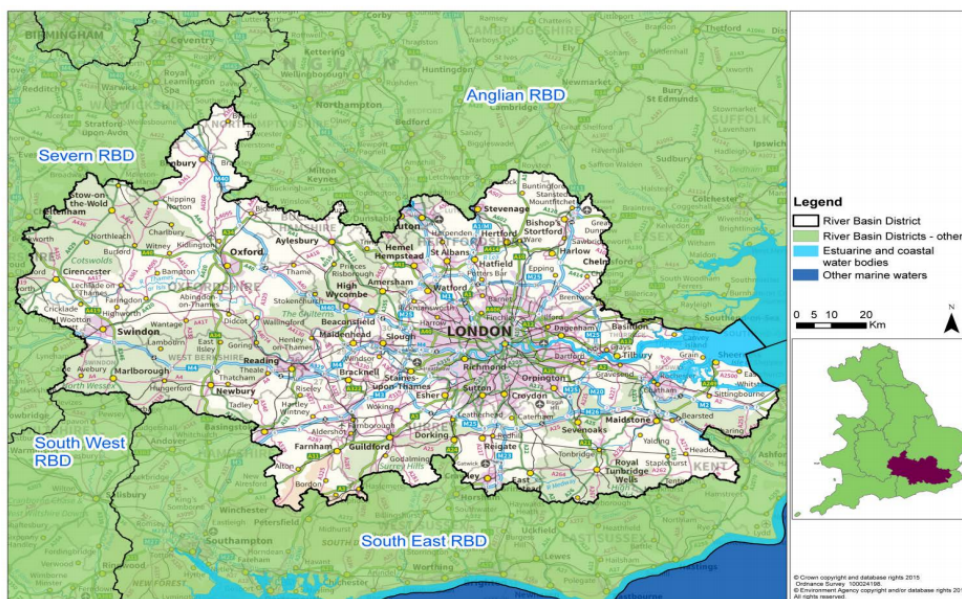
- ensure that new development seeks to improve water quality wherever possible.

276. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) provides a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwater. It requires the achievement of a 'good' qualitative and quantitative status for all water bodies. Whilst the UK is no longer part of the European Union, this requirement was transposed into UK law and implemented through the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003. The principle of all waterbodies aiming to achieve good ecological status is also broadly aligned with the principles set out in the Government's 25-Year Environment Plan.

277. River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) implement the EU Water Framework Directive. They cover entire river systems (including river, lake, groundwater, estuarine and coastal waterbodies) and aim to protect and improve the quality of our water environment. Oxfordshire is within the Thames River Basin District. Consideration should be given to the Thames River Basin District RBMP in producing the Oxfordshire Plan and in making planning decisions.

Map showing Oxfordshire within the wider Thames River Basin District.<sup>40</sup>

Figure 1: Map of the Thames river basin district



Thames river basin management plan. Part 1

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278. It should be noted that RBMPs are updated every six years. The current Thames River Basin District RBMP was published in 2016. A review of this plan is currently underway and consultation on the draft RBMP is expected during 2021.

279. An Oxfordshire focused Water Cycle Study is also being undertaken to inform the production of the Oxfordshire Plan. The Phase 1 Water Cycle Study sets out baseline information on water quality in Oxfordshire and considers, at a high level, the potential impacts of growth. A more detailed Phase 2 Water Cycle Study will be undertaken to help inform the next stages of the plan-making

<sup>40</sup> DEFRA & Environment Agency (December 2015) [Part 1: Thames River Basin District River Basin Management Plan](#)

process. It will help to inform where growth is proposed in Oxfordshire and the infrastructure needed to support and mitigate it. The Phase 2 Water Cycle Study will be published at the next stage of consultation (Regulation 19).

## Policy Options

280. One option would be to not have a strategic policy on water quality in the Oxfordshire Plan and to instead leave it to local plans to set policies in relation to water quality.
281. This is not the preferred option as there is a risk that local plans might take different approaches to water quality. This could result in less certainty and clarity for developers and communities. It may also make it more difficult to meet proposed ambitions around environmental improvement and nature recovery.

## Preferred Policy Option

282. The preferred approach is for the Oxfordshire Plan to provide a strategic planning framework for the protection and enhancement of water quality in Oxfordshire. This framework would set minimum standards for development in Oxfordshire, helping to ensure a consistent approach across the county. It would also provide a framework for improving water quality wherever possible, aligning with proposed ambitions around environmental improvement and nature recovery. Local plans could provide further detail as appropriate.

### Policy Option 11: Water Quality

The Oxfordshire Plan would require the following:

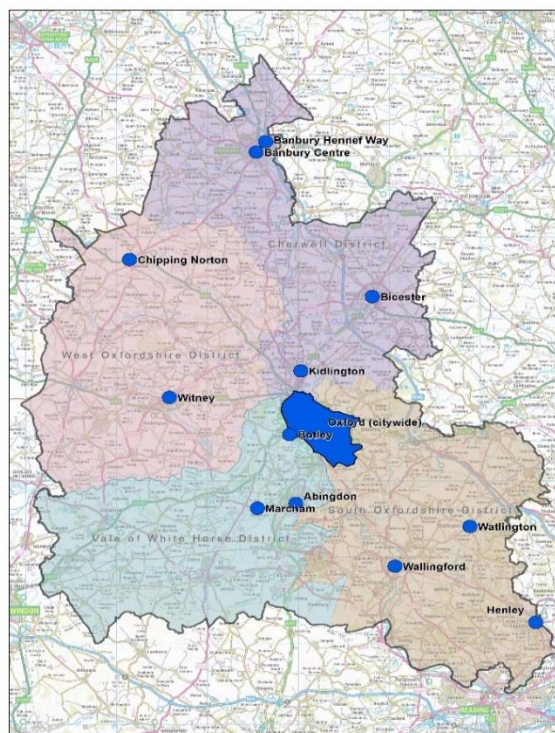
- 1) Water quality to be protected and enhanced. All development to take account of its potential impact on water quality.
- 2) Development to cause no deterioration in the quality of waterbodies, surface water and groundwater, nor would it prevent the future attainment of 'good' status under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 and Groundwater Direction 2016 or subsequent amendments.
- 3) Where there are impact pathways on habitats of national or international importance, development would not prevent a protected waterbody achieving the objectives set out in the Common Standards Monitoring Guidance (CSMG).
- 4) Development to improve water quality wherever possible by:
  - i. incorporating appropriate green infrastructure and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to manage and treat surface water run off close to source and to minimise the risk from contaminants and sediment;
  - ii. reducing the risk of discharges of surface waters to the sewerage network and of pollution, including groundwater infiltration, from wastewater treatment works;
  - iii. prioritising natural flood management over hard flood defences;
  - iv. protecting and enhancing watercourses and habitats along river corridors;

- v. where appropriate restoring 'natural' systems, including de-culverting, restoring or re-profiling rivers and naturalising riverbanks;
  - vi. adopting water efficiency measures to reduce pressure from low water levels and flows;
  - vii. restoring contaminated land; and
  - viii. working with and taking opportunities identified by River Basin Management Plans, Catchment Partnerships and flood risk management authorities.
- 5) Major development to be phased to align with any necessary wastewater treatment work and associated infrastructure upgrades to ensure that development would not lead to a deterioration in the quality of receiving waterbodies.
- 6) Measures to help waterbodies in Oxfordshire achieve Bathing Water Status, which help to protect and enhance water quality for all river users, to be supported.

## Policy Option 12 - Air Quality

283. Clean air is essential to the health and wellbeing of Oxfordshire's communities and the natural environment. Air pollutants can have direct effects on human health, habitats and biodiversity and climate change. The Oxfordshire Plan aims to help to:
- prevent new and existing development from contributing to air pollution;
  - prevent new and existing development from being affected by unacceptable levels of air pollution; and
  - ensure that new development seeks to improve air quality wherever possible.
284. Public Health England advises that 'there is no evidence of a threshold for health effects' from air pollution and that local authorities should 'seek to lower population-level exposure and reduce everyone's exposure to air pollution, as well as targeting 'hotspots'', to maximise health benefits.
285. There are currently 13 designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in Oxfordshire. These are areas where nitrogen dioxide levels exceed national air quality objectives. Each AQMA has an Air Quality Action Plan which sets out how air quality will be improved.

## Map showing Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in Oxfordshire



286. Whilst air quality is a particular concern where development is proposed within an AQMA or where it might affect an AQMA, there are other parts of Oxfordshire that suffer from poor air quality, or which have the potential to be affected by poor air quality that also need to be considered. This includes habitats of national or international importance that are particularly sensitive to changes in air quality. It is important that all of Oxfordshire benefits from clean air.
287. An Air Quality Impact Assessment (AQIA) will be undertaken to inform the production of the Oxfordshire Plan. This will include an assessment of how different growth scenarios might affect air quality and in turn how this may affect human health and natural habitats. The AQIA will help to inform where growth is proposed in Oxfordshire and the infrastructure proposed to mitigate and support it. It will also help shape policies in the Oxfordshire Plan. The AQIA will be published at the next stage of consultation (Regulation 19).

### Policy Options

288. One option is to not have a strategic policy on air quality in the Oxfordshire Plan and to instead leave it to local plans to set policies on air quality. However, the protection and enhancement of air quality is a strategic cross-boundary planning matter and it is considered appropriate to include a county-wide air quality policy in the Oxfordshire Plan.
289. If it were left to local plans to set policies on air quality, there is a risk that local plans might take different approaches to air quality. This could result in less certainty and clarity for developers and communities. It may also make it more difficult to meet proposed ambitions around the delivery of transformational change, environmental improvement and creating strong and healthy communities.

## Preferred Policy Option

290. The preferred approach is for the Oxfordshire Plan to provide a strategic planning framework for the protection and enhancement of air quality. This framework would set minimum standards for development in Oxfordshire, helping to ensure a consistent approach across the county. It would also provide a framework for improving air quality wherever possible, aligning with proposed ambitions around environmental improvement and creating strong and healthy communities. Local plans could provide further detail as appropriate.

### Policy Option 12: Air Quality

The Oxfordshire Plan would support the protection and enhancement of air quality. Development would be expected to take account of:

- i. Its impact on air quality; and
- ii. Any potential impacts of poor air quality on future occupiers/users.

Development proposals in or affecting an Air Quality Management Area would be expected to be consistent with the relevant local Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP).

Major development proposals would be expected to be accompanied by an air quality assessment. Guidance would be produced to set out what information this should include. Guidance could be produced at a county-wide or local level.

Development would be expected to improve air quality wherever possible. For example, by:

- i. supporting walking, cycling and public transport and reducing the need to travel;
- ii. supporting the uptake of zero and low emission vehicles;
- iii. avoiding the creation of street canyons which trap traffic pollution;
- iv. minimising human exposure to traffic pollution through the careful design of streets, outdoor spaces and buildings;
- v. reducing emissions from buildings and other non-transport sources; and
- vi. providing appropriate green infrastructure.

Where it is identified that development would have a negative impact on air quality, and/or that air quality would have a negative impact on the future occupiers/users of development, a hierarchical approach to mitigation would be required:

*Avoid* – Consider measures to avoid negative impacts, particularly if sensitive uses or habitats are affected.

*Reduce* – Where it is not possible to avoid negative impacts, consider measures to reduce negative impacts. For example, through traffic and travel management, careful design and green infrastructure provision.

*Offset* – Where it is not possible to reduce negative impacts to an acceptable level, consider compensatory measures which take a broader view of the human health and habitat impacts within and outside the development area. This could include supporting measures in an Air Quality Action Plan or low emissions strategy where applicable.

Where possible, the Oxfordshire Plan would identify strategic opportunities to address the main sources of air pollution in Oxfordshire. This would be informed by evidence (including the AQIA). It should be noted that these opportunities might be more appropriately highlighted within other policies (for example policies within Theme Four: Planning for sustainable travel and connectivity). All policies in the Oxfordshire Plan would be aligned with the ambition of improving environmental quality, including improving air quality.

### **Alternative Policy Option 12-01**

291. Include a strategic air quality policy in the Oxfordshire Plan but reduce the scope of this policy. For example: do not require air quality assessments for major development proposals.
292. This is not a preferred option as there is a risk that local plans might take different approaches to air quality. This could result in less certainty and clarity for developers and communities. It may also make it more difficult to meet proposed ambitions around the delivery of transformational change, environmental improvement and creating strong and healthy communities.

## Theme Three: Creating Strong and Healthy Communities

293. The relationship between spatial planning and our health is an important and valuable one. The built and natural environment are key determinants of our health and wellbeing and therefore it is important to recognise the role that planning plays in influencing both our physical and mental health. The Oxfordshire Plan provides an opportunity to ensure that planning policy in Oxfordshire encourages the creation of sustainable, well-designed communities that are safe, socially cohesive and promote active and healthier lifestyles.
294. The way in which we plan for and design new developments has an influence not only on our health and wellbeing, but on the choices we make and the sense of safety, community and identity that we feel. Through careful planning and the design of new growth, we can help to deliver a high quality of life in Oxfordshire and maximise the health and wellbeing of residents.
295. Overall, Oxfordshire has better than average health outcomes compared to other parts of the country. However, in those communities suffering socio-economic deprivation, ill-health and preventable health issues are more pronounced. The Oxfordshire Plan aims to reduce health inequalities across the county and broaden access to opportunities for social interaction as well as active and healthy lifestyles.
296. The Oxfordshire Plan could set out a range of policies or principles that will help to plan for and shape communities that are strong, healthy, and cohesive. These could include high standards for developments to adhere to such as ensuring all new developments meet Garden Town and Garden Village standards, implementing healthy place-shaping principals for strategic-scale development, and also requiring Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) to be undertaken for certain new development.
297. The Oxfordshire Plan recognises that growth increases the demand for leisure, recreation and open space facilities, as well as community facilities including education, health and other services. As a result, it is considered that the Plan should set out policy proposals for these facilities, ensuring that they are accessible, high quality and in appropriate locations to contribute to the quality of life of communities.
298. The policy proposals set out in this theme will ultimately help the Oxfordshire Plan to create strong and healthy, rooted and inclusive communities across the county, and ensure health and wellbeing is a key consideration in the planning process in Oxfordshire, as well as helping to address inequalities and broaden access to opportunities for all.

Theme Three – Meets the following objectives of the Oxfordshire Plan

No 1. To demonstrate leadership in addressing the climate emergency by significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

No 4. To improve health and wellbeing by enabling independence, encouraging active and healthy lifestyles, facilitating social interaction and creating inclusive and safe communities.

No 7. To meet Oxfordshire's housing needs, including affordable housing, and to ensure that housing delivery is phased appropriately to support the needs of our communities.

No 8. To ensure that new housing is flexible to meet the varied needs of people through all stages of life.

No 9. To deliver high quality, innovatively designed development that ensures efficient use of land and resources.

No 10. To reduce the need to travel and to support people in making sustainable transport choices by providing inclusive, integrated, safe and convenient pedestrian, cycle and public transport infrastructure linking communities.

### **Policy Option 13 - Healthy Place Shaping and Health Impact Assessments**

299. The Oxfordshire Plan is committed to reducing health inequalities, increasing life expectancy and improving the quality of life for all who live, work and visit Oxfordshire. As a result, it is proposed that the Oxfordshire Plan should require all proposals for major development and urban extensions to contribute towards the creation of healthy communities, by adhering to healthy place-shaping principles for delivery of high-quality, sustainable places.

300. The inclusion of such a policy would help to promote a clear and consistent approach to healthy place-shaping across the county and ensure that the City and district local plans contain relevant and effective measures to create healthy places.

301. Health Impact Assessments (HIA) are a way in which we can ensure that health and wellbeing are carefully considered in planning policy and proposals throughout Oxfordshire. HIAs can be undertaken at any stage in the development process but are best done at the earliest stage possible. HIAs can be undertaken as stand-alone assessments or as part of a wider Sustainability Appraisal or Environmental Impact Assessment. The process looks at the positive and negative impacts of a development as well as assessing the indirect implications for the wider community. The aim is to identify the main impacts and prompt discussion about the best ways of dealing with them to maximise the benefits and avoid any potential adverse impacts.

302. The Oxfordshire Plan is itself supported by a Health Impact Assessment and the potential health impacts of the Plan's policies and strategy will be assessed through the plan-making process.

303. A Health Impact Assessment can take a number of forms, which range from full assessments which involve a comprehensive analysis of all potential

health and wellbeing impacts, to rapid and desktop assessments, which are a quicker and simpler method of assessment.

304. The main objective of an HIA is to inform and influence decision-making, with the main output being developments that minimise risks and maximise the benefits for the health and wellbeing of communities.
305. The introduction of Health Impact Assessments for new development in Oxfordshire, would ensure that greater emphasis is placed on the need to create healthy places by developers and decision makers.

## **Policy Options**

306. It is proposed that the Oxfordshire Plan sets out a number of healthy place-shaping principles which will guide and inform how major developments are planned in Oxfordshire. These principals are varied, and include considerations of, for example, the impacts of air quality on human health, social isolation and loneliness and physical activity.
307. As cross-cutting principles, many of these are woven through other proposed themes and policies of the Oxfordshire Plan, so an alternative option is to not include a standalone policy for healthy place-shaping in the Plan. However, this approach would risk diluting the emphasis and importance placed on healthy place-shaping in Oxfordshire and could result in an inconsistent approach to healthy place-shaping across the county.
308. Setting countywide healthy place-shaping principles would not prevent local principles also being established as the local ones would reflect the characteristics of the local population. The county-wide principles would seek to identify the issues that any local principles should address.
309. The preferred policy option is to include a Health Impact Assessment policy within the Oxfordshire Plan, requiring major developments to be supported by an HIA.
310. The inclusion of an HIA policy for the whole of Oxfordshire would allow for clear guidance to be provided for when and where the preparation of a HIA would be appropriate. An alternative policy option would be to leave HIA policies to individual local plans. However, this alternative option would risk an inconsistent approach to HIAs in local plans, or even a lack of a HIA policy, and therefore it is not preferred.

## **Preferred Policy Option**

### **Policy 13: Healthy Place-Shaping and Health Impact Assessments**

We propose that the Oxfordshire Plan should include healthy place-shaping as a standalone policy, to establish a framework that can apply across Oxfordshire for

the design and masterplanning of major developments (as defined in the NPPF<sup>41</sup>). Example of the principles that a policy might usefully include are set out below:

- Explicitly address the existing and projected health and wellbeing needs of an area and consider how existing community assets could be enhanced to help promote healthy life expectancy.
- Help to reduce obesity and levels of physical inactivity through the provision of good-quality playing pitches, parks and open space, sports and active leisure facilities, and outdoor gyms that are accessible to all.
- Provide opportunities for people to become more active through the design of street layout and public realm to encourage walking and cycling as priority modes of transport; create and enhance cycling and walking networks as well as ensure connectivity between new development, local services and facilities and public transport.
- Reduce social isolation and loneliness through providing good-quality social community infrastructure which encourages opportunities for social interaction and helps to support the growth of friendly communities. Also, to create community development strategies which contain actions to encourage community cohesion, both within the development itself and between the new development and existing communities.
- Make it easier for people to make healthier food choices by providing allotments and other opportunities for food growing such as community gardens, school allotments, community orchards, roof gardens, edible landscaping around new schools and housing developments involving fruit and nut trees and planting.
- Aim to improve air quality and reduce noise through locating and designing pollution generating land uses and roads to avoid adverse impacts on sensitive land uses.
- Provide diversity in the residential offer that improves accessibility, affordability and promotes inter-generational connectivity and lifetime neighbourhoods.
- Design good quality buildings which are energy efficient and mitigate against the impacts of climate change.
- Create safe environments, addressing the fear and perception of crime, including improving safety for all road users.

It is also proposed that the Oxfordshire Plan includes a policy requiring the rapid Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for major developments in Oxfordshire, but the length and detail of the assessment should be proportionate to the scale and complexity of the proposed development.

A methodology and assessment checklist for carrying out rapid HIA of major development proposals (10 or more houses) has been prepared for Oxfordshire and has been published as the Oxfordshire Health Impact Assessment Toolkit.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>41</sup> Major development is defined in the NPPF as: 'For housing, development where 10 or more homes will be provided, or the site has an area of 0.5 hectares or more. For non-residential development it means additional floorspace of 1,000m<sup>2</sup> or more, or a site of 1 hectare or more'.

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.oxfordshiregrowthboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/210126-Oxon-HIA-Toolkit-FINAL.pdf>

## Policy 14: - Health Infrastructure

311. As the population of Oxfordshire grows and changes, so does the need for the right buildings in the right locations to meet the differing health needs of the different locations of the county. Reorganisation and reconfiguration are complex and tend to impact on more than one local authority area.
312. Over the next 20-30 years it is highly likely that further reorganisation of the health estate across Oxfordshire will be proposed. It would be prudent to consider adopting a policy to provide a land use planning framework for Oxfordshire within which future health estate reviews might be considered.

### Policy Options

313. The preferred approach is an enabling policy that aims to set out a framework in which the land use and planning elements of future health reorganisations might be considered, recognising that many of the issues arising will be matters that impact across more than one local planning authority.
314. One alternative policy option is to leave these considerations to future local plans, but there is a risk that the cross-boundary nature of health estate changes will be lost. A strategic approach that brings together more than one local planning authority is likely to be more effective in securing influence over the actions proposed by the NHS. Our preference is to put a framework policy in place to enable forward planning by the local planning authority, with the health bodies and their developers in conjunction with the local community and Parish/Town Councils affected.

### Preferred Policy Proposal

#### Policy 14: Health Infrastructure

In considering reviews to reconfigure the health estate of Oxfordshire the following factors should be considered:

Where changes to the health estate are considered and will impact upon more than one District, an integrated, coordinated and comprehensive planning approach will be taken and a masterplan prepared, in collaboration and agreed with the local planning authority/ies, Oxfordshire County Council and other statutory undertakers covering the development of the whole site or sites. This would be especially important where the catchment crosses administrative boundaries.

This comprehensive masterplan setting out the strategic justification and rationale with a realistic timetable would be essential to establish the case for the review and to show the proposals for each location.

New health infrastructure should be designed with changing medical technology and innovative approaches in mind where relevant, (for example, by ensuring building materials used in development will not block internet connectivity signals that can be needed for medical uses).

In Oxfordshire, public access and good connectivity is central, so new locations must prioritise the ease of public transport and active travel access for both public and workforce needs.

In considering how best to modernise the health estate, both the quality of buildings and their functional effectiveness will be key. New buildings must be well-designed with renewable energy provision at its heart to help reduce use of carbon in the new buildings, with strong energy management policies to reduce their operational cost and enhance their efficiency and effectiveness.

## **Policy Option 15 - High-Quality Design for New Development and Garden Town Standards for New Settlements**

315. Oxfordshire is a special place. It is home to a range of different settlements, from the city of Oxford to market and railway towns, to rural villages and hamlets. Each has its own unique characteristics and heritage.
316. Oxfordshire also benefits from extensive countryside, a series of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a varied landscape. The relationship between Oxfordshire's settlements and surrounding rural areas is extremely important.
317. New development in Oxfordshire should recognise what makes Oxfordshire special and respond to the distinctive character of the setting in which growth and new development takes place.
318. There is a growing network of Garden Towns and villages across Oxfordshire, from Bicester and Didcot Garden Town to Salt Cross, Berinsfield and Dalton Barracks Garden Villages. The designation is a statement of intent that new development will be well-planned, with a high design quality.
319. These settlements and approaches embody the aspiration of the Oxfordshire Plan that all new settlements or development sites should be highly sustainable and well-designed places, with health and wellbeing as an early consideration, alongside tackling climate change and environmental improvements. There is an increasing focus on the importance of high-quality design by national Government too, with National Design Codes and other measures proposed.
320. All new proposed settlements should be planned to Garden Town and Garden Village standards to set a framework for thinking about how the proposed settlement might best be developed, as the means by which new communities benefit from high design standards and quality places. This should include the prioritisation of brownfield land first, including the reuse and more intensive use of former MoD sites, subject to the consideration of other constraints. Consideration will also be needed as to how the challenge of the circular economy is to be addressed.
321. We see the need for large-scale development and new settlements to align with the TCPA guidance on Garden City Principles<sup>43</sup>.

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=f3272413-6d74-44c3-870f-fd333161f3a1>

322. New settlements should be located in locations that are accessible by sustainable modes of transport; so, where a Garden Town or Village is proposed it must be well- related to existing or planned sustainable transport infrastructure especially rail services, together with the opportunity to strengthen cycling and walking connections to regional and national networks.

## Policy Options

323. The best way to secure this ambition is for the Oxfordshire Plan to establish a framework that individual local plans can respond to, taking account of local circumstances.
324. An alternative option would be to leave design matters for local plans and, neighbourhood plans based on national guidance., However this would miss an opportunity to set an Oxfordshire-wide high-quality design ambition and is therefore not preferred.

## Preferred Policy Proposal

### **Policy Option 15: High-Quality Design for New Development and Garden Town Standards for New Settlements**

This approach would set an ambition for high-quality design in Oxfordshire, with local plans, neighbourhood plans and design guides providing more detailed, locally specific requirements as appropriate.

This could include:

- Requiring development to respond to Oxfordshire's distinctiveness.
- Requiring development to recognise, respect and wherever possible enhance Oxfordshire's extensive and varied heritage.
- Recognising that what we build in the next 30 years will be a legacy for future generations. Development should therefore be responsive and resilient to future change. It should also be of a high design quality that communities, both now and in the future, can be proud of.
- Encouraging creative and innovative design solutions, including the use of new materials and building methods where appropriate.
- To respond to the impacts of climate change, new development should seek to minimise the carbon and energy impacts of their design and construction through mitigation and adaption measures.
- Encouraging the implementation of design codes where appropriate in order to achieve high-quality design and local distinctiveness.
- Ensuring green (or blue where relevant) infrastructure will be incorporated as an integral part of new development and public access to high quality green space.
- The development of a countywide tool kit (possibly as an SPD) for checking that a response to distinctiveness has been achieved in the design of the

proposed development i.e. a checklist of factors while retaining the space for the solution to be arrived at local level

In addition, any new settlements should be planned to Garden Town and Garden Village standards as the means by which new large-scale development and new village scale developments secure high design standards and deliver quality places.

There are a number of proposed policies across all five themes of the Oxfordshire Plan that are relevant to the masterplanning of new settlements. This policy highlights a number of specific considerations that should be taken into account when reading the Plan as a whole:

This policy option for the Oxfordshire Plan would expect:

- All developments over 700 units to be led by a comprehensive masterplan together with a design code.
- Well-designed communities, with housing planned alongside new employment provision.
- Neighbourhood centres and community facilities (including community centres, schools and health facilities) to be provided.
- Such developments to include high levels of high quality, accessible and appropriate green space and green infrastructure, as well as sustainable water systems and SuDs.
- Such developments to have addressed healthy place-shaping principles.
- Excellent design with sustainable building materials used to achieve carbon reduction.
- All housing, business and retail units to contain energy management systems, renewal energy provision, grey water schemes, full fibre broadband connection to support home working, home learning and EV charging points.
- Schemes to be designed to reduce the need to travel, linked to the LTCP area strategies.
- Active travel measures to be supported and 20-minute neighbourhoods to be created that encourage walking and cycling connections to regional and national routes.

## **Policy 16 - Leisure, Recreation, Community and Open Space Facilities**

325. Leisure, recreation, community and open space facilities provide significant benefits to both the mental wellbeing and physical health of communities in Oxfordshire, as well as making an important contribution to the vitality of our city, town and local centres. Open spaces, as well as grassroot sport and recreation facilities, can also make a positive contribution to biodiversity and the local environment. In reflection of this, it is important that the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 continues to support these facilities.

326. Many leisure, recreation, community and open space facilities in the county mainly serve local communities. However, there are some facilities that have catchments beyond city, district and county boundaries.

## Policy Options

327. The preferred policy option is to leave local plans to set policies for local (non-strategic) leisure, recreation, community and open space facilities, with the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 setting a policy for strategic facilities that serve communities both in the county and further afield.

## Preferred Policy Proposal

### **Policy 16 – Leisure, Recreation, Community and Open Space Facilities**

Development proposals for high quality strategic leisure, recreation and open space facilities in Oxfordshire will be encouraged that serve more than one District, or county-wide, sub-regional, regional or national purpose, including (but not limited to):

- Strategic indoor sports and recreational facilities, such as leisure centres, aquatic centres, and indoor pitches, courts and stadiums.
- Strategic outdoor sports facilities and open space, such as pitches, courts, golf courses, as well as country parks and associated visitor facilities.

A strategic facility is a high-quality facility that will serve a county-wide, sub-regional, regional, or national purpose, for example (but not limited to) county sports grounds, stadiums, new golf courses, and country parks. It could also include activities associated with the stately homes of Oxfordshire. Due to the extent and variety of facilities that can fall under this definition, whether the facility is ultimately considered strategic will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

The Oxfordshire Plan would expect all new strategic leisure, recreation and open space facilities development to meet the following criteria:

- They must be located within the built-up areas of the city, towns and villages. In the villages, development must be proportionally scaled and in keeping with the character of the settlement. Development outside of these areas will only be supported in exceptional circumstances, for example where it is evidenced that it cannot reasonably be located in the city, or a town or village in the county, such as water-based facilities or parkland uses.
- They must be located in accessible locations, with excellent public transport and link to networks for walking and cycling and the public rights of way network.
- Use of sustainable travel is encouraged and a sustainable travel plan will be required that sets out the details of the bus and rail connectivity to be secured.
- They must be designed with renewable energy provision incorporated to help reduce use of carbon.
- They must have minimal traffic, environmental, visual and landscape impact.

- Provision for the long-term maintenance and management of the facilities will be sought and must be agreed as part of a planning application.
- School sports halls and outdoor playing fields should be made available to the local community. New facilities of this type would be required to enter into community use agreements.
- Sports lighting would operate within agreed hours where there is a need unless the lighting gives rise to demonstrable harm to biodiversity.

Community facilities would be a matter for individual local plans except where community facilities are intended to meet the needs of a wider district or neighbouring district(s) in which case they should be located within or adjoining rural service centres to maximise accessibility.

### **Alternative Policy Option 16-01**

328. As an alternative, the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 could include a policy that seeks to protect the existing indoor and outdoor sports facilities and open spaces within the County. Those within built-up areas are most likely to be at threat from other forms of development. A policy which acknowledges the importance of retaining existing open spaces within built-up areas and seeks to protect them would do more to secure the future of these types of facilities within the built-up areas. Access to any new private facilities would also be encouraged.

## Theme Four: Planning for Sustainable Travel and Connectivity

329. The transport network across Oxfordshire is critical for residents to be able to access services, facilities and employment, as well as being needed for delivery of freight and goods. However, there are continued pressures on the use of this network associated with travel demand that needs to be managed and leads to wider impacts. This includes environmental impacts associated with use of vehicles including air quality and carbon emissions.
330. With planned new development, the demand for travel is expected to increase and it is therefore important that this is managed, and plans are put in place to both support sustainable transport choices and reduce the need to travel where possible. In addition, the wider objectives and targets on climate action mean that there will be a need to ensure the Oxfordshire Plan supports a move towards a transport network across Oxfordshire and beyond that significantly reduces carbon emissions over the next few years. In practice, this will mean significant enhancement to bus and rail services, and a focus on delivering comprehensive active travel networks that enable people to choose walking and cycling for more local journeys, securing health gains as well as supporting the tackling of climate change.
331. The Oxfordshire Plan also needs to take account of and support wider infrastructure and transport strategy development. It will be particularly important that the Oxfordshire Plan complements and supports the new Oxfordshire Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP), but also in a wider context aligns with other cross-boundary strategies including the England's Economic Heartland Transport Strategy, and guidance and strategy being developed at a national level as part of the de-carbonisation agenda. Major planned strategic schemes such as East West Rail will also significantly impact on the transport choices available in Oxfordshire and more widely across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc. The Oxfordshire Plan can support and complement such plans to transform sustainable travel options.
332. It is also important that long-term spatial planning recognises that the way people live their lives is increasingly influenced by changes brought about by technology and innovation. For example, the availability of high quality fixed and mobile digital connectivity can significantly impact on the need to travel, with trends such as flexible and home working dependant on its continued provision. The take up of lower carbon vehicles, particularly Electric Vehicles, will also need supporting, and developments should be designed to provide for these.
333. The management and movement of freight and goods is also changing, influenced by trends such as the continued increase in internet-based shopping, and the uptake of freight by rail. The Oxfordshire Plan can support the development of a more sustainable freight management system.

Theme Four – Meets the following Objectives of the Oxfordshire Plan

No 1. To demonstrate leadership in addressing the climate emergency by significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

No 4. To improve health and wellbeing by enabling independence, encouraging active and healthy lifestyles, facilitating social interaction and creating inclusive and safe communities.

No 9. To deliver high quality, innovatively designed development that ensures efficient use of land and resources.

No 10. To reduce the need to travel and to support people in making sustainable transport choices by providing inclusive, integrated, safe and convenient pedestrian, cycle and public transport infrastructure linking communities.

No 11. To ensure that communities are digitally connected and that innovative technologies are supported.

## Policy Option 17: Towards a Net Zero Carbon Transport Network

334. Emissions from transport currently account for around a third of greenhouse emissions in Oxfordshire, with the majority of this from road traffic<sup>44</sup> Although vehicle fuel efficiency and the switch to lower emission vehicles has started to have some impact, emissions from transport have not been falling as quickly as in other areas such as energy, meaning that the proportion of emissions from transport (road and rail) have increased over the last few years. (Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire Report). Reducing carbon from transport movements will therefore be key if Oxfordshire is to meet its climate action commitments.

335. Both local and national policy is clear that there is a need to cut our carbon emissions from transport. At a national level this is set out in the emerging Department for Transport De-carbonisation Plan, which already includes strategies for increasing walking and cycling, and bus use<sup>45</sup> At a sub-national level, ambitions for a net zero carbon emissions transport network are set out in the recently adopted Transport Strategy for England's Economic Heartland<sup>46</sup> At a local level, a new Local Transport and Connectivity Plan is being developed, with a draft Vision recently consulted upon which focuses on improving digital connectivity, active travel and public transport to support the move towards a net zero carbon emissions transport system, and meet wider social/ health outcomes.<sup>47</sup>

336. These policies indicate that if we are to achieve required reductions in carbon emissions from transport, there will need to be a change in way that transport is planned and managed. In particular, there will need to be:

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<sup>44</sup> <https://scattercities.com/>

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/creating-the-transport-decarbonisation-plan>

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.englandseconomicheartland.com/transport/>

<sup>47</sup> <https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/localtransportconnectivity/consultationHome>

- A reduction in overall travel movements, especially by private vehicles, enabled in part through investment in digital technology;
- A shift to public transport and active travel modes, especially for shorter journeys, enabled by increased investment in public transport, walking and cycle networks;
- Better management of freight and goods, with a focus on decarbonisation and enabling zero emission 'last mile' deliveries;
- A significant uptake of zero carbon vehicles, supported by investment in charging facilities, and,
- Ensuring the opportunities offered through technology and innovation to support sustainable transport solutions are taken up.

337. Spatial planning has a clear role in supporting the move towards a net zero carbon emissions transport system. In particular, the location and design of new development can have a significant impact on the propensity for people to travel, and the number, type and length of travel movements. For example, the recently completed RTPI report, 'Net Zero Transport: the role of spatial planning and place-based solutions' sets out that transport and land-use planning needs to be integrated if carbon reductions are to be met.<sup>48</sup>

338. Development plan policies can assist and be complementary to the policy development in transport and infrastructure plans. Paragraph 104 (b) of the NPPF (2019) states the need for planning policies to '*be prepared with the active involvement of local highways authorities, other transport infrastructure providers and operators and neighbouring councils, so that strategies and investments for supporting sustainable transport and development patterns are aligned,*' whilst (d) states that policies should, '*provide for high quality walking and cycling networks and supporting facilities such as cycle parking (drawing on Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans).*'

## Policy Options

339. Building on this guidance, the Oxfordshire Plan policies can in particular support the emerging LTCP policies, and any associated updated transport targets needed to move towards a net zero carbon emissions transport network. This includes active travel policies, expected to focus on developing an active travel network for the county and further developing Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans at key settlements. Policies can also support better sustainable first mile/ last mile transport connectivity to public transport hubs such as rail stations. This will help complement major planned investment, including service and station improvements enabled through East West Rail, and other major rail capacity investment proposed as part of the 'Oxfordshire Connect' priorities arising out of the Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study.<sup>49</sup>

340. The alternative of leaving these policies to local plans is not supported given the strategic and cross boundary nature of transport network.

## Preferred Policy Option

### Policy Option 17: Towards a Net Zero Transport Network

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.rtpi.org.uk/netzerotransport>

<sup>49</sup> <http://democratic.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=543&MId=2783>

All development proposals should be planned to both take account of, and take opportunities to support delivery of an Oxfordshire net zero carbon emissions transport network, including:

- Supporting delivery of enhanced walking and cycling networks and routes, including those identified as part of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs), and more strategic active travel links between settlements and other key locations such as areas of employment and public transport hubs;
- Supporting delivery of enhancements to the bus network, including proposals for bus priority measures and service enhancements;
- Supporting delivery of enhancements to the rail network, including linking in with new and improved stations, and supporting service enhancements;
- Supporting delivery of improvements to transport interchange, including enhanced transport hubs such as at rail stations that facilitate take up of sustainable travel opportunities, and where relevant link with opportunities for park and ride;
- Supporting delivery of measures that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the freight and logistics network that are consistent with delivering a net zero carbon emissions transport network: and,
- Supporting delivery of improvements to the local and strategic road network that are consistent with delivering a net zero carbon emissions transport network.

It will be important that the location and planning for new development takes into account the more detailed policies within the County Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP), and where relevant other policy, both at a sub-national and national level. In particular, it will be important to take into account and support strategic cross-boundary proposals that contribute towards delivering a net zero carbon system, such as strategic public transport improvements like East West Rail.

## Policy Option 18: Sustainable Transport in New Development

### Sustainable Development Principles

341. How development is planned and delivered impacts on the transport choices that new residents will make. Put simply, if development is planned around providing for private car use, with limited opportunities for residents to walk, cycle or use public transport, then less sustainable travel choices are locked in from the outset, and very difficult to change in the future. Given the contribution of transport to carbon emissions, this would make it very difficult for new development to both achieve required carbon reductions, as well as achieving wider objectives in particular on health and wellbeing.

342. The NPPF (2019) makes clear that development plans should look to prioritise sustainable transport options where possible. Paragraph 102 (c) states that plan-making should ensure that '*opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use are identified and pursued*,' whilst paragraph 103 states that, '*significant development should be focused on locations which are or can*

*be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes.'*

343. Unfortunately, historically much development across the country and indeed parts of Oxfordshire has been planned and delivered with a focus on providing for and mitigating the impact of car-based travel. The RTPI Net Zero carbon report makes clear that there is therefore a need to re-examine how land-use and transport planning are integrated, if we are to achieve our zero carbon vision. In particular, the report notes there is a need to move away from a predict and provide' approach centred on planning for forecast transport movements (often based on past examples) to one very much focused on planning and delivering a vision (with targets) of what needs to be achieved. Once the vision and targets have been set, a hierarchical approach to planning for transport movements can then be undertaken, ensuring that supporting transport and land-use measures are prioritised.
344. Planning for transport also needs to be integrated into and support wider place-shaping principles. Paragraph 104(a) of the NPPF (2019) states that planning policies should, *'support an appropriate mix of uses across an area, and within larger scale sites, to minimise the number and length of journeys needed for employment, shopping, leisure, education and other activities.'*
345. More recently, the concept of 15 or 20 minutes neighbourhoods has come the fore, and is about creating places where resident's everyday needs, such as education, employment, community health and wellbeing facilities and recreation opportunities can be met within a short walk or cycle ride.<sup>50</sup> Both the planning guidance and 20-minute neighbourhood concept supports the hierarchical approach to planning for transport and movement, through reducing the need for longer-distance travel, particularly by private vehicle. To enable this, there will also be a need to ensure that the street and movement network for new development is well designed, taking on-board key principles such as those outlined for 'healthy streets' to encourage take-up of more sustainable travel options.<sup>51</sup>

## **Planning for Zero Emission Vehicles**

346. The UK government announced in November 2020 that the sale of diesel and petrol cars and vans will be phased out by 2030, with the plan for all new cars and vans to be 'fully zero emission at the tailpipe from 2035.' Between 2030 and 2035 all new cars and vans will need to 'have the capability to drive a significant distance with zero emissions.'<sup>52</sup> The main way to enable this switch will be the sale of Electric Vehicles, including plug-in hybrid vehicles, with the proportion of new cars sold that are defined as 'ultra-low emission' now increasing year-on-year. To support this, there is an acknowledgement of the need to roll out significant further charging infrastructure at homes, on local streets and along strategic roads.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/guide-the-20-minute-neighbourhood>

<sup>51</sup> [www.healthystreets.com](http://www.healthystreets.com)

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-historic-step-towards-net-zero-with-end-of-sale-of-new-petrol-and-diesel-cars-by-2030>

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/green-motoring-milestone-with-half-a-million-ultra-low-emission-vehicles-now-on-uk-roads>

347. Oxfordshire is already starting to plan in detail for the required charging infrastructure to support the move towards zero-emission vehicles. The Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Strategy was signed-off by the County Council Cabinet, and most of the district councils in March/ April 2021 and sets out key policies and actions for roll out of EV infrastructure over the next 5 years.<sup>54</sup> The strategy recognises that forecasts predict sales of EVs to significantly increase in the run up to central Government timescales, with Oxfordshire forecast to be ahead of the rest of the country based on sales to date.
348. The NPPF (2019) recognises that planning has a key role to play in ensuring the roll out of appropriate EV charging infrastructure in new development. Para 115 notes that any local parking standards should take into account, *'the need to ensure an adequate provision of spaces for charging plug-in and other low emission vehicles,' whilst para 110 states that applications for development should 'be designed to enable charging of plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles in safe, accessible and convenient locations.'* In July 2019, the Government also consulted on proposals to set minimum requirements for EV charging in new and existing residential and non-residential development, proposing chargers in every new car parking space for residential developments with at least 10 spaces, and 1 in every 5 spaces for non-residential development with at least 10 spaces.<sup>55</sup>
349. The recently adopted local plans for Oxford and South Oxfordshire both have policies that support introduction of EV charging points, with the Oxford City policy specifying the need for EV charging points at each residential unit with a parking space, and for at least 25% of non-allocated spaces to have charging points. Non-allocated spaces can not only provide for both residents and visitors, but they can also help enable shared mobility options such as car clubs. EV charging can also be integrated into the energy networks for new development, with smart charging of vehicles aligning with energy demand and power supply from renewables.

## Policy Option

350. The preferred option for the Oxfordshire Plan takes account of the Oxfordshire EV strategy which recommends that future planning policies should seek to meet or exceed those targets set out for Oxford City. Building on national planning guidance, the recent local plan policies and the Government proposals for building regulations, there is an opportunity through the Oxfordshire Plan to set out a common minimum standard for all new developments that supports the move towards 100% uptake of EVs. There is also an opportunity to plan for this provision alongside the energy and digital networks within any development.
351. The Preferred policy option seeks to set a standard framework for considering these matters across development in Oxfordshire.

## Preferred Policy Option

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<sup>54</sup> <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/preparing-oxfordshire-for-the-electric-vehicle-revolution/>

<sup>55</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/electric-vehicle-chargepoints-in-residential-and-non-residential-buildings>

## Policy Option 18: Sustainable Transport in New Development

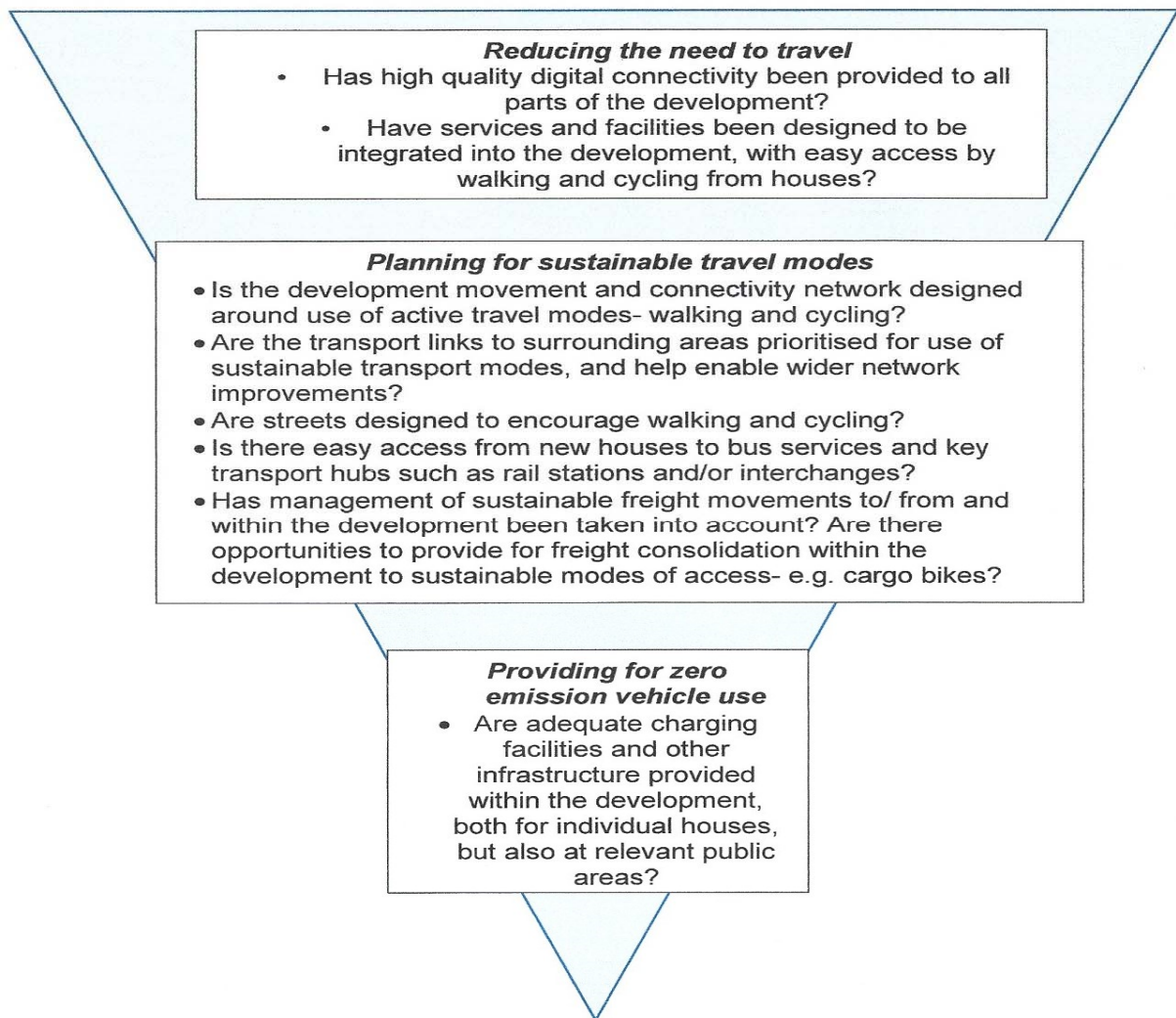
In this approach, all development proposals should consider and plan for transport and access against a vision, focussed on enabling people to travel by active and sustainable means. In particular, plans should be considered in a hierarchical way as follows:

1. *Reducing the need to travel* - ensuring that high quality digital connectivity is provided to enable working and access to services from home, and that necessary services and facilities are planned and provided in close proximity to new housing areas which can be accessed through safe and direct walking and cycling routes.
2. *Planning for sustainable travel modes* - ensuring that new development is primarily designed to enable movement by active travel and public/shared transport, and that sites are well connected to surrounding sustainable transport networks. The street and movement network should be designed to focus on enabling residents to be able to walk and cycle, and easily access public transport options.
3. *Providing for zero emission vehicle use* - ensuring that any essential vehicle travel for people and goods is prioritised for zero carbon emission vehicles, with adequate charging and other supporting infrastructure provided as per the following standards:
  - a) For residential development, each new residential unit with an allocated parking space should be provided with an electric vehicle charging point. At least 25% of non-allocated spaces (with a minimum of 2) should be provided with an electric vehicle charging point.
  - b) For non-residential development, at least 25% of spaces should be provided with electric vehicle charging points.

Provision of EV charging infrastructure should be integrated in the masterplanning for new development from the outset, alongside provision for full fibre broadband, 5G mobile networks, and sustainable energy provision.

The spatial context of any proposed development would also be important in determining the detail of proposals within the sustainable travel hierarchy, and certain measures will be more suited to certain locations than others. However, at all times measures at the top of the hierarchy should be robustly considered first, before moving on to measures further down the hierarchy. Provision and management of parking should also be considered in this context, recognising priority for zero emission vehicles. It will also be important that planning and development takes into account relevant more detailed guidance such as the walking and cycling design guidance as part the LTCP and accessibility guidance, as well as ensuring connectivity with existing walking/cycling networks identified in Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans.

The diagram that follows sets out key questions to consider through the hierarchical approach.



## Policy Option 19: Supporting Sustainable Freight Management

352. Movement of freight and goods is an inherent part of our market-based economy. Complex supply chains have built up over time, based on usage of a range of logistics facilities and the transport network. The majority of freight and goods are moved by road, both by Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs). Due to Oxfordshire's central location in the country and proximity to major ports and airports such as Southampton and Heathrow there are major freight movements through the county, particularly on the main road routes such as the A34 and M40, but also by rail.<sup>56</sup>

353. However, there has been increasing concern regarding the impacts of freight movements on particular areas and less strategic roads. The current Local Transport Plan freight strategy therefore recognises the benefits of focusing freight movements on the strategic road and rail network, as well as managing and mitigating the impact of freight movements in other areas.<sup>57</sup>

354. The NPPF (2019) Paragraph 104 (e) notes the need for planning policies to 'provide for any large-scale transport facilities that need to be located in the area, and the infrastructure and wider development required to support their operation, expansion and contribution to the wider economy. In doing so they

<sup>56</sup> [Supporting freight - England's Economic Heartland \(englandseconomicheartland.com\)](https://www.englandseconomicheartland.com/)

<sup>57</sup> [LTP4 - Countywide and corridor strategies | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

*should take into account whether such development is likely to be a nationally significant infrastructure project and any relevant national policy statements.'*

355. At a more local level, the increasing demand for local deliveries to both homes and businesses enabled through digital connectivity has in turn driven increases in use of smaller goods vehicles. For example, the number of LGVs increased by 29% over the 10-year period between 2004 and 2014, with Department for Transport forecasting indicating continued growth over the next 30 years, including being much higher than HGV growth over the same period.<sup>58</sup> Looking to the future, there is also potential for further delivery of goods by automated and/or electric vehicles, or drones should relevant legal and practical considerations be overcome<sup>59</sup>. There is therefore a need to look at how to best manage this demand for shorter distance journeys alongside management of longer-distance HGV movements, and look at opportunities to reduce associated environmental emissions. One example of this is supporting consolidation and transfer of freight for more local journeys by cargo bike, including through enabling new and enhanced facilities. 'Pedal and Post' is already operating successfully in Oxford and helping to enable further such operations across Oxfordshire will assist the move to more sustainable and low carbon last-mile delivery.<sup>60</sup> There is also opportunity to support delivery of the charging infrastructure needed to enable a move towards use of electrically powered LGVs in the shorter-term, and HGVs in the longer-term.

## Policy Options

356. The preferred policy option would close the current planning policy gap and provide a strategic framework for considering freight issues as proposals come forward. These are not matters that are well suited to consideration through individual local plans given the strategic nature of freight movement and goods management across Oxfordshire and the need for consistent criteria for consideration of proposals.

## Preferred Policy Option

### Policy Option 19: Supporting Sustainable Freight Management

Development proposals would be supported that enable a move towards more sustainable freight and goods delivery, and which have the potential to improve system efficiency and effectiveness and allow uptake of lower carbon transport choices. Facilities that support uptake of zero-emission freight vehicles such as electric vehicle charging areas should also be supported.

However, such facilities will not be suitable at all locations. The following matters should therefore all be reviewed carefully before considering support:

- The alignment of any proposals with local, sub-national, and national policy and guidance;

<sup>58</sup> LTCP Baseline Report at: [Local Transport and Connectivity Plan - vision consultation - Oxfordshire County Council Consultation Portal](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultation/consultation-local-transport-and-connectivity-plan-vision-consultation-oxfordshire-county-council-consultation-portal)

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-of-mobility-automation-in-freight-transport>

<sup>60</sup> <http://www.pedalandpost.co.uk/>

- The proximity of proposed facilities to relevant strategic transport corridors;
- The ability for facilities to be easily accessed by sustainable transport modes; and,
- Any environmental, amenity, or heritage impacts on surrounding areas.

## Policy Option 20: Digital Infrastructure

357. The Oxfordshire Digital Infrastructure Strategy sets out that society is increasingly dependent on high quality digital infrastructure provision for our everyday needs.<sup>61</sup> This was thrown into focus during the recent COVID-19 pandemic where digital provision was key in enabling many people to continue to work and access services and facilities remotely. However, the trend towards a more digital world was already happening before then, with a move to cloud storage and applications, the increasing trend and requirements around homeworking, and the significant growth in video-on demand content. Demand for high quality digital connections is only going to grow in the future with the move towards Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence.

358. The Oxfordshire Digital Infrastructure and the national Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review outlines that in order to provide for this more digital world there is a need to focus on roll out of both full fibre broadband (allowing for reliable internet speeds of up to 1Gbps/ 1,000 Mbps), and the infrastructure needed to support deployment of 5G mobile technology.<sup>62</sup> The review targets near 85% nationwide coverage of full fibre by 2025, and deployment of 5G to the majority of the country by 2027. In short, it is expected that full fibre and 5G mobile coverage should be norm within 5 to 10 years.

359. In practical terms, full fibre provision relies on the effective laying of fibre optic cabling, whilst 5G depends on traditional mast mounted equipment and also small cell deployment. Small cell technology is in turn dependent on mobile transmitters every 100m or so, and most transmitters require a fibre connection. Both technologies therefore need to be planned together when being rolled out in a particular area, such as a new development.

360. Para 112 of the NPPF (2019) makes clear that planning policies should *'support the expansion of electronic communication networks, including next generation mobile technology (such as 5G) and full fibre broadband connections.'*

361. The benefits of providing this infrastructure at the outset of new development are:

- Allowing delivery of 'smart homes' that help residents in their day-to-day lives, for example by better controlling heating to reduce energy consumption;
- Allowing residents to work from home or local offices reducing the need for commuting;
- Ensuring that all new residents have full access to high quality digital provision from when moving in, making sure that they are not digitally excluded;

<sup>61</sup> <https://digitalinfrastructureoxfordshire.co.uk/whats-next/timeline-strategy/digital-infrastructure-strategy>

<sup>62</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-telecoms-infrastructure-review>

- Giving new residents live provision of real-time integrated public transport information where journeys are necessary;
- Allowing for provision of sensors in homes of vulnerable people to enable access to services and permitted monitoring of live health data; and;
- Facilitation of a Living Labs environment to trial new technology.

## Policy Options

362. An Oxfordshire-wide approach will ensure that all development proposals take into account national strategy and guidance as well as securing the scale of investment needed to secure a full rollout of investment.

## Preferred Policy Option

### Policy Option 20: Digital Infrastructure

In this approach all new residential and business developments would plan for the provision of fixed and mobile technology from the outset.

Full fibre broadband connectivity should be provided, with full ducting for use of fibre cabling to be designed and laid out during the construction of development.

Alongside any other supporting infrastructure, this should also provide and support roll out of 5G mobile technology throughout the development. Infrastructure providers should ensure works are effectively co-ordinated with other parties, including the Highway Authority.

## Policy Option 21: Strategic Infrastructure Priorities

363. New development needs to be supported by high quality infrastructure. This needs to be delivered in a timely fashion, alongside delivery of housing, employment and other types of development. However, the funding and delivery of infrastructure is complex, with many different infrastructure providers and funding streams. Funding for key infrastructure to be directly delivered on development sites such as schools and green spaces can often be secured directly through Section 106 payments.

364. Funding for more strategic infrastructure such as major transport improvements is often more complex, requiring input from a number of public and private sector partners. It can often require a package approach, with developer contributions matched with funding from elsewhere such as central Government which is often short-term and competitive in nature. Other investment, such as provision of new digital networks, is largely private sector led.

365. The respective Oxfordshire local plans are all supported by Infrastructure Delivery Plans (IDP), which set out in particular the infrastructure seen as needed to support delivery of allocated development sites, and planned funding sources and timing for delivery. All four Districts, the City of Oxford and the County

Council are also now required to produce an Infrastructure Funding Statement annually which sets out how developer contributions are being spent.

366. However, there has been a recognition for some time that strategic infrastructure requirements and funding often needs to be considered at an Oxfordshire-wide level. In 2017 an Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS) was initiated and subsequently endorsed by the Oxfordshire Growth Board which reviewed and prioritised strategic infrastructure across the county, with a timescale of up to 2040. This was the first time that infrastructure priorities had been considered comprehensively in Oxfordshire in this way and has helped secure significant funding for major projects such as improvements to the A40, and a new bridge over the Thames north of Didcot.<sup>63</sup>

367. In 2020, the Growth Board agreed that the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy should be updated, and a Stage 1 OxIS, covering the period up to 2040 has now been produced. A key emphasis of the OxIS update was the need to consider and prioritise defined strategic infrastructure against a set of strategic needs. These were very much aligned with the principles set out in the Oxfordshire Vision, focused on the Environment, Health, Place Shaping, Productivity and Connectivity, with a set of indicators under each area allowing for a qualitative score to be produced for each infrastructure project. The relative importance to supporting housing and employment growth was also considered in the assessment, based on linkages with local plan allocated growth.

368. The OxIS Stage 1 update has allowed for an objective assessment to be undertaken of the relative importance of different strategic infrastructure, and its alignment with currently planned growth. This has resulted in identification of priority schemes in infrastructure types including transport, education, green and blue infrastructure and water management. It has also identified the funding gaps and requirements for this infrastructure. Though considering against a range of needs, the work has also given a better understanding of how different types of infrastructure perform against wider outcomes.

## **Policy Options**

369. Alongside other evidence, the OxIS Stage 1 report will help inform the refinement of Oxfordshire Plan spatial options towards a preferred option at Regulation 19 stage. It is also intended that a final Stage 2 report will be produced to assess strategic infrastructure priorities to 2050 and consider how these align with the preferred spatial options. It is expected that this will provide a strategic infrastructure framework for delivery of infrastructure needs alongside new development and inform the more detailed planning for sites at the local plan level. In effect, it is expected to become the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to support the Oxfordshire Plan.

370. The preferred policy option seeks to ensure that the Oxfordshire Plan and the OxIS are aligned, given the significance of strategic infrastructure that frequently crosses more than one local planning authority.

## **Preferred Policy Option**

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<sup>63</sup> <https://www.oxfordshiregrowthboard.org/projects/original-oxis/>

### **Policy Option 21: Strategic Infrastructure Priorities**

Development proposals would be planned to both take account of and take opportunities to support delivery of the strategic infrastructure priorities identified in the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS), and any subsequent updates. Local plans, and any supporting documents such as Infrastructure Delivery Plans, and Infrastructure Funding Statements should also take into account OxIS when being developed and updated.

#### **Alternative Policy Option 21-01**

371. Safeguard land for strategic infrastructure priorities. This is not preferred, as this should be considered in more detail in the individual local plans that follow the completion of the current OxIS work programme.

## Theme Five: Creating Jobs and Providing Homes

### Creating Jobs

372. Oxfordshire is ambitious for its economy and is forwards looking. The Oxfordshire Plan seeks to help Oxfordshire to position to meet global challenges and secure new economic opportunities. With significant sector strengths in life sciences, high-performance engineering and R&D, local opportunities include ensuring we are reducing inequalities and ensuring all citizens have an opportunity to access new local jobs as well as advanced skills and education.
373. Economic priorities for Oxfordshire draw on the strategies prepared by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, including the Strategic Economic Plan and the COVID Recovery Plan. The Oxfordshire Plan supports the delivery of those two economic plans, recognising the importance of the wider economy, which the planning system should support and seeks to ensure that the planning authorities across Oxfordshire can respond to the impact of COVID on retail and hospitality sectors through re-imagining the role of our town centres.
374. The Oxfordshire Plan contains proposals to assist with the economic recovery from COVID. These proposals build on the strengths of the economy and seek to harness its capability in the long-term to maintain high level of GVA growth, to secure the retention of young people, and improve access to skills and training resources.
375. The Oxfordshire Plan recognises that the economy will continue to evolve over next 30 years; this Plan seeks to support that evolution and assist it to become less carbon dependent. The Plan also seeks to support economic innovation as well as improved productivity by ensuring that land use is flexible and can adapt to economic change in both rural and urban Oxfordshire.
376. The Oxfordshire Plan looks to take full account of climate change and the need for environmental enhancement to achieve a greener economic future. The use of 5G and the application of new advanced digital infrastructure will help our businesses and institutions position for the future, as well as help to maintain the current high levels of home working.
377. Over the 30-year duration of this Plan, new affordable housing in Oxfordshire will both reduce the need to travel long distances to work, and through the provision of a wider range of house types help to ensure that the workforce of Oxfordshire companies can live in the County and economic success is not held back. Equally, new and renewed business premises will extend the capacity available of floorspace, employment and in Oxfordshire.

## Theme Five – Meets the following Objectives of the Oxfordshire Plan

No 1. To demonstrate leadership in addressing the climate emergency by significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

No 5. To sustain and strengthen Oxfordshire's economic role and reputation by building on our key strengths and relationships.

No 6. To ensure that the benefits and opportunities arising from Oxfordshire's economic success are felt by all of Oxfordshire's communities.

No 7. To meet Oxfordshire's housing needs, including affordable housing, and to ensure that housing delivery is phased appropriately to support the needs of our communities.

No 8. To ensure that new housing is flexible to meet the varied needs of people through all stages of life.

No 9. To deliver high quality, innovatively designed development that ensures efficient use of land and resources.

## Policy Option 22 - Supporting the Creation of Jobs

378. The Oxfordshire Plan is aligned with the Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy (LIS)<sup>64</sup> and seeks to maintain the economic success of the county over the long-term. A central piece of evidence for the Oxfordshire Plan is the Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment (OGNA) which considers the housing need figure across a range of scenarios, including options that consider the relationship to economic growth.

379. Like many issues affecting land use planning, the UK approach to regional and local economic growth is changing. This is partly due to COVID-19 and Brexit, as well as securing the economic aspirations of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc, and the Government's focus on 'levelling up' across the UK and its 'Plan for Growth', launched alongside the March 2021 budget. The current Oxfordshire LIS responds to the UK Industrial Strategy which aims to increase growth and productivity, creating more prosperous communities, much of which is core thinking in the emerging Government approach.

380. The Oxfordshire LIS is underpinned by three guiding principles: i) Invest in Oxfordshire, deliver for the UK; ii) Oxfordshire – the UK's 'innovation engine'; and iii) Global Oxfordshire, Global Britain. The key sectors and technologies in which Oxfordshire excels has global reach, meaning Oxfordshire is a critical driver for UK economic growth post-Brexit. The Oxfordshire Plan is one of the tools by which this economic success is to be maintained.

381. The LIS identifies key assets in the innovation ecosystem which underpin that strategy; the LIS looks to build on these strengths and assets to drive R&D

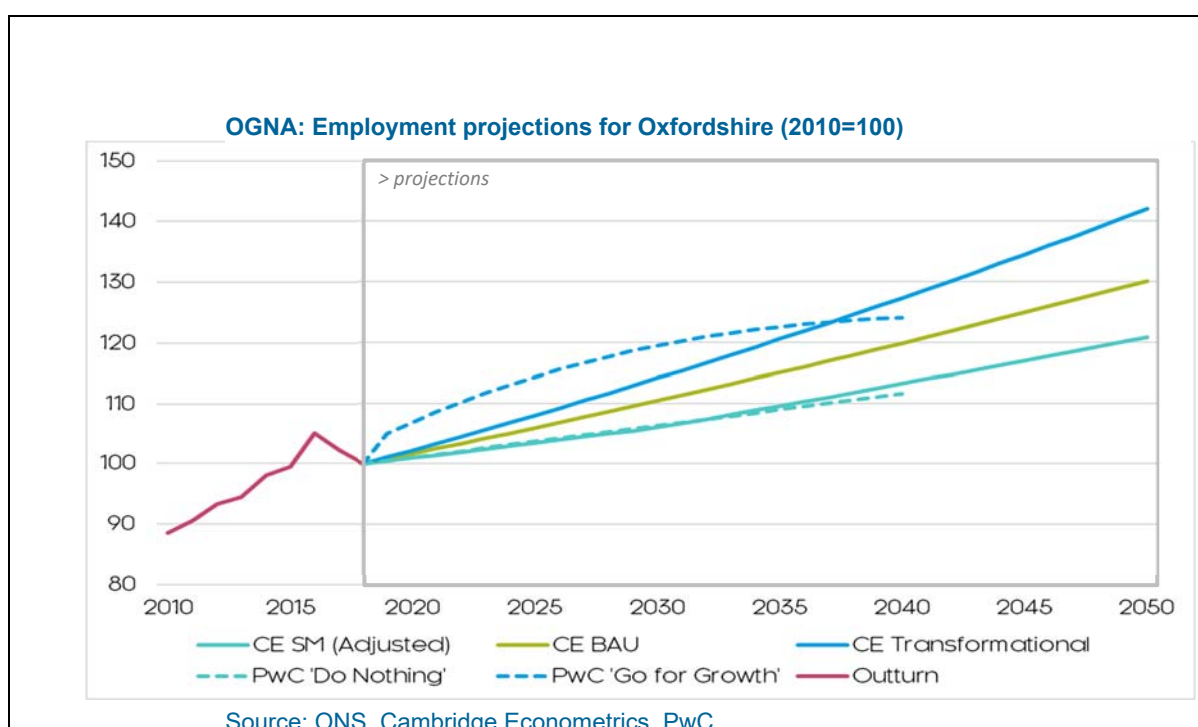
<sup>64</sup> [Local Industrial Strategy | OxLEP \(oxfordshirelep.com\)](https://oxfordshirelep.com)

and innovation across the region. The Oxfordshire Plan seeks to strengthen the economic activity taking place in our town and city centres, plus the business and science parks located across the county, as 'priority locations' and supports those priority sectors where strategic jobs growth is focussed as identified in the LIS.

382. The Oxfordshire Plan supports the creation of jobs across a range of sectors and in various locations, particularly to achieve the shift to 'good growth' as the economy begins to transition to address climate change.

383. One of the purposes of the Oxfordshire Plan is to consider the level of employment growth and the links to housing need over the Plan period. There are a number of ways to identify the requirements for job growth figures, but there is considerable uncertainty later on in the Plan period, from 2040 onwards.

384. The following figure is taken from the OGNA and highlights the range of forecasts for job growth 2020-2050.



## Policy Options

385. There are a number of policy options that have been considered including whether to encourage appropriate forms of development which would lead to the creation of jobs, without placing any numerical requirements on any of the local planning authorities. The Oxfordshire Plan could provide the strategic framework for emerging local plans and neighbourhood plans to work with.

386. One other alternative would be to use a floor space calculation of new B Class employment instead of a jobs number for the Plan as a whole.

387. The challenge with both these alternatives is that the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan is looking to secure a progressive change to business working practices to 2050 and such approaches are traditional rather than transformational. In

addition, recent changes to Use Class orders (new Class E) has made calculating floorspace requirements difficult. Therefore, we consider that the proposed policy option is likely to be the better option as it provides an overarching positive strategy which local plans and neighbourhood plans can build on, responding to local circumstances.

### **Preferred Policy Option**

388. The proposed policy option could be to consider the level of jobs growth using the OGNA trajectories to identify the employment growth figure for Oxfordshire for 2020-2050. Economic growth and housing growth would need to be aligned and take into account a range of other factors. The decision on the appropriate level of jobs growth would be taken alongside the final decision on the housing growth figure that will draw on the OGNA scenarios.

389. The OGNA calculations could then be broken down into tranches for the local planning authorities to use (e.g. 10 years) in the preparation of local plans. Figures provided for each tranche would have to be indicative, and subject to review by local plans due to the complex nature of job creation and to allow for individual circumstances to be taken into account.

#### **Policy Option 22: Supporting the Creation of Jobs**

The Oxfordshire Plan encourages the creation of jobs which align with the objectives of the Plan.

The Oxfordshire Plan could use the OGNA scenarios to consider the level of jobs growth and identify the employment growth figure for Oxfordshire for 2020-2050. This would align job creation calculations with the housing growth scenarios that the OGNA considered.

### **Policy Option 23 - Protection of Economic Assets**

390. Oxfordshire has a significant network of business, science and technology parks located in the city and towns and in rural locations too. They range from the internationally significant sites at Harwell and Culham, to the smaller business parks on the edges of towns and offices within the city. They are the location for companies of different sizes and sectors and are a major focus for employment. This diverse economic base provides Oxfordshire with economic strength and resilience.

391. Oxfordshire has a number of economic assets that are of not only regional importance, but of national and international importance. These include, the MINI Plant in Oxford, known for its car production, and Harwell Science and Innovation Campus and Culham Science Centre in the Science Vale, both world-renowned for being the UK's leading centres for science, research and innovation. Additionally, the business, science parks, innovation and technology centres of Oxfordshire are where a significant amount of business activity takes place across the county. Ensuring that the buildings associated with these economic assets remain fit for purpose is an essential

component of how these locations continue to adapt to changing economic circumstances, current sector strengths and how those grow and evolve in the future.

## Policy Options

392. The economy of Oxfordshire will continue to evolve over the next 30 years, supported through the Local Industrial Strategy and future economic growth strategies. This policy seeks to enable sensible forward planning by site owners and business operators about their future site and building needs for new economic purposes, for science, technology and innovation, as business needs change, in both the rural and urban parts of Oxfordshire. The policy would support a flexible intensification of economic activity at these sites, with re-purposed buildings and site layouts, new build and extensions as required.
393. The aim is to seek to ensure that the network of sites continues to support new innovative economic uses, but also becomes more sustainable, not just as buildings are upgraded, but as sites seek to reduce their carbon footprint and increase their take up of renewable energy, whilst supporting new aspects of the economy of Oxfordshire as innovation continues and key sectors continue to evolve.
394. The preferred policy option seeks to secure a consistent long-term approach across Oxfordshire to ensure that investment continues to flow to support the business and science park network as major economic assets.
395. One alternative policy option is to leave these considerations to future local plans. The disadvantage of this approach is to miss the strategic opportunity from an Oxfordshire-wide approach. Strategic economic assets are at the heart of Oxfordshire economy. A framework policy is preferred to provide a minimum level of consistency of approach across Oxfordshire.

## Preferred Policy Proposal

### Policy Option 23: Protection of Economic Assets

The Oxfordshire Plan would continue to support the appropriate growth of economic assets. This growth may come in the form of:

- New investment in the physical fabric of economic assets and their estate.
- Economic assets being extended as well as re-purposed, re-provisioned and re-used for new and innovative economic activities.
- Flexibility on what those future economic uses might be to support economic innovation within them, recognising that Oxfordshire has strengths in key economic sectors and over the 30 years of this plan we would anticipate new sectors emerging from the investment by the private sector, entrepreneurs, the Universities, LEP and Government.

Appropriate growth would be supported particularly where there is:

- Investment in renewable energy provision and higher quality more sustainable buildings and a focus for new digital infrastructure.

- An increased use of renewable energy including charging points for electric and hybrid vehicles.
- Improved walking, cycling and public transport connectivity and capacity.

The loss of existing economic assets would not generally be supported unless proposals are in accordance with the relevant development plan policies across the districts and city concerned with the loss of economic assets.

The Oxfordshire Plan would support flexible working practices, including live-work accommodation. As we wish to retain and grow economic uses across Oxfordshire's economic assets, we will not support the loss of economic assets to housing but will support the introduction of live-work units where that supports the success of the economic asset and the economic activities undertaken.

## Policy Option 24 – Town Centre Renewal

396. Major changes are affecting town, city centres and other urban centres, with dramatic retail changes and high levels of vacant premises. The changing role and nature of retail is generating significant uncertainty, while the full implications and impacts from the period of the COVID -19 pandemic (2020/1 - 2021/2) are not yet known. At the same time, recent changes to planning controls and Use Class Order Amendments are expanding more flexible changes of use away from retail.

397. Re-imagining and re-purposing town centres and urban centres is essential to enable new economic activities to come forward for consideration, to enable new economic uses to be accommodated and to plan for change over the long-term. Our policy approach is intended to support the vitality of service centres, being flexible and responsive to future changes, and supporting the high-level retail hierarchy. It is intended to set the context for future local plans.

398. We want to see town and urban centre uses supported with an increased role for a range of leisure facilities, new business uses, new live-work facilities, hospitality and the night economy. It may also require a local level move to review the extent of the primary retail frontage to most effectively protect the remaining retail uses. Consideration will also be needed as to how the challenge of the circular economy is to be addressed.

399. While this policy focuses on land use matters, there are a range of active measures outside of planning that can be taken to strengthen town and urban centres including promotion, shopper directories, loyalty cards, cultural events and festivals, and shop front renewal schemes, all of which can help generate new footfall into our towns.

## Policy Options

400. The preferred policy approach seeks to provide the local planning authorities with an enabling policy with which to respond quickly to support newly arising economic opportunities in the city and town centres across Oxfordshire. It establishes a framework policy to support long-term action at the local level

following the major changes to retail and the hospitality sector accelerated through the COVID period.

401. Establishing an Oxfordshire-wide framework is judged the right means to enable forward planning by developers in conjunction with the local planning authorities and the local business community and Parish/Town Council affected.

## **Preferred Policy Proposal**

### **Policy Option 24: Town Centre Renewal**

To encourage new dynamism into the central area of each market town (and Oxford's city, district, urban and local centres) and generate new footfall, the Oxfordshire Plan would support the vitality and viability of town centres. At each of the market towns and Oxford City, the Oxfordshire Plan will support the changing nature of our town centres and provide future flexibility to this change, for example, by continuing to support the retail uses, and in addition, supporting new measures including:

- New leisure and hospitality uses, including the night-time economy and 'pop up' venues in vacant buildings.
- New economic and business uses including where appropriate, new live-work units.
- The redevelopment of town centres to make them more visually appealing.
- Markets and their facilities, traditional, seasonal and contemporary.
- New cultural activities, community uses and the consolidation of civic facilities.
- Improved walking, cycling and public transport facilities to and from town centres to surrounding residential areas.
- Taking account of the role that heritage has to play in creating a sense of place and a dynamic town centre environment.
- Taking account of unique, local factors and not taking 'a one-size fits all' approach.

We would encourage the preparation of a town centre strategy between the local planning authority, landowners and businesses to consider challenges and opportunities on a holistic basis and as the means to take local level decisions about the most appropriate boundary of the areas to be devoted to primary and secondary retail, recognising that it may be most effective to reduce the area and consolidate and strengthen the remaining zone.

### **Policy Option 25 - Visitor Economy**

402. We recognise the importance of sustainable tourism for Oxfordshire's economy and the jobs it creates. As the economy recovers from COVID and the visitor economy looks to new provision, we anticipate opportunities to grow this important economic sector in Oxfordshire.

## **Policy Options**

403. The Oxfordshire Plan is considering major developments that have an impact beyond more than one district or the city. Large tourism proposals that can have an impact county-wide or across more than one district or the city would be covered by this policy. The Plan aims to set out a positive approach to encouraging new sustainable tourism development in appropriate places, to benefit urban and rural Oxfordshire based on a coordinated approach to infrastructure to support sustainable tourism development and investment.
404. The Oxfordshire Plan recognises that Oxfordshire's heritage is a key aspect of its tourism industry, likewise the business use of facilities such as through hotels at business parks plays a significant role in generating footfall.
405. One alternative policy option is to leave these considerations to future local plans, but our recommendation is to put a framework policy in place to enable forward planning by developers in conjunction with the local planning authority and the local community and Parish/Town Council affected
406. The preferred policy option seeks to set in place a strategic framework to address those proposals that are likely to impact on more than one local planning authority.

## **Preferred Policy Proposal**

### **Policy Option 25: Visitor Economy**

We want to encourage new development to advance the visitor economy designed to have a national and international draw. Proposals for such purposes could be supported under this option, subject to the following criteria to guide development, including:

- The provision of new conference facilities, high grade hotel accommodation, resort hotels and museums, new stadium-scale sports facilities designed to have a national and international draw.
- The development of new leisure complexes and the provision of associated specialist sports equipment.
- New adventure-based tourist attractions and sports-based leisure and visitor facilities.
- Active tourism in rural Oxfordshire that supports the rural economy and diversification.

We would expect all new visitor facilities to meet the following criteria:

- They must be located either a) within the built-up areas of the city, towns and villages, and in the villages, development must be proportionally scaled and in keeping with the character of the settlement, or b) development outside of these areas in rural Oxfordshire would be supported where it supports rural diversification and is proportionate to the rural location.
- Being sensitive to the local and historic context.
- They must be located at sites which can provide excellent transport and connectivity, that are easily accessible by walking, cycling and public transport.

- Use of sustainable travel is encouraged and a sustainable travel plan would be required that sets out the details of the bus and rail connectivity that is to be secured.
- They must be designed with renewable energy provision and others to help reduce use of carbon.
- They must have minimal traffic, environmental, visual and landscape impact.

## Policy Option 26 - Culture and Arts

407. Oxfordshire's city, towns and villages offer a variety of cultural and arts facilities that attract visitors well beyond the county's borders. Oxfordshire's world-renowned city of Oxford, as well as many of its traditional market towns and villages, play a role in making the county a sub-regional hive for cultural activity. Rural Oxfordshire too contains a diverse provision, from great houses to the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, where rural arts, heritage and cultural activities are well established. As a result, it is considered important to ensure the continued growth of Oxfordshire's diverse cultural and creative industries.

408. Culture and the arts are a valued part of our society and play a key role in ensuring social wellbeing and community cohesion, as well as having a positive impact on our physical and mental health. Culture and the arts not only enrich our personal lives, but also our economy. In 2011, businesses in the UK arts and culture industry generated an aggregate turnover of £12.4 billion<sup>65</sup>. Cultural and arts facilities additionally serve an educational purpose, as for example, museums and galleries are often utilised by schools and universities for teaching and research.

409. In recent times the culture and creative industries have suffered as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has therefore become increasingly important that they are supported in reflection of the difficulty faced by both industries during the pandemic, and the years that will follow it. It is also important to look forward to how these industries are likely to adapt and change in future. By 2050, these industries will likely turn increasingly more digital, so considering the changing physical nature of cultural and arts facilities is also necessary, as demand for temporary spaces such as pop-up venues may increase, whilst digital media venues may become more prevalent.

## Policy Options

410. In order to ensure the continued growth of cultural and creative industries in Oxfordshire, a preferred policy option is proposed for inclusion in the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 which aims to advance these industries by supporting new strategic cultural and arts facilities across the county that will have regional, national and international draw.

411. One alternative policy option is to leave these considerations to future local plans, but our recommendation is to put a framework policy in place to

<sup>65</sup> The Arts Council evidence review

enable forward planning by developers in conjunction with the local planning authority where the proposal is likely to impact on more than one district.

## Preferred Policy Proposal

### Policy Option 26: Culture and Arts

In order to advance Oxfordshire's culture and creative industries, proposals for new cultural and arts facilities designed to have regional, national and international draw would be supported, including (but not limited to):

- New cultural centres, museums, exhibition halls, galleries, and other visual arts facilities.
- New performing arts centres, concert halls, theatres, auditoriums.
- The provision of public broadcasting facilities, including public television, radio stations and other electronic media outlets.
- Evening and night-time cultural venues such as public houses, night clubs, cinemas and music venues.
- Associated cultural and arts facilities, including studio and rehearsal space.
- Pop up culture and arts venues, such as in vacant buildings.
- New cultural and arts provision at the great stately houses of Oxfordshire.

We would expect all new culture and arts facilities to meet the following criteria:

- They must be located within the built-up areas of the city, towns and villages. In the district's villages, development must be proportionally scaled and in keeping with the character of the settlement. Development outside of these areas will only be supported in exceptional circumstances, for example where it is evidenced that it cannot be reasonably be located in the city, or a town or village in the county, such as at the great houses.
- They must be located at sites which can provide excellent transport and connectivity, that are easily accessible by walking, cycling and public transport.
- Use of sustainable travel is encouraged and a sustainable travel plan will be required that sets out the details of the bus and rail connectivity that is to be secured.
- They must be designed with renewable energy provision and others to help reduce use of carbon.
- They must have minimal traffic, environmental, visual and landscape impact.
- There is no negative cumulative impact resulting from the proposed use in relation to the number, capacity and location of other similar uses (existing or committed) in the area.

We would also seek to protect and retain existing cultural and arts facilities. Planning applications for the change of use of a cultural or arts facility must be accompanied by evidence to demonstrate that the continuation of the use of premises of the existing facility is not viable. It must be demonstrated that:

- all reasonable efforts have been made to market the premises for its existing use; and
- all reasonable efforts have been made to support and improve the operation and management of the business; and

- it is demonstrated that suitable alternative facilities exist to meet the needs of the local community.

## **Policy Option 27: Meeting Skills and Education Needs**

412. The Further and Higher Education (FEHE) sectors are one of the economic assets of Oxfordshire. The Universities of Oxford are world class and play a central role in the dynamism of the Oxfordshire economy, bringing forward innovation and technology, as well as new investment and company spinouts that act as a major driver of the economic success of the county.
413. Oxfordshire has historically had a high education and skills base. We will encourage and support development that will diversify and strengthen the skills and education base into the future to encourage its continued role in the innovation ecosystem.
414. We recognise that reorganisation and re-provision is likely to take place over the next 20-30 years, as Government policy changes, to provide new services to students of all ages, to respond quickly to demographic changes, improve skills access and to use land and property more efficiently and effectively. This enabling policy is designed to support effective forward planning by the sector to continue to meet the needs of training and education providers, as well as businesses of all sectors in Oxfordshire.
415. The provision of primary and secondary education facilities, along with those for early years and lifelong learning has a critical role to play in supporting population growth as well as meeting new training needs and improving access to the world of work. The demand for pre-school facilities is increasing due to changes in lifestyles and work patterns and is a critical underpinning of the economic dynamism of Oxfordshire.
416. We recognise the important role that skills and training facilities and schools have to play in maintaining the quality of life of communities and will support the growth plans of schools. The County Council in its role as Local Education Authority is responsible for securing provision of new schools and school places. It has a statutory duty to ensure that there are enough school places. The local planning authorities will work with the County Council and the FEHE sector to support the range of education and training facilities required, including provision of nursery, primary and secondary schools; further and higher education facilities; community learning facilities; special schools; and other educational facilities as required. This may include seeking the provision of new schools, contributions towards these facilities or contributions towards expanding existing facilities as new growth takes place.
417. We want to ensure that the design of these facilities is flexible enough to accommodate the changing needs of their users and the communities they serve. Where appropriate and agreed with the education & skills provider the use of the facilities after hours will be encouraged to support learning among the wider community and may be able to enhance recreation provision. New skills and educational buildings should be located in sustainable locations within the built-

up limits of settlements to secure active travel and improved public transport connectivity; as well as being considered within regeneration schemes to encourage social mobility and 'upskilling'.

## Policy Options

418. The preferred policy option seeks to ensure that there is a framework policy in place to enable future development or the land use aspects of the reorganisations of skills and education facilities to be considered in a consistent way, especially where the provision reaches beyond administrative boundaries. This is an issue that has also arisen in a number of Duty to Co-operate discussions with neighbouring Councils.

419. One alternative policy option is to leave these considerations to future local plans, but our recommendation is to put a framework policy in place to enable forward planning by the institutions affected, with their developers in conjunction with the local planning authority and Oxfordshire County Council.

## Preferred Policy Proposal

### **Policy Option 27: Meeting Skills and Education Needs**

To support the provision of modern and up to date facilities to support existing and future education and training needs across the county:

1. The local planning authority should work with partners to support the provision of new schools, universities and colleges, community learning and other training facilities which provide for education and the development of skills across each district, the city and county-wide, where needed.
2. The provision of new facilities that are integrated into regeneration opportunities to support social mobility will be encouraged.
3. Education and training facilities should be designed to:
  - a. achieve a high degree of durability and environmental efficiency to minimise maintenance and running costs;
  - b. increase use of renewable energy and help reduce use of carbon;
  - c. provide a safe, secure and pleasant environment conducive to learning;
  - d. be sustainably designed and located to promote sustainable methods of travel, both by active travel and by public transport; and
  - e. be designed to enable future expansion and long-term flexibility, as required.
4. The co-location of community and education facilities will be supported where they create community hubs that can serve the needs of the community and catchments that cross administrative boundaries.
5. Where proposals relate to large schemes or strategic housing developments or the expansion of existing campuses, an integrated, coordinated and comprehensive planning approach would be taken and a masterplan would be prepared, in collaboration and agreed with the local planning authority/ies, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and other statutory undertakers covering the

development of the whole site or sites. This will be especially important where the catchment crosses administrative boundaries. Any new education sites must comply with the OCC guidance documents issued at that time to ensure efficient and effective use of the site.

## Providing Homes

420. The Oxfordshire Plan aspires to meet the housing needs of current and future generations.
421. The cost of housing continues to be a major issue across Oxfordshire and impacts on where people can live and what they can afford, whether they purchase or rent property. This is a particular challenge faced within Oxford City but it affects the neighbouring four districts too and impacts on the economy by leading to lengthy commutes and an inability to retain younger people leaving University.
422. The Oxfordshire Plan proposes to support the use of new construction technologies to both reduce cost of building new housing but to ensure it uses less energy too.
423. The Oxfordshire Plan proposes to support innovation over the next 30 years, be it in housing design, build quality and incorporation of measures to help tackle climate change.
424. The national push for 'zero carbon ready' homes has been embraced by the Oxfordshire Plan as part of its ambitious set of measures proposed in Theme One: Addressing Climate Change and builds on the innovation achieved on current development sites such as NW Bicester.
425. The Oxfordshire Plan proposes to set a framework for housing quality (see Themes One and Three) and undertaking health impact assessments (see Theme Three) to improve the quality of life for residents. The Oxfordshire Plan places an emphasis on tackling climate change and securing environmental betterment. That emphasis has led to the proposed emphasis on achieving high design standards, which are recognised as being essential for reducing inequalities as well as having environmental impact and helping to achieve improved health & wellbeing of residents, as well as reducing energy costs.
426. The Plan seeks to secure the retention of young people and the less well-off through the proposed adequate provision of affordable housing and to secure sufficient provision for older people too, through extra care, care villages and other types of provision. The Plan proposes to support people who can't afford access to the housing market, those in low paid jobs, and newly forming households with the need for smaller accommodation. The Oxfordshire Plan also supports the delivery of First Homes, a new national form of affordable housing. The Plan proposes to support new approaches to Community Led Housing, the use of Community Land Trusts and the contribution that public land has to play in enabling new innovative approaches to housing provision.

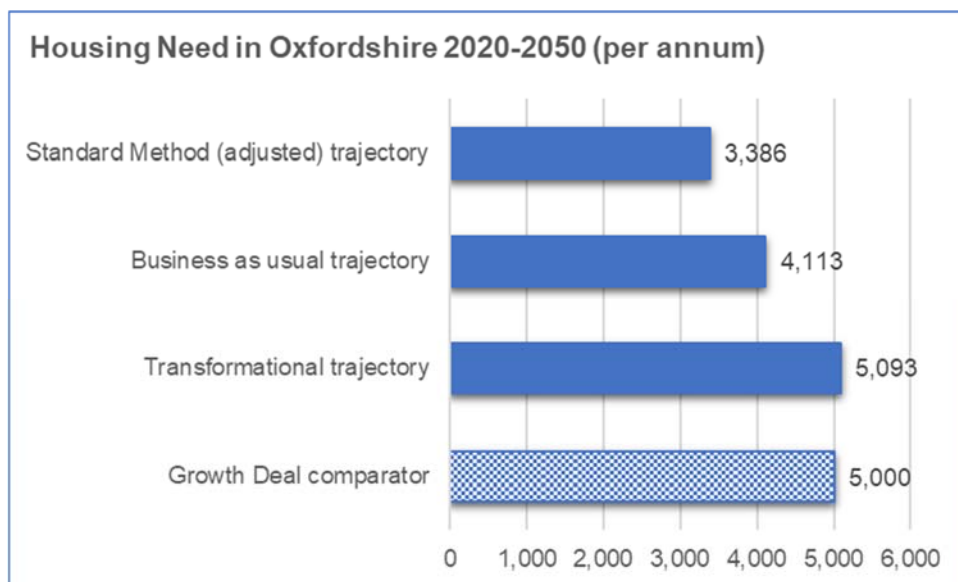
427. The Oxfordshire Plan proposes a strong brownfield land focus with support for programmes of urban renewal which means a reduced level of greenfield release with valued green space protected. The Plan looks to support the renewal of town centres.
428. The Plan will seeks to support achieving higher densities by building residential property higher, three or four storeys, in appropriate locations, to improve the overall land use and to reduce the need for more greenfield release.
429. Finally, the Plan looks to support the role of small and medium sized developers who tend to build the majority of smaller sites, to a high standard and more quickly than is achieved on larger sites. The planning authorities in Oxfordshire will explore the introduction of an accelerated consenting process.

## Policy Option 28 - Homes: How Many? Commitments and Locations

### How Many Homes?

430. In planning for housing, the terms 'need', and 'requirement' have specific meanings. The Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment (OGNA) assesses the growth **needs** for Oxfordshire to 2050 to identify the range of what might be reasonable levels of growth to test through the Plan. It will then be for the Plan-making process to arrive at a growth **requirement** figure for the Plan policies.
431. The OGNA modelling focusses on three levels of growth: Standard Method adjusted, Business as Usual, and Transformational. These three show the range. The Oxfordshire Plan cannot go lower than standard method (or it would fail to comply with Government guidance), and it would be unrealistic to aim for higher growth than the aspirations in the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS), associated with the transformational trajectory given the need to balance homes and jobs, as well as the challenge of delivery and the environment and infrastructure constraints that exist.

Housing Need in Oxfordshire 2020-2050		
	Total	Per annum
Standard Method (adjusted) trajectory	101,580	3,386
Business as usual trajectory	123,390	4,113
Transformational trajectory	152,790	5,093
Growth Deal comparator	150,000	5,000



432. Whilst the OGNA has set out a range of housing needs figures it has not advised on a target or requirement that the Oxfordshire Plan should take forward. Through the Plan making process (including this Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation) we are testing the level of growth options. The decision on the final housing requirement will need to balance the OGNA with other evidence studies, and other decision-making tools such as Sustainability Appraisal, consultation, and the strategy set out in this Plan. This process will follow the outcome of this Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation on the proposed strategy of the Plan, the proposed policy options and the proposed Strategic Spatial Options.

433. The next tranche of growth has already been committed in the 2020 – 2031/5/6 period of the Oxfordshire Plan through the City and District's planning consents. In a number of Districts, committed growth associated with consents continues into the period after 2031/5/6 due to the delivery period of strategic development sites and windfalls. In the next phase of Plan making the total of these commitments will be taken off the OGNA scenarios to present the 'residual' figure. This is the housing requirement that we will need to plan for.

### Committed Growth

434. Oxfordshire has adopted local plans in place for each District with consents issued on allocated sites and others, such that committed growth runs from 2020 (the starting date for the Oxfordshire Plan) onwards and in 3 of the Districts there are strategic sites that will continue to be built out beyond the end of the local plan period which the Oxfordshire Plan needs to take into account in considering the housing requirement to be considered.

435. The next table (as of 2020/21) illustrates this.

District	Local Plan period	To illustrate 'Committed growth' using Plan trajectories	Completions since start date of Local Plan - 2019/20	Remaining to be built 2020/21 – end of Local Plan	To be built beyond end of Local Plan
Cherwell	2011-2031	22,840 (pt1) 4,400 (PRev)	11,202	16,038	<b>2,707</b> (NW Bicester)
Oxford	2016-2036	10,884	1,948	8,936	-
South	2011-2035	30,056	7,178	22,878	<b>2,815</b> (Chalgrove: 895 after 2035) (Grenoble Rd: 520 after 2035) (Culham: 1,400 after 2035)
Vale	2011-2031	25,359	9,112	16,247	<b>1,883</b> (Valley Park, Didcot: 713) (Grove Airfield: 1,042) (NW Valley Park: 128)
West	2011-2031	15,799	4,437	11,362	None
<b>Totals</b>		<b>109,338</b>	<b>33,877 approx.</b>	<b>75,461 approx.</b>	<b>7,405</b>
<i>Illustrative Committed Growth 2020/21 onwards = 82,866</i>					

436. This committed growth (taken from local plan trajectories to illustrate the issue at this stage) should be taken into account. The table below illustrates the 'residual figure' that arises by taking the OGNA scenario figure minus committed growth to leave a 'residual' figure:

OGNA Homes 2020-2050		Illustrative Residual (OGNA minus Committed Growth). Approximately
Standard Method	101,580	18,714
Business as usual trajectory	123,390	40,524
Transformational trajectory	152,780	69,914

437. So, the range of new growth we intend to test in the preparation of the Regulation 19 Plan is of the order of 18,000-70,000 homes (not 101,000-153,000). This lower range is the basis for looking at broad areas of growth through the Oxfordshire Plan 2031/5/6 to 2050. i.e. over a 20-year period, after the end of the current adopted local plans. Note: In considering this issue in the preparation of the Regulation 19 Plan we will use the most up to date data from AMRs from each local planning authority to ensure we use a common basis for the calculations.

438. The decision on where in the range the housing requirement for Oxfordshire should sit will be informed by the outcome of the evaluation and evidence in the next phase of plan-making in preparing the Regulation 19 Plan.

## Locations

439. The Oxfordshire Plan has identified five strategic spatial options for consideration in the next section of the consultation document. These options take into account the locations for growth set out in the adopted local plans.

440. The next stage of the development of the Oxfordshire Plan will consider the application of the growth need numbers to assess the most appropriate locations for future growth to be identified in the Regulation 19 Plan version.

## **Preferred Policy Option**

### **Policy Option 28: Homes: How Many? Commitments and Locations**

Through this consultation on the Regulation 18 Part 2 stage of the Oxfordshire Plan, the scenarios for the total housing requirement figure 2020-2050 (the OGNA) need to be considered and views are sought.

The Regulation 19 stage will consider the OGNA range taking the level of committed growth into account using AMRs, its ongoing delivery as well as the identification of a residual figure that is broken down into tranches (e.g. 10 years).

#### **Commitments**

It is proposed that the Regulation 19 Plan is prepared on the basis of what is already committed in the five Districts using the most up to date AMRs, deducted from the OP2050 requirement identified through the OGNA.

#### **Locations**

Homes and jobs to be delivered in strategic locations following a process of assessment.

District-level figures will be provided for the remaining requirement (i.e. OGNA minus committed growth level).

As the Strategic Spatial Options section shows, as part of the site assessment process to take the proposed options forward in detail, we propose to use a step-by-step process, drawing on our extensive Plan evidence base to assess capacity and delivery in broad locations.

A range of evidence will be required including a HELAA, to assess capacity and availability of brownfield land, as well as constraints analysis on flooding, landscape and other factors, plus input from the SA/HRA and considerations of climate change.

The aim is to establish a final list of prospective locations for future growth that secure the objectives of this Plan and especially, sustainable outcomes, zero carbon growth and environmental enhancement.

## **Policy Option 29 – Urban Renewal**

441. This policy aims to enable forward planning of urban renewal schemes and will include the reuse of brownfield land and an intensification of land use in our market towns, the City of Oxford and at the former MoD bases and sites

where the largest holdings of brownfield land are located. Urban renewal brings new vitality to areas and helps secure more sustainable locations, with investment in new services, new employment and improved health outcomes from urban re-design. The modernisation of housing and replacement of housing seeks to achieve higher residential densities, as well as more energy efficient, healthier living in higher quality housing.

442. New development can help secure gains and opportunities for the area being invested in, such as environmental gains, habitat creation and improved access to the countryside and improved walking and cycling opportunities. New affordable housing can be secured using Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) to secure significant energy gains for residents and reduced building costs.

443. Urban renewal is already taking place in a number of locations including the redevelopment of parts of Didcot and in the west end of Oxford around the rail station, whereas innovative approaches to custom build housing are being pursued at Graven Hill, Bicester. Urban renewal is expensive, and it takes time to prepare schemes with impact, so this is a policy that is intended to enable schemes to be developed with planning authority support through the life of the Oxfordshire Plan.

444. The policy will draw on brownfield land registers and support the forward programmes of redevelopment that are prepared by local planning authorities to bring new use to areas where private sector led schemes have been delayed. Joint ventures between the public, private, voluntary sector and other bodies such as Universities and other institutions will be supported.

## **Policy Options**

445. The preferred policy option for the Oxfordshire Plan is to put in place a framework policy to guide the development of options to renew areas over the next 20 to 30 years.

446. One alternative policy option is to leave these considerations to future local plans, but our recommendation is to put a framework policy in place to enable forward planning by developers in conjunction with the local planning authority and the local community and Parish/Town Council affected.

## **Preferred Policy Proposal**

### **Policy Option 29: Urban Renewal**

Urban renewal schemes and the reuse of brownfield and 'underutilised land' to achieve a more efficient use of land and to help minimise the use of new greenfield land across Oxfordshire will be supported.

This policy would include:

- Support for proposals that include a package of measures to renew and replace existing buildings (i.e. those that are under-utilised, energy inefficient or are degraded or derelict), with more modern higher quality housing to achieve

higher densities where appropriate, as well as being designed to be more energy efficient and support healthier living.

- Mixed use schemes will be encouraged, with the colocation of employment and residential provision to improve the sustainability of the location.
- Support opportunities for investment in redevelopment and development to remediate despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated or unstable land where appropriate.
- The identification of appropriate areas for regeneration with a clear boundary within the market towns and the City of Oxford as well as major brownfield locations such as former MoD sites and areas of former MoD housing.
- Sensitivity to local context particularly where there are heritage assets.
- Support for the use of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC), including custom build, to secure energy gains for residents and reduced building costs.
- Support for opportunities for urban renewal and brownfield land development to achieve net environmental gains and recognise and utilise the function brownfield land often has in for example, wildlife, flood risk mitigation, and carbon storage.

Appropriate land will be identified through Brownfield land registers as well as programmes established for urban settings, through Council housing companies, Housing Associations and others.

## **Policy Option 30 - Affordable Homes**

447. Affordable homes are greatly needed across Oxfordshire. The OGNA Phase 1 Report stated that 'evidence points to a very significant scale of need for affordable housing in Oxfordshire'. Across the county, average house prices are at over 10 times median earnings, and up to 17 times median earnings in the city of Oxford. The high cost of housing has significant impacts for those living and working in Oxfordshire, as well as on economic growth. High house prices have led to those working in Oxfordshire needing to commute longer distances to and from their workplace, which in turn puts increased pressure on transport infrastructure across the county.

448. Increasing land values across Oxfordshire combined with land availability constraints, means that it is likely that house prices will worsen during the plan period. Innovative methods of construction, such as 'Modern Methods of Construction' (MMC) can reduce the building cost of housing, including affordable housing, whilst also securing energy gains for residents. Community-led housing (CLH) schemes are also an innovative way in which affordable housing supply can be boosted. CLH schemes also help to deliver not only much needed affordable homes, but also additional benefits to the communities they serve, as the homes are delivered by local people for local people. As identified in the OGNA Phase 1 Report, other initiatives such as local authority house building (supported by national Government) could help to boost affordable housing delivery, and also help councils to return to their historic role as provider of homes in the four districts and the City of Oxford.

449. Importantly, the delivery of affordable homes is also influenced by Government funding and initiatives aimed at increasing affordable housing supply (both for rent and purchase) including home ownership through subsidised routes such as shared ownership and the First Homes scheme. First Homes are a specific kind of discounted market sale housing and is the Government's preferred discounted market tenure and should account for at least 25% of all affordable housing units delivered by developers through planning obligations. In order to qualify as a First Home, a property must be sold at least 30% below the open market value, however local authorities and neighbourhood planning groups have discretion to require a higher minimum discount of either 40% or 50% if they can demonstrate a need for this. Local authorities are also encouraged to ensure that First Homes work well in their area, which may include requiring a higher minimum discount, lower price or income caps, or local connection/key worker requirements. This provides an opportunity for all the Oxfordshire authorities to understand their individual needs.
450. Public funding is also a key factor in helping to support delivery, and locally this has been secured through the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal and is also available at a national level through the Government's Affordable Homes Programme. A variety of methods will be needed to ensure the delivery of affordable homes in Oxfordshire is maximised, and the inclusion of an affordable homes policy in the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 is a way in which it can help achieve this aim.
451. The provision of affordable housing is well established nationally and locally, with the NPPF setting out clearly that affordable housing should not be sought for residential developments that are not major developments, other than in designated rural areas (where policies may set out a lower threshold of 5 units or fewer).

## **Policy Options**

452. In order to help address the acute affordable housing needs across the county, it is proposed that the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 includes an overarching policy that ensures maximum levels of affordable housing are delivered on new residential sites across Oxfordshire. This would mean that the detail surrounding tenure mix and affordable housing requirements (expressed as a percentage) would remain a decision for local authorities to include in their local plans in light of local evidence. The Oxfordshire Plan is not setting a county-wide figure for affordable housing.
453. One alternative policy option would be to include percentage requirements and/or tenure mix targets in the Oxfordshire Plan to ensure a consistent, strong and diverse affordable housing mix across the county. However, this is not the preferred policy option as it could potentially overlook the differences in the housing market across Oxfordshire. Affordable housing requirements vary across the Oxfordshire authorities and it is important that all the authorities retain this flexibility to be able to respond to local circumstances. It would also be difficult to ensure that the policy has the necessary flexibility to plan over the longer term to 2050, when the needs of Oxfordshire might change. The remaining alternative option would be to not include an affordable homes policy in the Oxfordshire Plan, but instead leave all decisions and detail regarding affordable housing to local plans.

## Preferred Policy Option

### Policy Option 30: Affordable Housing

In order to help address affordable housing needs across the county, the Oxfordshire Plan would require local plans (and neighbourhood plans where relevant) to seek maximum levels of affordable housing on residential (use Class C2/C3) development sites of 10 units or more, those in excess of 0.5ha (subject to local viability considerations), and within the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB's) development sites of over 5 units.

In order to ensure residential development sites are well integrated and cohesive, the affordable housing units should be visually indistinguishable from market housing on site, and thus 'tenure blind'.

Affordable housing units should also be distributed throughout the site to prevent concentrations of affordable homes in one particular area. Any limitations on number of affordable units being clustered in groups should be set out in local plans, informed by local evidence and site-specific circumstances.

Tenure mix targets and affordable housing requirements (expressed as a percentage) will be for local plans to decide in the light of local evidence.

Innovative arrangements such as Community Led Housing schemes will be supported.

### Alternative Policy Option 30-01

454. Instead of leaving tenure mix to local plans, should the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 set tenure mix targets across Oxfordshire?

455. This could be added to the policy set out above. An example of how percentages could be split (that reflect existing local plans and between the City of Oxford and neighbouring Districts) is as follows:

- 25% Affordable Rented
- 35% Social Rented
- 15% other routes to affordable housing (including shared ownership)
- 25% First Homes

456. But the risk of this approach is that it is less robust and reflective of changing circumstances over the longer-term period that the Oxfordshire Plan is intending to address.

## Policy Option 31 - Specialist Housing Needs

457. Across Oxfordshire there is a wide range of housing needs. One of Oxfordshire's key strengths is its thriving and diverse communities, therefore providing the appropriate types of houses for these communities is essential.
458. The NPPF sets out that the housing needed for different groups in the community should be reflected in planning policies. This includes, but is not limited to, those who require affordable housing, families with children, older people, students, people with disabilities, service families, travellers, people who rent their home and people wishing to commission or build their own homes.
459. Across Oxfordshire it is essential that housing is provided for different groups in the community, who all have different needs, in the right places. The needs of Gypsies, Travellers, Travelling Showpeople are addressed separately in the Plan. Across Oxfordshire, whilst there are similarities between the types of housing needed, each authority area is different and has its own specific needs.
460. Oxford City has a higher proportion of student accommodation due to the location of the universities. The Oxford City Local Plan 2036 responds appropriately to this through its policies. Whilst this high concentration in the city is likely to continue, during the longer-term plan period for the Oxfordshire Plan it is unknown if any university expansions are going to occur outside of the City. It may be that in looking forward, the universities decide to explore wider Oxfordshire options. Planning over this longer period the Oxfordshire Plan should be in a position to provide a framework to assist the four districts and the City of Oxford in dealing with any future proposals.
461. One trend which is likely to have an impact on the four districts and the City of Oxford across the 30-year plan period, is housing for older people. People are living longer lives and the proportion of older people in the population is increasing. Oxfordshire has an aging population and it is forecast that this trend will continue. Housing for older people needs to be appropriately located with good access to public transport and local facilities, including shops and healthcare.
462. From previous consultations on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, we know that making homes accessible and affordable and meeting a variety of needs is important to communities. In response to the Regulation 18 Part 1 consultation, it was highlighted that housing should meet a variety of needs, such as those of older people and people with disabilities. Some respondents also raised that the Oxfordshire Plan should make new homes accessible and affordable to local people, including key workers.

## **Policy Options**

463. The Oxfordshire Plan will be determining a broad spatial strategy and broad locations for growth. As such it will not include detailed housing needs or requirements about the need for specialist housing. It is more appropriate to consider specialist housing matters via local plans and neighbourhood plans given the differences between provision and requirements in the Districts and the City of Oxford.

464. However, the Oxfordshire Plan can play a role in providing a framework for the local plans to work within. There are county-wide similarities with specialist housing that could benefit from a strategic level policy. A policy in the Oxfordshire Plan could provide high level support for the delivery of specialist housing, recognising the role the local plans will play in setting out the levels of appropriate specialist housing that should be delivered.

465. This policy is intended to be sufficiently flexible to allow the four districts and the City of Oxford to deal with individual needs. Policy could only be high level as evidence would be needed if policy became specific.

## **Preferred Policy Option**

### **Policy Option 31: Specialist Housing Needs**

1. The Oxfordshire Plan would support the delivery of specialist housing where meeting an identified need, in appropriate locations and where proposals conform with development plan policies.
2. Specialised housing may include, but is not limited to:
  - Housing for older people
  - Student accommodation
  - Housing for key workers
  - Housing for people with disabilities
3. Where appropriate, specialist housing should:
  - be integrated into proposed developments and existing neighbourhoods to create mixed and balanced communities;
  - have good access to public transport and local facilities;
  - enable the delivery of well-connected locations which maximise walking, cycling and public transport;
  - be appropriate for its intended occupant, e.g. living spaces, provision of storage and accessibility; and
  - not result in significant adverse impacts on the amenity of neighbourhood uses.

## **Alternative Policy Option 30-01/02/03/04**

466. An alternative policy option could be for the Oxfordshire Plan to consider the specific requirements for identified groups in the community, as set out below for example. However, this is not the preferred option as it could potentially overlook the differences in the housing market across Oxfordshire and local plans are the most appropriately placed to respond to locally specific housing needs.

1. Support the delivery of specialist housing where meeting an identified need, in appropriate locations and where proposals conform with local plan policies.
2. Where there is an identified need, housing for older people should:

- Have good access to public transport;
  - Have good access to local facilities and services, including healthcare and shops;
  - Be appropriate for its intended occupants;
  - Not result in significant adverse impacts on the amenity of neighbouring uses;
  - Provide suitable parking in accordance with the relevant parking standards and provide pick up and drop off facilities suitable for taxis, minibuses and ambulances; and
  - Be built maximising energy standards in accordance with the approach set out in this document.
3. Where there is an identified need, student accommodation should:
- Be appropriate for its intended occupants;
  - Be secured for student use;
  - Be integrated into proposed developments and existing neighbourhoods to create mixed and balanced communities;
  - Maximise walking, cycling and public transport in well-connected locations;
  - Not result in significant adverse impacts on the amenity of neighbourhood uses;
  - Provide suitable parking in accordance with the relevant parking standards; and
  - Be built maximising energy standards in accordance with the approach set out in this document.
4. Where there is an identified need, housing for key workers should:
- Be appropriate for its intended occupants;
  - Be integrated into proposed developments and existing neighbourhoods to create mixed and balanced communities;
  - Maximise walking, cycling and public transport in well-connected locations;
  - Not result in significant adverse impacts on the amenity of neighbourhood uses;
  - Provide suitable parking in accordance with the relevant parking standards; and
  - Be built maximising energy standards in accordance with the approach set out in this document.

### **Alternative Policy Option 30-02**

467. Another alternative option would be to not have a strategic policy on specialist housing in the Oxfordshire Plan and to instead leave it to local plans to set policies in relation to specialist housing need.
468. Local plans are best placed to address local housing needs, and this is reflected in the preferred policy option. However, leaving it completely to local plans is not the preferred approach as the Oxfordshire Plan provides an opportunity to establish an Oxfordshire wide overarching strategic policy on specialist housing.

## Policy Option 32 - Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

469. All the local authorities in Oxfordshire have a responsibility to address the needs for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. Currently across Oxfordshire there are 6 permanent council-owned traveller sites, providing 89 pitches and 21 privately run authorised sites<sup>66</sup>.
470. In accordance with national planning policy, a county-wide Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) has been commissioned jointly to inform the production of the Oxfordshire Plan. The current evidence across the county comprises the Cherwell, Oxford City, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse GTAA 2017 and the West Oxfordshire GTAA 2016. The Oxfordshire GTAA which will support the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 is an update of the 201 & 2017 GTAA's.
471. The Government's planning policy document, Planning Policy for Traveller Sites<sup>67</sup>, sets out that local authorities should set targets which address the likely permanent and transit accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. This document provides definitions for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. For the purpose of planning policy 'gypsies and travellers' means:
472. *'Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such.'*
473. For the purpose of this planning policy 'travelling showpeople' means:
474. *'Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family's or dependants' more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above.'*
475. The Oxfordshire Plan will play an important role in assessing county-wide accommodation needs and travel patterns. The Government's overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community. It is important to note that Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople have different accommodation need requirements. For example, Travelling Showpeople need additional space in order to store and maintain large equipment and vehicles.
476. The Oxfordshire Plan will provide an overarching framework, supported by the GTAA. The proposed methodology of the GTAA will provide an accommodation need figure based on ethnic identity; and also a figure based on the definitions above from national policy. The needs of those who are not

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<sup>66</sup> [Authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

<sup>67</sup> [Planning policy for traveller sites - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

covered in the GTAA will be addressed through the Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment ('OGNA').

477. One of the aims of Government is working collaboratively to develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites. Given the transient nature of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, collaborative working with neighbourhood authorities has played an important role and will continue to play an important role as the Oxfordshire Plan progresses. The Oxfordshire Plan provides an opportunity to work collaboratively to develop a county-wide strategy to meet these needs.

478. The GTAA will assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople for the period 2020-2035 and consider potential future needs up to 2050 for the whole of the county. It will quantify the accommodation needs, relating to permanent pitches/plots, sites/yards, and transit sites and/or negotiated stopping arrangements. The GTAA will not recommend any sites for allocation; this will be done via local plans and the Oxfordshire Plan will provide the overarching strategic framework.

## **Policy Options**

479. The proposed policy options relating to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople have been informed by the emerging evidence base, primarily the Oxfordshire GTAA. The GTAA will provide a need figure for each local authority, as well as advising on potential strategic approaches, but site allocations will remain with the local plan.

480. Due to COVID-19, the preparation of the GTAA has been delayed with the household surveys unable to be completed prior to this consultation. It is anticipated these will resume shortly and the final GTAA will be published at the next stage of consultation (Regulation 19).

## **Preferred Policy Option**

### **Policy Option 32: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople**

The Oxfordshire Plan will set out an Oxfordshire-wide need figure and local planning authority breakdowns in 5-year tranches per each authority.

The Oxfordshire Plan will set out locational criteria for the provision of pitches for Gypsies and Travellers, plots for Travelling Showpeople and transit sites/pitches, this may include, but is not limited to:

- Safe access for pedestrians and vehicles;
- Accessibility to facilities and services;
- Availability of utilities;
- Green Belt (subject to the provisions of the NPPF);
- Landscape – e.g. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty(subject to the provisions of the NPPF);
- Flooding;
- Historic and natural environment;
- Accessibility to preferred routes on the highway network; and

- Impact on human health/ natural environment/ local amenity.

# Spatial Strategy Options

## Introduction

481. This part of the Plan outlines the spatial strategy options on which we are seeking views. It begins by explaining the purpose of the options, the principles on which they are based, the criteria used to evaluate them and links with the Sustainability Appraisal process. The section outlines the scale and distribution of committed growth in Oxfordshire's existing local plans and goes on to describe five spatial strategy options. This part of the Plan concludes with a section on the process for selecting a preferred spatial strategy option and broad locations for growth in the Regulation 19 Plan.

## Proposed Spatial Strategy

482. At this stage in the Plan preparation process, we are not identifying individual spatial strategy options that can necessarily accommodate all of Oxfordshire's growth over the next 30 years. Nor is any one of the options, taken in isolation, likely to form Oxfordshire's eventual long-term spatial strategy. It is much more likely that the preferred strategy in the Regulation 19 Plan will comprise components from more than one of the options which, when combined together and depending on how robust the potential interventions are likely to be, will most effectively deliver the Plan's priorities and the outcomes set out in the Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire.

483. Presenting a set of options allows us to explore how, and the extent to which, each option would deliver Oxfordshire's ambitions for long-term, transformative, sustainable development. The options have been broadly defined to consider opportunities for 'good' housing and economic growth, but also opportunities for a wider range of improvements that contribute to 'good growth', including new infrastructure and environmental enhancements, as well as the scope for enhancing the beneficial use of the Green Belt, and constraints.

484. It is important that each of the options is 'reasonable', clearly defined and sufficiently distinctive to allow for robust testing as part of the plan-making process. Nevertheless, the five spatial strategy options are underpinned by a set of **common principles**.

- All options help deliver the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision and the Plan's Vision & Objectives. They seek to align economic, social and environmental objectives – though each option does this in different ways and to varying degrees because each is based on a different key driver for transformation.
- All options make effective use of land by planning positively for re-use of previously developed or brownfield land, including under-utilised land and buildings as urban regeneration schemes.
- All options prioritise the environment as a common thread that flows from the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision. This includes climate change, nature recovery, natural capital and enhanced resilience. This means there is no separate environment-led option.

- All options support the City of Oxford as the key driver for good growth within Oxfordshire.
- All options give priority to national policies that protect areas or assets that are of particular intrinsic importance and are likely to endure over the whole Plan period **and** are likely to impact on the distribution of development at the strategic scale.
- All options will seek to influence and shape the priorities within the emerging Spatial Framework for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.
- All options recognise that in the short-term, adopted local plans will be particularly important in shaping Oxfordshire's spatial strategy, but that over the longer-term – the 30-year time-span of the Oxfordshire Plan – there is greater scope to effect change, but also greater uncertainty.

485. To evaluate the options, we have identified what the three overarching objectives of sustainable development mean in an Oxfordshire context and set them out as a set of **criteria**. There is a strong read-across between these criteria, Oxfordshire's Strategic Vision and this Plan's Vision & Objectives.

1. Guiding new development to the most sustainable locations.
2. Using land effectively by planning positively for brownfield land and supporting urban regeneration.
3. Protection and enhancement of Oxfordshire's highly valued countryside and landscape.
4. Enhancement of the network of green spaces and blue infrastructure in urban and rural areas in ways that deliver social, economic and environmental benefits.
5. Support for nature's recovery in ways that optimise the range of economic and social benefits that nature provides.
6. Creation of places that build community resilience in terms of climate change, health of habitats and healthy place-shaping.
7. Maintenance of an effective Green Belt around Oxford and enhancement of its beneficial use in line with national policy.
8. Planning for growth opportunities that will reduce inequalities and improve the health and wellbeing of the most disadvantaged.
9. Strengthening the conditions that support our network for economic activity comprising innovation hubs and clusters and corridors based on science and technology and other key economic assets.
10. Reducing the need to travel and improving connectivity, with new development located where there is existing or planned sustainable transport links (or the potential for such links based on new investment) and the potential for active travel.
11. Planning for further development at existing settlements where this can be done sustainably.
12. Contributing to the success of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.

486. The evaluation of the options presented here is consistent, robust, objective, evidence-based, transparent and sets out at a high level the positive and negative impacts of each option and the interventions that would be required to deliver it.

487. The **Sustainability Appraisal** has played – and will continue to play – an important ongoing role in strategy and option development. The 'Introducing

the Oxfordshire Plan 2050' consultation document included the following set of spatial scenario typologies:

### **Spatial Scenario Typologies, February 2019**

- Scenario 1: Intensification of city, town and district centres
- Scenario 2: New settlements
- Scenario 3: Dispersal with development spread evenly across the county, including in smaller settlements
- Scenario 4: 'Wheel' settlement cluster with a focus on Oxford and the existing larger towns and key corridors into Oxford and between towns
- Scenario 5: Intensification around the edges of larger settlements and strategic extensions
- Scenario 6: Spokes and hubs with a continued focus on Oxford and key corridors into Oxford
- Scenario 7: 'String' settlement/ settlement cluster with development focused on a number of linked settlements.

488. These typologies were further refined following public consultation to inform the following set of eight potential alternatives for the spatial distribution of growth for consideration through the Sustainability Appraisal of the Oxfordshire Plan.

### **Spatial Alternatives, July 2020**

1. Intensification in existing towns and cities: Increase density of existing and planned settlements, prioritise brownfield sites.
2. Intensification of housing development around strategic economic assets: Co-location of uses to meet business and research park needs.
3. Public transport 'Wheel' (transport-led): Concentrate development around areas of good public transport connectivity.
4. Rail 'String' (transport-led): Locate string of settlements along new/upgraded rail corridors (e.g. Cowley line).
5. OxCam 'String' (transport-led): New development along route of OxCam Expressway, once the route has been decided, consistent with NIC Growth Deal aspirations.
6. Strategic road junctions: Concentrate development around strategic road junctions.

7. Proportionate dispersed growth between existing settlements (needs-led): Oxford, towns and villages.
8. New settlements with new strategic transport connections.
9. Protect environmental assets (environment-led): Identify environmental constraints first (eg. strategic green and blue infrastructure, historic environment, flooding, AONB and other sensitive landscapes, best and most versatile agricultural land etc, possibly through natural capital mapping), then place housing and employment where they avoid significant impacts and enable enhancements.

*Source: Oxfordshire Plan 2050, Sustainability Appraisal – Alternatives, LUC in association with Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants, July 2020*

489. Alternatives 5 & 6 which would focus development on roads (the Oxford-Cambridge expressway for Alternative 5 and existing road junctions for Alternative 6) were the least sustainable alternatives of the nine considered through the Sustainability Appraisal. The expressway was formally cancelled by Government on 18 March 2021 after analysis showed that the proposed project would not be cost-effective, with any benefits outweighed by the costs.
490. Alternative 5 is no longer considered 'reasonable' and it has been discounted from further consideration.
491. Alternative 6 was assessed as having significant negative effects across a range of SA objectives, including health, reliance on the car, climate change, pollution, soils and efficient use of land, biodiversity and geodiversity and landscape. This alternative is also not considered 'reasonable' and none of the spatial options put forward at this stage focuses development on roads.
492. Alternative 8 (new settlements with new strategic transport connections) was assessed as having a mix of positive and negative effects, depending on the scale of new settlements, their location and the type of strategic transport connections created. New settlements have not been taken forward as a separate strategic spatial option in the Plan; rather a new settlement (or settlements) is considered as a spatial typology that could potentially help deliver several of the strategic options set out in this document.

## The level of 'committed growth'

493. As noted in the section on housing, the OGNA was commissioned because we recognised at the outset that in order for the Oxfordshire Plan to be robust, we would require a different approach to assessing Oxfordshire's long-term growth needs. The commissioning brief for the OGNA recorded:
494. *'National planning policy requires an assessment of Local Housing Need based on a standard methodology as set out in the PPG. However, there are limitations and uncertainties in applying a methodology over such a long timescale when it has been designed on the basis of 10 to 15-year local plans. For example, forecasting affordable housing need is particularly sensitive to*

*market and pricing fluctuations so it is challenging to forecast over a long timescale to 2050.*

495. *As such the city/district councils are commissioning this assessment to provide bespoke analysis of the growth needs for Oxfordshire to supplement the Standard Methodology, to inform the preparation of the Oxfordshire Plan and which is capable of satisfying the soundness requirements for Examination.*

496. *The aim of this study is to identify numerical scenarios for sustainable housing and economic growth needs in Oxfordshire over the period 2020-2050 based on consideration of key drivers including the housing market, demography and the economy. Taken together, the scenarios will provide a tool that policy-makers can use when developing policies for the Oxfordshire Plan.'*

497. The OGNA ranges appear in the emerging Oxfordshire Plan at the Regulation 18 stage as the scale of future growth that the Plan has to consider up to 2050 is a fundamental part of the what the Plan is being created to do. At the Regulation 19 stage (the next stage), the Plan will set the broad areas of growth, with policies that will apply to 2050 and the monitoring and infrastructure elements. But the plan also draws on the Growth Board Strategic Vision that has been adopted by each Council and a series of Objectives that have led to a series of Themes for grouping proposed policies.

498. The Oxfordshire Plan and the Growth Board's Strategic Vision include an agreed broadly-based definition of 'good growth'. This is important as rather than seeing economic, social and environmental objectives as competing demands that need to be balanced or prioritised, our approach is to align and integrate all our priorities.

499. But in testing the OGNA ranges, we need to consider what the Plan is trying to achieve as whole (including for example, on Climate Change and Environmental quality). We also need to consider the level of growth set out in the adopted local plans for Oxfordshire which runs into the time period of the Oxfordshire Plan.

500. As noted in the earlier plan section (Homes: How many? Commitments and locations) Oxfordshire has five adopted local plans with committed growth running from 2020 (the starting date for the Oxfordshire Plan) onwards and in 3 of the Districts there are strategic sites that will continue to be built out beyond the end of the local plan period which the Oxfordshire Plan needs to take into account too.

501. This committed growth (taken from local plan trajectories, based on allocated sites) has to be taken into account. The OGNA figure minus committed growth leaves a 'residual' figure.

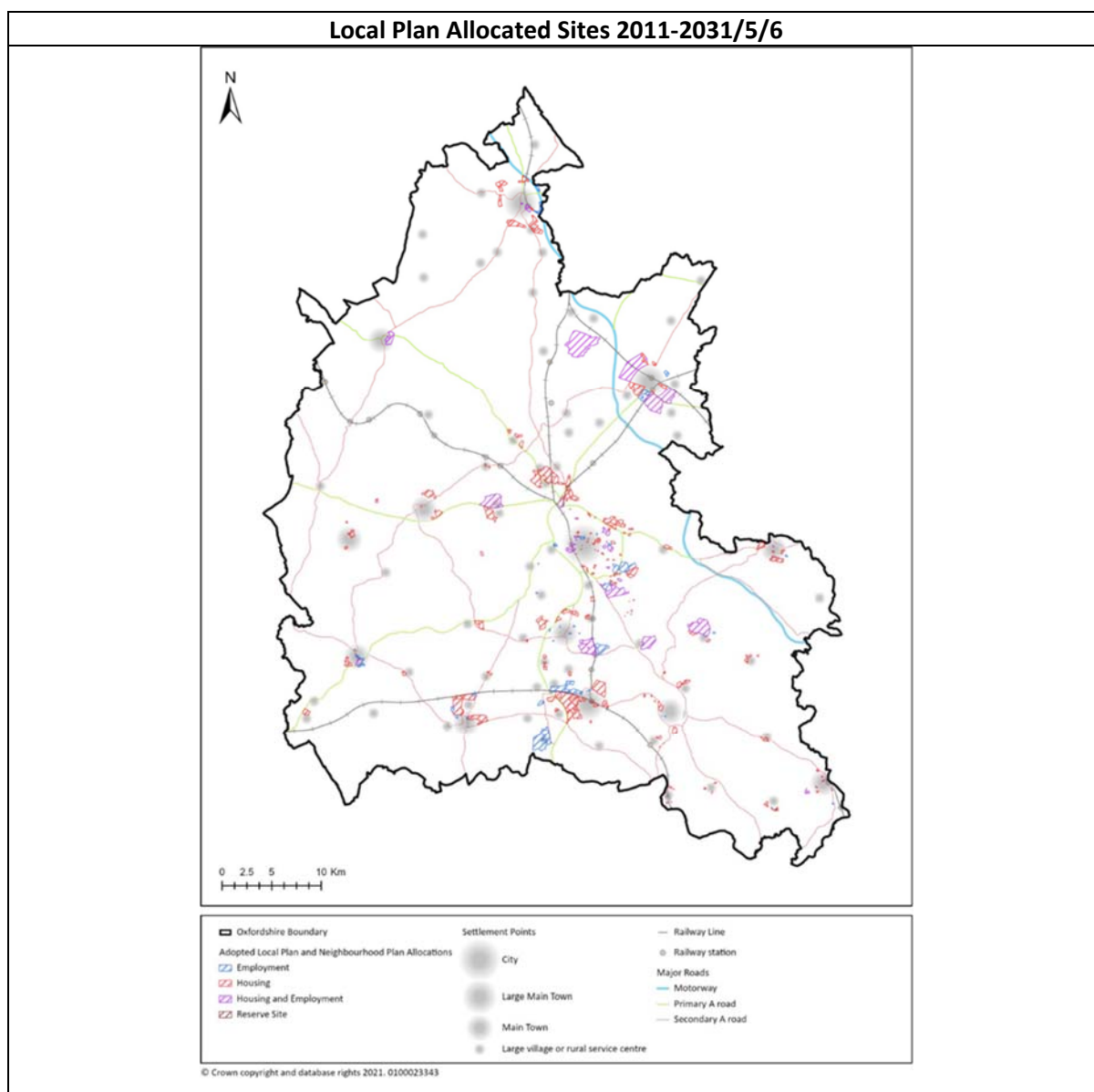
502. The decision on where on the range the figure for Oxfordshire should sit cannot be taken at this stage (Regulation 18 Part 2). This decision is to be informed by the outcome of the evaluation and evidence in the next phase of plan-making.

503. For the local planning authorities to take that decision in due course, it is recognised that there must be an appropriate set of spatial options that have

been consulted upon (the Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation undertakes this) and then have undertaken further technical testing and an assessment of different site proposals that have been sent to us for consideration, a process that includes a consideration of the Plan's Vision, its objectives and the five policy themes of the Plan (Climate Change, Environmental quality etc).

504. This process of evaluation will be undertaken early in the period between Regulation 18 Part 2 and Regulation 19, the next consultation stage (due to be undertaken in May 2022). This Regulation 18 Part 2 Plan contains a section setting out how the Plan is to proceed from Regulation 18 to Regulation 19 through this process of evaluation.

505. The spatial strategy options also take account of the locations of growth from the adopted local plans.



## The Spatial Strategy Options

506. We are consulting on five spatial strategy options:

- Option 1 Focus on opportunities at larger settlements and planned growth locations.
- Option 2 Focus on Oxford-led growth.
- Option 3 Focus on opportunities in sustainable transport corridors & at strategic transport hubs.
- Option 4 Focus on strengthening business locations.
- Option 5 Focus on supporting rural communities.

507. These five options are seen as being clear and distinctive high-level 'reasonable alternatives' to consult on at Regulation 18.

- Option 1 aims to add more growth onto the growth level and locations set out in the adopted local plans.
- Options 2 to 5 are more transformational.

508. Each option is high level and helps identify how new housing, employment and other development could be distributed, and where there are opportunities for environmental enhancement and infrastructure improvements.

509. Each spatial strategy option shows the current local plan allocations for reference purposes.

510. Each option includes detail of scope and justification and most importantly the delivery challenges, as there are no easy options. No one option appears able to accommodate all of the proposed additional Plan growth on top of the growth associated with the existing adopted local plans. It is anticipated that a mix of options will be needed to deliver our spatial strategy.

## **Option 1: Focus on opportunities at larger settlements & planned growth locations**

### **Scope & scale**

This option would distribute the bulk of growth to 2050 to those locations that have accommodated the majority of five local plan allocations in the first phase of the Plan up to the mid-2030s, on the edges of the towns, the City and former MoD sites (such as Heyford Park, Chalgrove Airfield, Carterton/Brize Norton & Dalton Barracks) ie the growth would be focused in line with current adopted Local Plan strategies.

It would also include opportunities for urban renewal, intensification and brownfield redevelopment.

The focus of this option would be strategic scale housing growth at existing market towns, Oxford, former MOD sites and planned garden communities. As a result, if this were pursued as an option, it would include consideration of growth proposals that would bring more development to locations already receiving a high level of growth and constitute an extension of the existing local plan strategies, adding to the pattern of existing and planned infrastructure investment.

The limits of the option are that it is not the easy option it first appears due to transport issues at a number of locations, such as Banbury that may limit the ability to absorb more growth and limited land availability at Didcot.

This option does **not** include consideration of new settlements beyond those identified in existing local plans.

The scope of this option includes all of the top-tier settlements within each local plan settlement hierarchy as well as rural service centres that have plans to accommodate significant growth and new planned garden communities.

Oxford	Cherwell	South	Vale	West
Oxford	Banbury Bicester Begbroke/Kidlington/Yarnton Heyford Park	Didcot Henley Thame Wallingford Berinsfield Chalgrove Airfield Culham	Abingdon Faringdon Grove Wantage	Carterton/Brize Norton Chipping Norton Witney Eynsham Woodstock

### Justification

Many stakeholders and communities have already expressed views about the merits of this proposed development distribution during the development of the five District local plans. The strategies underpinning these plans were shaped to a significant degree by the previous Structure Plan for Oxfordshire which concentrated growth at County Towns, as well as the more recent challenge of accommodating Oxford's unmet housing needs outside of the city administrative area in the neighbouring Districts.

The existing distribution of allocated growth has been found sound and sustainable through five independent examinations of the current adopted local plans for each District, which also concluded that exceptional circumstances exist for the Green Belt boundary reviews that took place in the preparation of the Cherwell, Oxford City, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Plans.

There was significant opposition to the allocation of land in many Oxfordshire locations, particularly where it affected communities in the Green Belt in South Oxfordshire and Cherwell. Such locations are regarded as sustainable as they are situated in accessible locations for Oxford and many of the major economic growth and innovation areas for the county. Further development in these locations would require demonstration of 'exceptional circumstances', and subsequent Green Belt review.

This option would continue to focus growth to locations with the highest concentration of jobs, affordable housing need and sustainable transport connectivity, to ensure that development helped meet the needs of existing and future communities in a sustainable manner. The emphasis would be on growing existing communities and those locations previously determined to be the most

sustainable locations for strategic scale growth. Clearly, assessment would be required to identify the scale of what might be possible in specific locations.

The current local plans include allocations for a high level of development through new garden communities across Oxfordshire (e.g. at Bicester, Didcot, Salt Cross, Berinsfield and Dalton Barracks) which are being established during the first phase of the Oxfordshire Plan up to 2036. These new communities will be complemented by the delivery of new infrastructure which could accommodate further development beyond 2040.

This option includes areas of urban renewal, intensification within urban areas, opportunities for brownfield redevelopment (including at former MoD sites such as Heyford Park and Chalgrove Airfield and current areas of MoD housing such as Carterton and their adjoining areas) and would take account of the changing nature and role of town centres (in part arising from the COVID impacts on the retail sector).

This option would focus growth around existing sustainable transport nodes and proposed infrastructure investment to ensure communities have access to sustainable transport choices for movement within communities and for inter-urban connections. We wish to avoid the risk that growth at the edge of main settlements becomes increasingly distant from town centres and transport hubs. There is a need to ensure that connections are provided to maximise sustainability, with neighbourhood centres that do not detract from the viability/vitality of town centres.

This option could result in further expansion of settlements at the urban fringe, eroding rural character and the relationship with the surrounding countryside. Hence, the detailed assessment required prior to publication of the Regulation 19 Plan. As we know, planned growth already takes us to the limits of what is acceptable at some settlements in terms of constraints. A number of towns face significant challenges in entertaining additional growth such as Banbury, where the current pattern of connectivity is severely stretched with considerable infrastructure challenges to resolve to deliver the level of planned growth associated with the adopted local plans. The same is also the case at Didcot and the edge of Oxford.

This option excludes new significant level growth at the villages of Oxfordshire.

New settlements do not form part of this strategy option.

## **Opportunities**

Opportunities and sustainability gains to be secured where growth is considered include:

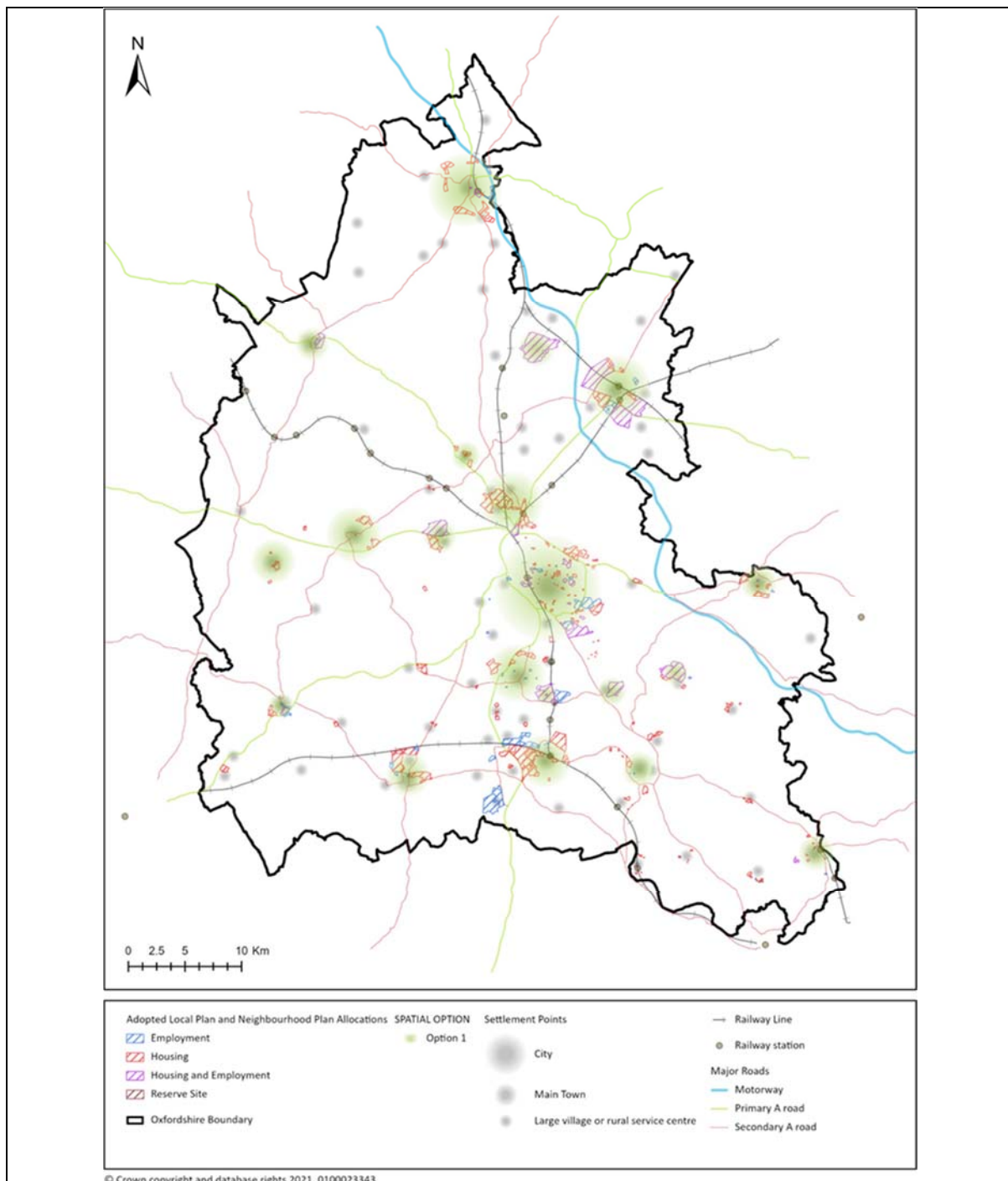
- Securing brownfield redevelopment
- Addressing the changing role of town centres
- Meeting affordable housing needs
- Concentration around sustainable transport nodes and supporting sustainable travel movements
- Opportunities for multi modal travel
- Strengthened community services and facilities in most accessible locations / Strengthening existing role of settlements.
- Meeting the needs of an ageing population
- Addressing existing deprivation

- Links to OxIS and existing planned infrastructure where capacity allows
- Securing '20 minutes neighbourhoods'
- Extended walking and cycling provision including connections to regional routes.
- Supporting a mixed economy – balancing jobs and housing growth.

Note: There may be an opportunity to create a new tier within the settlement hierarchy, associated with the settlement potential work, that draws out a vision for the settlements to 2050 which takes account of opportunities and constraints and would include:

- City – main hub/centre
- Bigger Towns – between the city & market towns. Could be grown to have an extended role/function and significant new services/facilities (could include Bicester, Didcot).
- Market Towns – more traditional scale/character/role/function

**Option 1 – Focus on opportunities at larger settlements and planned growth locations.**



## Option 2: Focus on Oxford-led growth

### Scope & scale

This option covers urban intensification within the City of Oxford, new or extended urban extensions on the edge of the City.

It includes consideration of growth proposals that are well-connected to the city or are potential extensions to planned growth sites on city edge related to growth in the current adopted local plans and employment sites on the edge of the city that form an Oxford-focused cluster. This may require consideration of a need for a further Green Belt release if the 'exceptional circumstances' test can be met.

The limits of the option are that we know there are significant constraints on what can be achieved within the current administrative area of Oxford, as while there is some potential for more urban renewal and transformation within the city over a 30 year period, it is likely to be modest in scale. Following the release of land on the edge of the city in the Cherwell, South and Vale local plans there are only limited options for additional growth, but some options being promoted which should be tested. The big challenge is to secure the integration of major sites, transport connectivity and green infrastructure connections.

Our aim is to seek to retain the current economic-housing balance, so do not anticipate changes of use to established economic sites.

This option does **not** include consideration of new settlements.

The focus of this option will be on the City and its immediate locale, recognising the role that Oxford plays as a vital economic node, its function as the main service centre and key focal point for the county as a whole. New city-focused growth would aim to support and strengthen Oxford's role as a global centre for knowledge and innovation and its role as a modest sized compact city, as well as one of the anchors of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.

If new or extended urban extensions were to be considered it is anticipated that Green Belt land would be required. This option could include consideration of enhancement to the Green Belt adjoining the city for beneficial public uses, such as new parkland.

### Justification

This option would focus growth within the city and its immediate hinterland to capitalise on economic growth in the city utilising sustainable transport connections, rail, bus and cycling, such as the west end regeneration centred on the Oxford rail station improvement or at the Parkway station, Cowley Branch Line and Park and Rides to support prosperity in the rest of the county.

Recognising the significant role of the city as a global centre/leader in knowledge and innovation, as driver of the county economy and the importance of Oxford as an anchor in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc and how building on the strengths of the city and meeting the needs of its communities will underpin regional prosperity.

The challenge faced by Oxford in meeting its full housing need, as well as an urgent need to provide more affordable housing led to four local plans neighbouring Oxford meeting its unmet housing need up to 2031/36. Improved cycling links and public transport connections are being put in place to ensure that the new development areas fully integrate with the city.

The focus on 'levelling up' within the city in order to support a more productive economy and to deliver inclusive growth will lead to new approaches to regeneration and housing delivery.

Further development on the edge in the Green Belt (that meets the 'exceptional circumstances' test) should be to a high design quality, together with improved connectivity to the city, reinforce the links to the business parks surrounding the city and invest in environment enhancements to the Green Belt around the edge of the city.

## **Opportunities**

Opportunities and sustainability gains to be secured where growth is considered include:

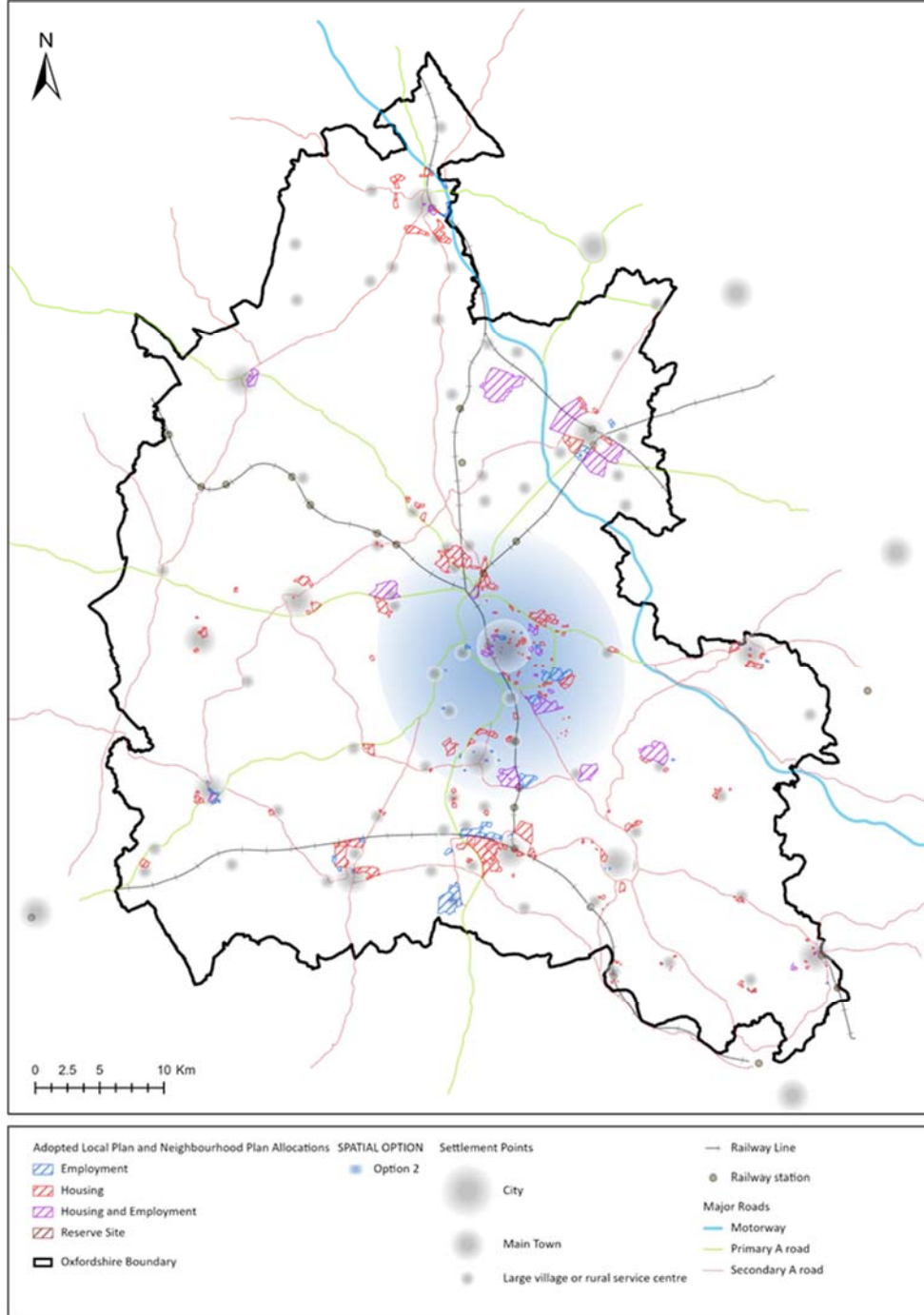
### **1) Securing wider economic opportunities:**

- Growing Oxford's (and subsequently Oxfordshire's) global role as a centre for knowledge and innovation
- Re-purposing of business and science parks with new economic uses as they age and new business activities need to be supported.

### **2) Securing local opportunities:**

- Growth related to Oxford's main service centre as a highly sustainable location
- A well-established network of sustainable and active travel to connect to
- Securing regeneration opportunities and some brownfield redevelopment
- Addressing engrained deprivation and reducing inequalities
- Responding to the changing role of town centres
- Co-location of jobs and housing
- Securing '20 minutes neighbourhoods'
- Extended walking and cycling provision including connections to regional routes
- Capitalising on skills
- Enhancing Green Belt for its beneficial uses - for people as well as nature.

## Option 2 – Focus on Oxford led Growth.



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### Option 3: Focus on opportunities in sustainable transport corridors & at strategic transport hubs

#### Scope & scale

This option covers new growth based in the most sustainable transport corridors, where frequent bus services operate and rail stations act as transport hubs. This includes new rail stations being planned through strategies such as the Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study. This option aligns with the emerging Local Transport Connectivity Plan, being prepared by Oxfordshire County Council.

It includes consideration of growth proposals that sit within the main public transport corridors, both rail and bus, linking the rural parts of Oxfordshire with towns and key employment locations and the city itself where the highest density of public transport corridors is focused (and thus not all of the M40 is included). It also takes account of existing and planned key transport hubs. The aim is to align future growth with transport infrastructure investment. The strategy would continue to concentrate Oxfordshire's population through the identified corridors, including the main settlements and potentially at lower order settlements and new settlements within these corridors.

This option **does** include consideration of new settlements. Development may be generated from transport investment that improves the sustainability of particular locations.

This option focuses on bus and rail corridors for the purpose of considering an option. Vehicles will become much more sustainable over the plan period as the switch to electric accelerates.

#### Bus Routes

- Existing: High frequency bus routes and rapid transport routes.
- New: Need to consider the quantum of growth required to deliver bus routes? A new national bus strategy and bus services implementation plan is due from Government shortly; this is too soon to account for at the Regulation 18 stage and will input at the Regulation 19 stage.

#### Trains

- Existing: Based on the location of stations (nodes) with a walking/cycling distance buffer around existing stations. Not all stations play an equal role as some are major hubs, others smaller.
- New: Opportunities related to new stations or improved services at existing stations. A new national rail strategy is due from Government shortly; this is too soon to account for at the Regulation 18 stage and will input at the Regulation 19 stage.

#### Justification

The option fits with the zero carbon ambitions of the Oxfordshire Plan. Central to the Oxfordshire Plan vision and objectives is the need to address the causes of climate change and to improve the health and wellbeing of communities. Securing growth based on a sustainable transport network will be central to achieving those

objectives and this option places the focus and emphasis on growth in areas with good public transport links. Our spatial strategy has moved away from putting the car first.

The focus and emphasis of this option is on the existing public transport network and primarily locations that are connected with Oxford and thus form part of the first/last mile considerations. This option may result in a hub and spoke pattern of development with future growth focussed in areas with good public transport connectivity to Oxford, with new development focused on transport nodes such as Oxford Parkway and the regeneration of Oxford station and growth associated with Culham station and other new stations.

This option also considers wider area connections, such as between Oxfordshire and the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, the Thames corridor and M40 corridor, together with the relationship to major settlements close to the plan area, including Swindon and Reading.

This option would focus growth at locations within or connected to the highest concentrations of jobs, affordable housing need and sustainable transport connectivity, to ensure that development was well placed to meet the needs of existing and future communities in a sustainable manner. The emphasis would be on ensuring that future communities, whether part of an expanding settlement or new garden community would be well connected to the sustainable transport network.

This option could support areas where urban renewal, intensification within urban areas, or opportunities for brownfield redevelopment can be triggered by transport improvements (such as new railway stations and extending rail services on the Great Western Line, or following the upgrade to Oxford Station, including the North Cotswold Line, East-West Rail and the line to Didcot) as well as new rapid bus connections and would also take account of the changing nature and role of town centres.

It may result in the establishment of new garden communities where they are well related to existing or planned sustainable transport infrastructure investment such as on the Oxfordshire rail network, not in isolated locations.

This option would closely align with the LTCP vision including active and healthy travel, encouraging healthy choices, promoting the use of public transport and improved regional and local connectivity.

The option considers 'Connectivity for all', not just those who are able to drive. Public transport provisions meet the needs of younger and older people, those with disabilities & those on lower incomes.

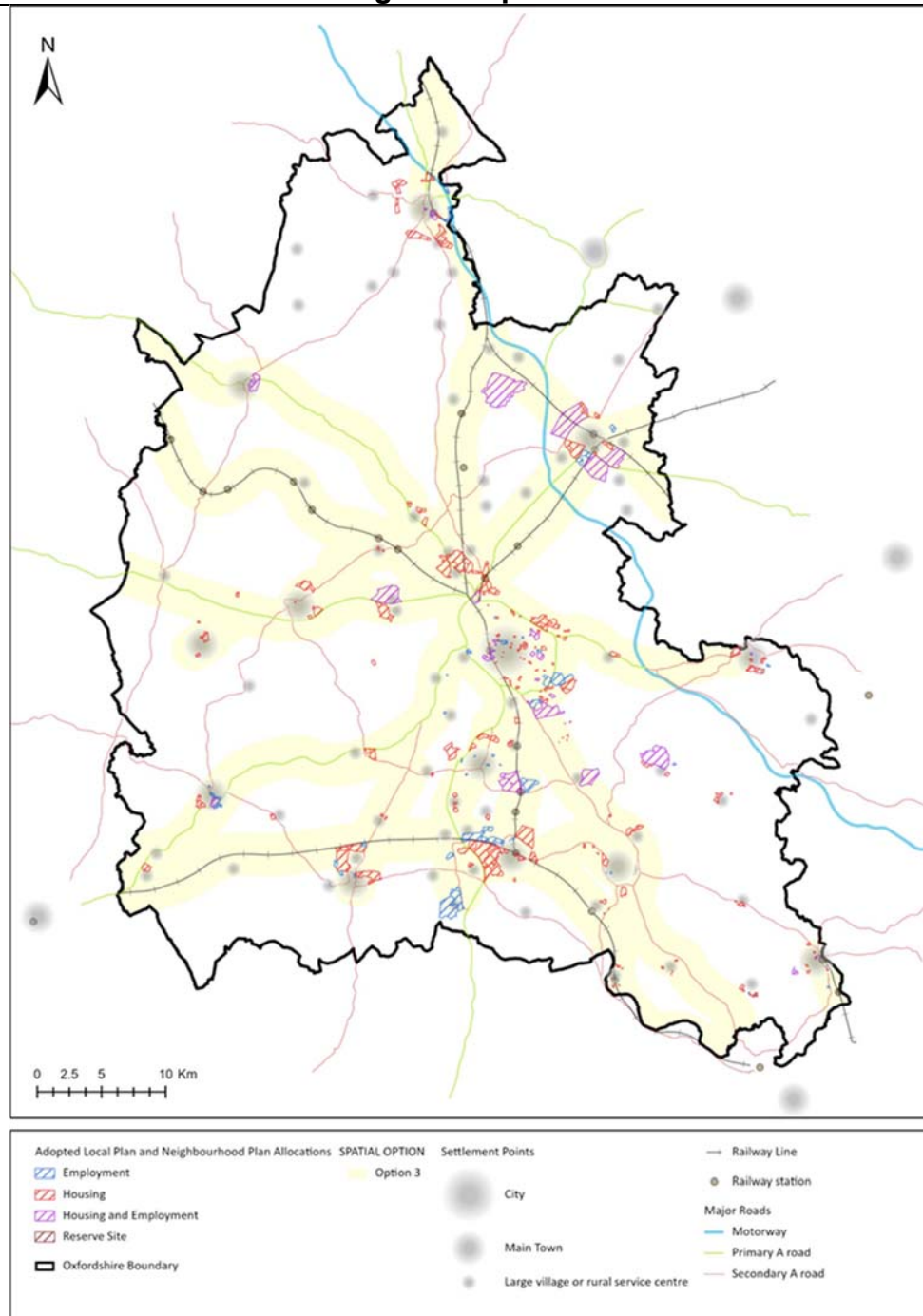
## **Opportunities**

Opportunities and sustainability gains to be secured where growth is considered include:

- Concentration around sustainable transport nodes and supporting sustainable travel movements
- Opportunities for multi modal travel and integrated transport networks
- Enhancing sustainable transport and building on existing infrastructure

- Links to OxIS and existing planned infrastructure where capacity allows
- Decarbonising the transport network
- Establishment of new settlements in sustainable locations
- The potential to create new and/or improved sustainable transport hubs/corridors.
- Strengthened community services and facilities in most accessible locations
- Meeting the needs of an ageing population
- Addressing existing deprivation
- Securing brownfield redevelopment
- Addressing the changing role of town centres
- Meeting affordable housing needs where they arise
- Supporting a mixed economy – balancing jobs and housing growth.
- Distributing growth away from locations that have experienced significant growth in first phase of plan and are allocated through adopted local plans.
- Securing '20 minutes neighbourhoods'
- Extended walking and cycling provision including connections to regional routes.
- Moving away from car dependent developments.

### Option 3 - Focus on opportunities in sustainable transport corridors & at strategic transport hubs.



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## Option 4: Focus on strengthening business locations

### Scope & scale

This option centres on the network of business and science parks that covers Oxfordshire and particularly those identified as priority economic assets in the OXLEP LIS key locations within Oxfordshire's 'innovation ecosystem'.

This option includes consideration of growth proposals that would extend business and science parks or create new ones, with housing and residential areas alongside, co-located with these economic hubs, to reduce the need to travel and to create more sustainable locations. This option does not support the conversion of business parks themselves for housing.

This option would also include the intensification of economic activities at the business and science parks, building on current economic strengths in key sectors such as life sciences and advanced engineering, as new economic innovations are applied, and buildings need to be repurposed to support new economic activities and create more jobs. As the OXLEP LIS highlights, as current and new economic sectors grow, the demand for employment space will grow further. It is also anticipated that as the Oxford to Cambridge Arc takes shape over the next 20 to 30 years, more land for economic purposes will be required, especially as the economy gradually converts to zero carbon and new economic opportunities arise for the wider economy and SMEs as a result.

The option would focus new growth where it would help to support/strengthen Oxfordshire's key economic assets and take account of key economic assets identified in the LIS that are not yet built out. The limits of the option are that it is anticipated that the opportunity to undertake the sort of residential growth alongside the network of business parks that is proposed in this option is modest.

This option **could** include the creation of new settlements, where new business and science parks are proposed as part of a comprehensive, mixed use development proposal.

Location identified in LIS (Figure 10)	
Banbury	Oxford Brookes University
Begbroke Science Park	Oxford Business Park
Bicester Garden Town	Oxford Centre for Innovation
Carterton/Brize Norton	Oxford North
Culham Science Centre	Oxford Science Park
Didcot Garden Town	Oxford Station and West End
Grove Technology Park	Oxford Technology Park
Harwell Campus	Oxford University
Headington Hospital Quarter	Salt Cross garden Village
Heyford Park	Shrivenham Defence Academy
Howbery Park	The Quadrant, Abingdon
Milton Park	Witney Business and Innovation Centre
Osney Meads Innovation Quarter	

## **Justification**

Oxfordshire is at the centre of innovation for the UK. It has a strong network of science parks and innovation firms across the county, with towns such as Bicester and Banbury, Carterton and locations such as Heyford Park all playing an important role, alongside the globally significant Science Vale with its critical economic assets at Culham and Harwell and the City of Oxford, with its universities, at the heart of the county-wide network.

The strength of Oxfordshire's economy has been and will be driven to a large extent by innovation sectors and business clusters within towns such as Bicester and Didcot as well as transformative technologies developed through the universities and the network of business and science parks in Oxfordshire.

The challenges in retaining growth in these key sectors and enabling business to establish themselves and grow in Oxfordshire are well recognised and include the availability of space for business to grow, the availability of affordable housing and capacity in the transport and infrastructure network.

This option supports clean economic growth to support innovation and economic prosperity across the county. The option would support the intensification and extension of existing business and science sites and emphasises supporting innovation and securing innovation centres, live-work units and building on the recent Treasury Plan for Growth.

Supporting the growth and sustainability of Oxfordshire's innovation ecosystem will help support a balanced economy across Oxfordshire so that prosperity is shared. This option includes the potential to renew and strengthen the economic role of our city and town centres.

The focus of this option is on the spatial relationship between these key innovation and economic growth clusters, with the emphasis on enhanced transport and digital connectivity and the co-location of housing and jobs to reduce the need for travel and create a more sustainable approach to growth.

This option takes account of a recent survey of key employment sites and their potential for growth.

The option also addresses the impact of COVID-19 and the long-term need for people to be located close to their workplaces - recognising lots of the work in the knowledge economy needs specialist equipment, laboratories, etc. Also, the business opportunities arising from MoD activities and technology support undertaken at military bases such as Brize Norton.

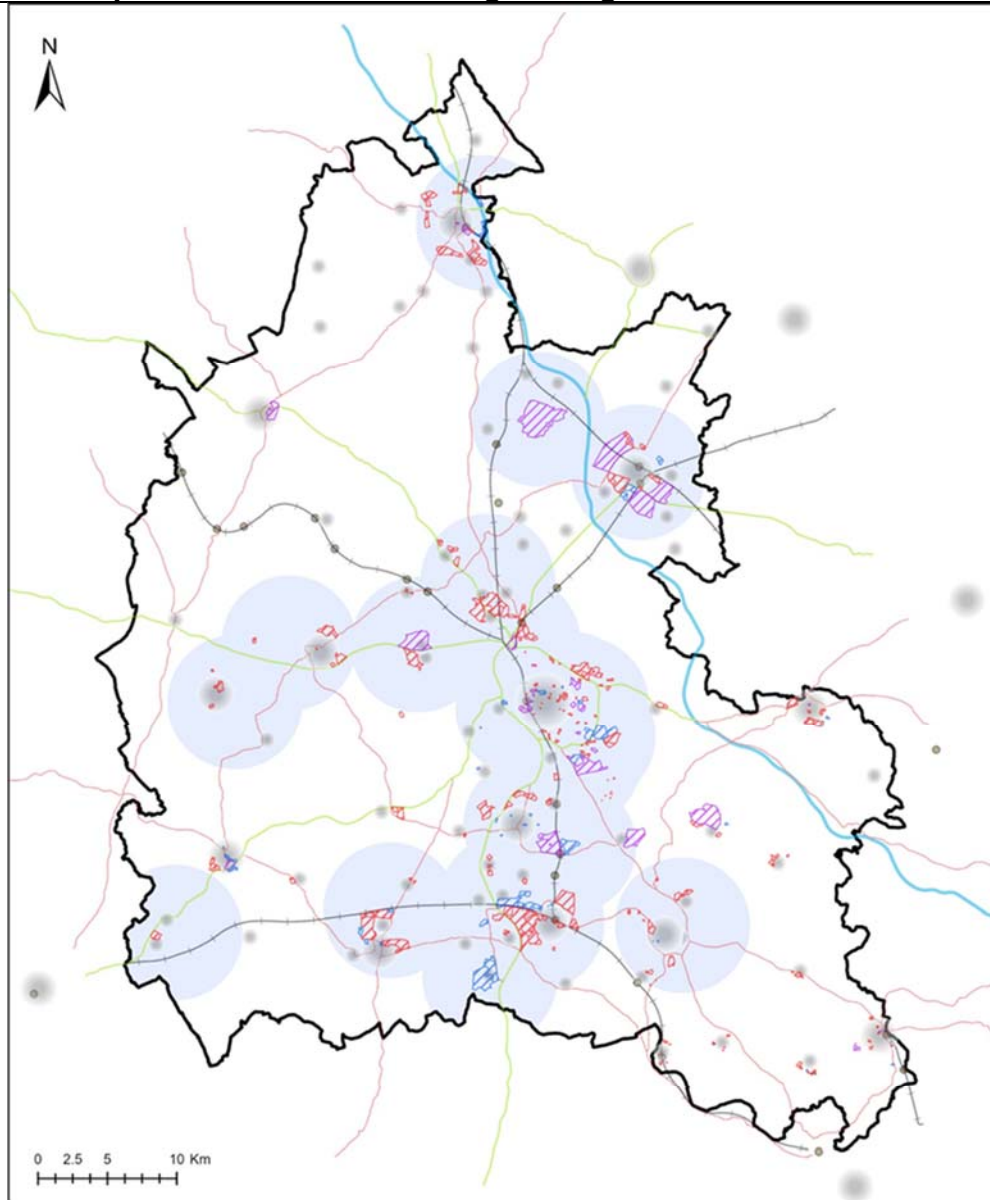
## **Opportunities**

Opportunities and sustainability gains to be secured where growth is considered include:

- A) Securing global economic opportunities:
  - Supporting the innovation ecosystem and the wider economy too
  - Securing affordable housing is a key issue to address to remove a key constraint on economic growth

- Spreading growth and investment (and the opportunities associated with this) across a wide geographical area and a wide range of key economic assets.
- B) Securing local (Oxfordshire) economic opportunities:
- Reducing the need to travel
  - Concentration of growth around sustainable transport nodes
  - Securing '20 minute neighbourhoods'
  - Extended walking and cycling provision including connections to regional routes.

#### Option 4 – Focus on strengthening business locations.



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## Option 5: Focus on supporting rural communities

### Scope & scale

This option covers rural Oxfordshire and focuses on the villages and areas between the villages.

It includes consideration of growth proposals beyond the areas supported through the current adopted local plans that might bring new investment and strengthen patronage in rural areas that is essential to support rural services (and improve access), improve access to education and shops etc. It could include new investment in the rural economy, new village clusters, as well as taking account of strong cross-boundary relationship with major settlements outside Oxfordshire, such as Swindon.

The scope for this option is to consider growth in rural settings away from the main service centres and top-tier settlements that will accommodate the current local plan-led growth up to the mid-2030s and a redirection of development to more rural parts of the county provided that suitable access to the public transport network and key services and facilities is possible.

The limits of the option are that we anticipate the SA and the other evidence that supports the Plan will show that there is a limit to the level of new growth that can be absorbed in each of the four rural Districts. We anticipate that limited rural growth will feature in the Regulation 19 Plan.

This option **does** include consideration of extending existing and allocated Garden Villages and establishing new settlements.

### Justification

Many villages have an aging population and have lost their services. Limited growth could arrest that decline and strengthen their sustainability. The most widespread deprivation factor in Oxfordshire relates to barriers to housing and services.

Such inequalities are less prevalent within the main market towns and settlements that are planned to grow from the sites allocated in the adopted local plans. The main settlements have benefitted from investment in infrastructure and affordable housing over a number of years and although deprivation and inequalities exist within these communities, rural areas have in many cases become increasingly isolated, particularly with the removal of public transport services and restricted growth.

This option would seek to address existing issues of isolation and rural deprivation by redirecting growth away from main settlements to where it could best address such inequalities; this approach is being taken in the current South Oxfordshire Plan with the Berinsfield Garden Village.

Regard will be had to infrastructure delivery and how investment in infrastructure in the first phase of the Plan might facilitate further growth beyond and up to 2050.

While there are settlements that might be strengthened by limited growth to improve accessibility, housing choice and service, it is anticipated that only modest levels of

growth would arise from this option due to constraints such as poor access and the limited capacity of rural roads.

It is likely that as farming practices and land stewardship continues to evolve, in response to climate change and policy changes around environmental stewardship, the process of farm diversification will lead to new innovations in the rural economy that will themselves support limited residential growth in rural areas.

It could involve support for new villages and modest growth at villages not faced by connectivity challenges. But a major dispersal of new growth across a wide range of villages would not be consistent with the Plan strategy as it is much harder to deliver strategic scale infrastructure and it is harder to deliver major change to meet zero carbon ambitions.

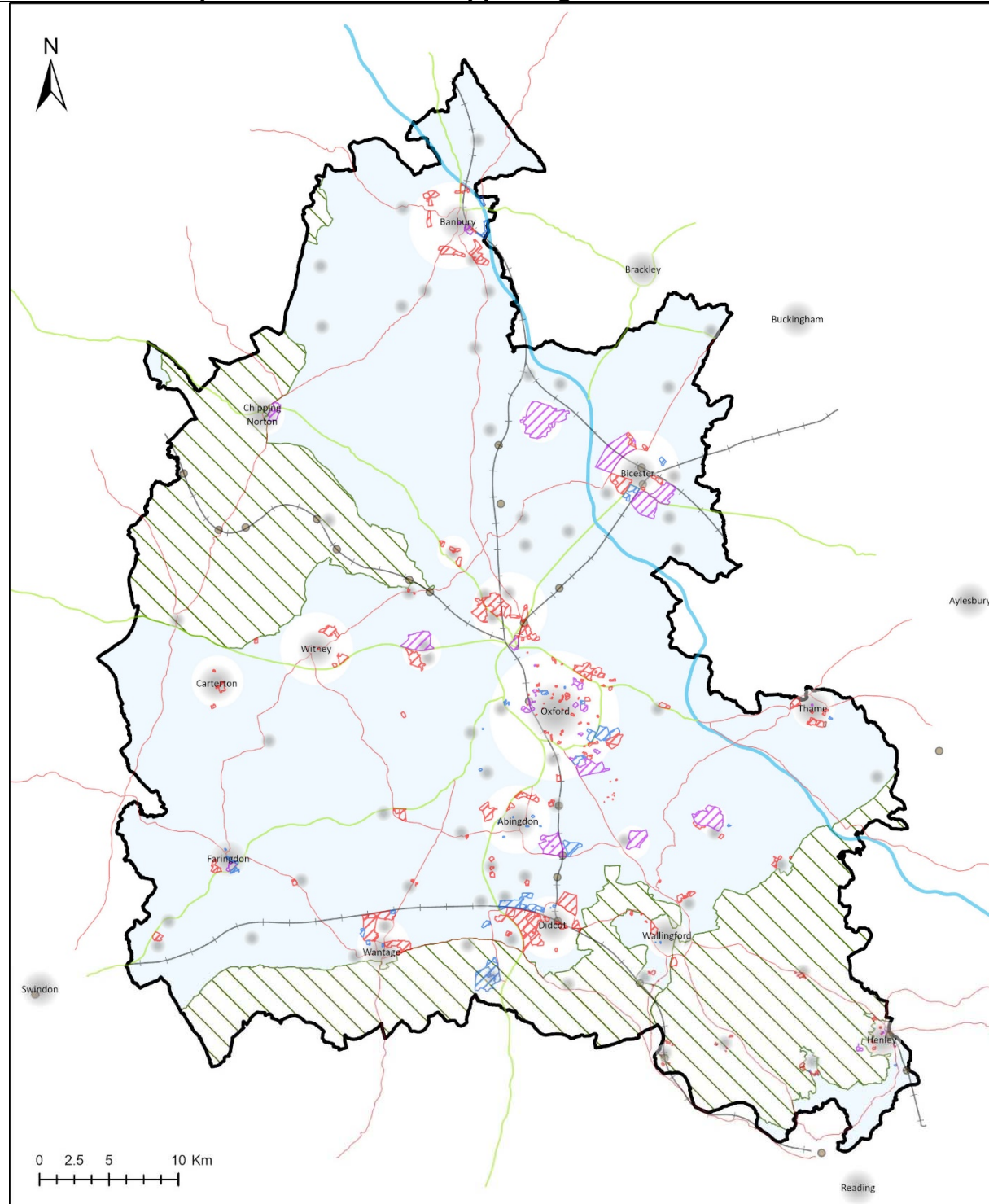
A number of locations would also currently be in the Green Belt and therefore any removal of land from the Green Belt would be subject to identifying the exceptional circumstances for doing so.

### **Opportunities**

Opportunities and sustainability gains to be secured where growth is considered include:

- Addressing rural deprivation and inequalities by improving access to services, facilities, homes and jobs in rural areas
- Maximising cross-boundary relationships
- Reducing pressure on main settlements
- Supporting the diversification of the rural economy
- Securing '20 minutes neighbourhoods' and delivering zero carbon growth
- Extended walking and cycling provision including connections to regional routes.

## Option 5 – Focus on supporting rural communities.



- |   |                |                                       |                  |
|---|----------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Adopted Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan Allocations | SPATIAL OPTION | Settlement Points                     | Railway Line     |
| Employment  | Option 5       | City                                  | Railway station  |
| Housing   |                | Main Town                             | Major Roads      |
| Housing and Employment                                |                | Large village or rural service centre | Motorway         |
| Reserve Site  |                |                                       | Primary A road   |
| Oxfordshire Boundary                                  |                |                                       | Secondary A road |

## Next Steps: Proceeding from Regulation 18 to Regulation 19

511. Following the consultation on the Regulation 18 Plan, a site options assessment will be undertaken using a series of steps to enable the 'Broad Areas of Growth' to be identified, taking account of current local plan allocations, new development proposals and opportunities for enhancement. This evaluation will involve testing of site options against the Oxfordshire Plan evidence-base using consistent data and baseline information.
512. Consideration will also be given to the strategic interventions required to deliver each spatial strategy option and the testing of each option against different scales of growth.
513. As noted in the section on the level of 'committed growth', a decision will also be taken as to where on the OGNA range the level of growth to be accommodated should be set at the end of 2021. This will take account of the level of 'committed' growth already met in the five adopted local plans from 2020 to 2031/5/6 onwards and thus consider a 'residual growth' figure for the 2031/5/6 period to 2050.
514. We anticipate that the Regulation 19 Plan will contain a mix of the five spatial options.
515. The assessment of site proposals in the period between Regulation 18 and 19 will also need to take account of the MHCLG-led Arc Spatial Framework as it emerges. It is possible that there may be growth requirements to be considered from that source.

STEP 1: (September 2021) Identify high-level spatial strategy options for distributing growth in Oxfordshire.

STEP 2: Testing of each of the high-level spatial strategy options, including Oxfordshire's growth requirements, opportunities & constraints.

This step will include the assessment of sites and will combine consideration of urban renewal and brownfield potential, the use of the HEELA and settlement capacity analysis, climate change and environmental enhancement opportunities, transport factors and issues arising from the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA), as well as reviewing the link to the Strategic Vision and Plan Objectives. The assessment will be published as part of the evidence base for the Regulation 19 Plan.

STEP 3: Selection of Spatial Strategy.

STEP 4: Identification of areas of focus.

STEP 5: Further testing of suitability, achievability, and deliverability to establish development capacity and sustainability of approach for Oxfordshire.

STEP 6: Confirm broad locations for growth (and any phasing) for the Oxfordshire Plan and each District.

STEP 7: (December 2021) Confirm level of growth within the OGNA range.

516. The conclusion of these steps will inform the 'broad locations of growth' that will be presented for consultation in the Regulation 19 Draft Oxfordshire Plan.

## The Draft Monitoring Framework

517. Effective monitoring is important to ensure that Plan policies are being implemented and are achieving their aims.
518. Our monitoring report will measure and report on the effectiveness of policies within the Oxfordshire Plan. It will report on a range of data to assess whether: policy targets have been met, or progress is being made towards meeting them; policy targets are not being met, or are not on track to being achieved, and the reasons for this; whether policies are having an impact in respect of national and local policy targets; and whether any other targets need adjusting or replacing because they are not working as intended; whether policies need changing to reflect changes in national policy or strategic needs appropriate infrastructure is being delivered to support growth.
519. If policies need changing the monitoring report will list the actions needed to achieve this. Our monitoring report will be published every 12 months.
520. For each policy in the Plan, we will develop an indicator and a target, which will be used to measure the policy's effectiveness. The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) also lists a number of 'significant effects indicators' which will be used to monitor the 'significant effects identified in the SA. Data collected on these indicators will be reported on in our monitoring report.
521. A set of trajectories for housing and employment to address delivery across the programme period as a whole will also be completed. These are of necessity indicative but provide a baseline against which overall implementation can be assessed. They include completions and strategic developments which have an existing planning permission.

### Delivering the Plan

522. Data on these indicators will be gathered and reported on an annual basis. We will also report on whether the established targets have been met, and, if not, what actions are to be taken to ensure they are met in future.
523. We have worked with our delivery partners including Oxfordshire County Council during the preparation of this Plan and its Infrastructure Delivery Plan (OxIS) to ensure the partnership is focused on the monitoring and delivery of strategic policies with the right infrastructure at the right times.
524. We will continue to work as a partnership of planning authorities through the Oxfordshire Growth Board and with the County Council and the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership. The Statement of Common Ground shows the joint working undertaken during the preparation of the Plan and details the various forums and organisations we work with on a regular basis to debate and coordinate strategic planning issues. Actions resulting from cooperation with other local planning authorities or organisations will be reported in the monitoring report.

525. Our Monitoring Report will assess the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan including the rate of delivery of allocated sites by measuring performance against the indicators identified in the Monitoring Framework.
526. Annual monitoring will inform future local plan reviews. These reviews may be in response to shortfalls in the implementation of the Plan's policies and in the delivery of infrastructure, to changes in national policy or strategic needs or due to the need to roll forward the Plan period.

## Joint Monitoring Framework

527. The Monitoring Framework will be developed in conjunction with the completion of the OxIS between the Regulation 18 and 19 stages. Linked to the OXIS monitoring system, metrics are likely to include:

### Climate Change and the Environment

- Carbon Emissions
- Climate Change Impact Resilience
- Natural Environment & Biodiversity
- Waste & Recycling
- Water & Noise Pollution

### Health

- Health Inequality
- Access to Spaces for Physical Activity
- Health Service Access
- Air Quality
- Mental Health & Wellbeing

### Communities and Place-Shaping

- Liveable Communities
- Community Safety & Security
- Heritage & Culture
- Socially Integrated Communities
- Inclusive & Integrated Active Travel

### Transport and Connectivity

- Digital Connectivity
- Clean & Secure Energy Grid Capacity
- Secure Water Supply & Wastewater
- Transport Connectivity & Performance within Oxfordshire
- Strategic Transport Connectivity

### The Economy and Productivity

- World Class Inclusive Education & Skills Development
- Reduce Oxfordshire's Socio-Economic Inequalities
- Attract & Retain Talent in Oxfordshire
- Global Business Innovation Ecosystem
- Drive Productive Economic Growth & Employment

### Housing

- Affordable Housing
- New modes of construction



## Oxfordshire Joint Statutory Spatial Plan

# Statement of Community Involvement July 2021

Produced by:



Supported by:



## **Statement of Community Involvement**

### **How the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will be prepared with Community and Stakeholder Engagement**

**July 2021**

#### **Introduction**

1. This is the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. It replaces the previous SCI adopted in February 2019.
2. This version provides updated information on the progress of the Oxfordshire Plan, including how community and stakeholder engagement will operate during the COVID-19 outbreak.
3. The six Oxfordshire Councils and the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OXLEP) have agreed the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal with Government. Under the terms of the Deal the local authorities have committed to producing a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (Oxfordshire Plan 2050) for submission to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination by September 2022 and adoption by May/June 2023, subject to examination process.
4. The Oxfordshire Plan will provide an Oxfordshire-wide, integrated strategic planning framework and supporting evidence base to support sustainable growth across the county to 2050, including the planned delivery of the new homes and economic development, and the anticipated supporting infrastructure needed.
5. Once adopted, the Oxfordshire Plan will be a formal Development Plan Document (DPD), prepared under Section 28 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) which enables two or more local planning authorities to agree to prepare a joint Plan. Oxfordshire County Council will support the plan preparation process. More details on the plan can be found in the Scoping Document<sup>1</sup>.
6. A JSSP Project Board was established in July 2018 to guide the preparation of the JSSP. The Oxfordshire Growth Board which includes the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) monitor progress on the Oxfordshire Plan, and approve its budget, reviewing the achievement of milestones as part of an annual review.
7. The Oxfordshire Plan is being prepared with community and stakeholder involvement at each stage of its development.
8. This SCI sets out how the Oxfordshire authorities inform, involve and consult interested parties on the preparation of the Oxfordshire Plan and when they will be engaged in the process. This SCI is specific to the production of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. The Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) also have their own individual SCIs related to the production of their Local Plans.
9. This SCI will ensure that the Oxfordshire Plan is shaped by early, proportionate and meaningful engagement between plan makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and statutory consultees.
10. The outcomes of the consultation processes set out in this SCI will be an important element of the considerations of the LPAs in developing the Oxfordshire Plan

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<sup>1</sup> <https://oxfordshireplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/JSSP-Scoping-document-October-2018.pdf>

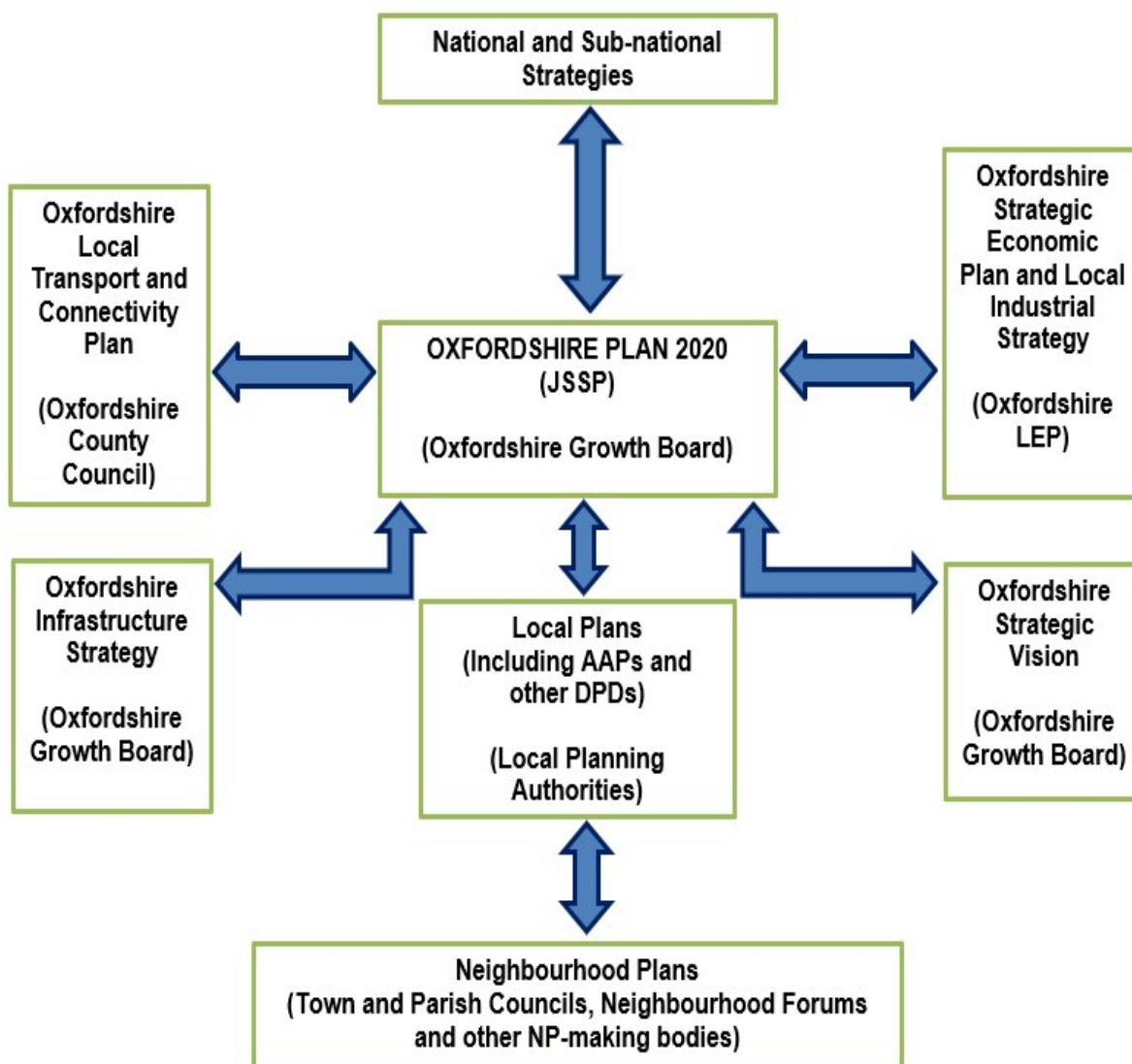
alongside other material matters such as the evidence base and the Sustainability Appraisal etc.

11. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will build on the current suite of adopted Local Plans that are in place for the period from 2011 to 2031/5/6, depending on the District covered; as well as the Oxfordshire Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) and will link to the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS) and a new 2050 Transport Vision and Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy. The Plan will also integrate with the higher-level spatial framework being developed for the Oxford-Cambridge (OxCam) Arc.
12. The Oxfordshire Plan will identify the overall quantum of housing and economic growth within Oxfordshire to be planned for the period after the end of the current suite of adopted Local Plans through to 2050 and its distribution across the county. The Oxfordshire Plan will also identify strategic priorities, and the strategic infrastructure (through OXIS) necessary to deliver the spatial strategy. Its preparation will include the calculation of new housing need figures based upon the methodology in the National Planning Policy Framework and taking into account the implications of the OxCam Arc.
13. The Oxfordshire Growth Board has also prepared a Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire<sup>2</sup>. The Vision will be used to help create an agreed set of long-term, strategic economic, infrastructure and environmental priorities designed to deliver the outcomes that local people want. The development of the Oxfordshire Plan will ensure its policies are aligned to this Strategic Vision.
14. The Oxfordshire Plan will be formally adopted by the individual LPAs and will provide a high-level framework for the review and roll-forward of the Local Plans and related Neighbourhood Plans. Fig.1 shows the relationship between the Oxfordshire Plan and other relevant plans.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.oxfordshireopenthought.org/strategic-vision>

## Relationship between the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and Other Plans



### Duty to Cooperate

15. LPAs, County Councils and other public organisations have a Duty to Co-operate with one another, particularly in the context of strategic cross boundary matters.
16. The way the Oxfordshire local authorities are working together under the Duty to Co-operate to complete the Oxfordshire Plan is set out in an Oxfordshire-wide Statement of Common Ground.

### How we will involve Stakeholders during the COVID-19 Outbreak

17. As a result of current public health guidelines related to COVID-19, some changes are needed to our current consultation methods to reflect the government restrictions in place and importantly protect the health of our communities, residents and staff.
18. In July 2020 the Government introduced a range of temporary measures to make it easier to undertake planning consultations within the current public health guidelines. *The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning, Development Management Procedure, Listed Buildings etc.) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020* amended the existing *Regulation 35 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012*. The amendments to the previous regulations

removed the requirement that hard copies of documents have to be made available for public inspection in a place considered appropriate. Instead, it is possible to comply with Regulation 35 by making plan documents available on the web.

#### *Availability of documents*

19. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, hard copy documents cannot be held at the deposit locations<sup>3</sup> set out in the previous Statement of Community Involvement (2019). Therefore, all relevant consultation documents will be made available online via our website. Paper copies will be available on request to those who are unable to access the website. We will also raise awareness of the publication of documents and/or consultations via our website, social media, an email to those on our mailing list and through a press release sent to local media.

#### *Public events, meetings, workshops, exhibitions and focus groups*

20. Additionally, public events, meetings, workshops, exhibitions and focus groups will currently not be able to take place in person. Instead, we will undertake all public engagement virtually, using online meeting systems, web pages and social media.

#### *How to Comment on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050*

21. As previously, stakeholders can respond to consultations online or by post. A comments form will be produced at each stage of involvement. The form will be able to be used through the portal, or alternatively the form or letters can be emailed or posted to us. Receiving comments through both electronic and handwritten formats will ensure those without internet access will not be disadvantaged in terms of engagement.
22. We will encourage electronic engagement as the primary portal for consultation and will encourage people to make use of the Oxfordshire Open Thought engagement platform. Both Oxfordshire Open Thought and the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website will set out the information we are seeking at each consultation stage, together with clear instructions on how to register comments. This will offer an easy method for response and in turn will help speed up our analysis of the comments received. We will provide a report on the results of the consultation at each stage of the project.
23. The Councils will comply with the obligations under the General Data Protection Regulations, and the principles of the Data Protection Act, in how they manage any personal data collected through consultation processes.
24. The above temporary measures have been put in place to minimise the impacts of the restrictions on people engaging with the development of the Oxfordshire Plan and Oxfordshire Plan consultations. These measures will remain in place until December 2021 and are subject to change according to COVID-19 and prevailing health advice.

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<sup>3</sup> The previous deposit locations included all council head offices and libraries throughout Oxfordshire.

## **Who will we be engaging with during the preparation of the Oxfordshire Plan?**

25. There are a wide range of groups we will engage with during the Plan preparation process. These include:
- statutory consultees as set out in the relevant regulations, including neighbouring councils (see Appendix 1);
  - local service providers and other key general consultation bodies who may have an interest in the Oxfordshire Plan (see Appendix 1);
  - other interested groups, businesses, developers, landowners, agents, Town Councils and Parishes, voluntary groups; and
  - residents (residents will be encouraged to register on our consultation database).
26. A public-sector Equality Duty came into force on 5 April 2011. It means that public bodies must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work in shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees. It also requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate discrimination
  - advance equality of opportunity
  - foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.
27. The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012 identify specific and general consultation bodies that must be consulted when preparing Local Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents (list provided at Appendix 1). Specific consultation bodies must be consulted where the proposed subject matter will be of interest to them. There is also a requirement to invite representations from such residents and persons carrying on business as considered appropriate. There will be many additional parties and individuals interested in the development of the plan and their involvement will be encouraged and facilitated.
28. The Oxfordshire Councils intend that all people should have the opportunity to have their say in how the county is spatially planned irrespective of their differences; including by way of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation. Research may be commissioned to understand public attitudes on relevant topics. Documents will be written in plain English. To achieve value for money and to ensure that consultation is proportionate to the issues being considered, the translation of documents into other languages will be balanced against the cost, time constraints and the available resources.
29. An Oxfordshire Plan consultation database containing specific and general consultees and others that have expressed an interest to be consulted is currently maintained in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation. Where consultation is required, all those on the consultation database will be consulted. When an individual or organisation makes a representation on the Oxfordshire Plan or its supporting documentation, they will be added to the consultation database.

## **When will we involve Stakeholders?**

30. Relevant regulations set out the formal stages in the preparation process of the Oxfordshire Plan, i.e. when we must formally publish the documents for comment and for how long. This SCI reflects how these requirements will be met. Additional days will be added where statutory Public Holidays (England) fall within the formal consultation period.
31. Plan preparation will involve engagement with specific stakeholders, prescribed bodies, partners and consultees to inform the identification of issues and options. Notwithstanding the above, engagement with specific stakeholders will be undertaken

on a continuous basis to ensure options are thoroughly tested and policy preparation is robust. At each stage of the project, consultation plans will be designed selecting from a wide range of engagement tools and methods including for example use of social media, the press, local and parish newsletters, advertising, questionnaires and events. We may use panels or reference groups as part of this engagement as well as undertake additional research such as an opinion poll. Events will be carefully planned to maximise accessibility. They are also likely to be undertaken virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic in the interest of public health.

32. There will be opportunities to comment on the draft Oxfordshire Plan 2050 when it is formally published and to be involved during its examination by an independent Inspector.
33. A Sustainability Appraisal is an integral part of the plan preparation process and is required for DPDs. It looks at the environmental, social and economic effects of a plan to make sure that the plan promotes sustainable development and takes the most appropriate approach given reasonable alternatives. At each stage of the Plan's preparation there will be a corresponding stage of the Sustainability Appraisal which will be made available for comment during public consultation.
34. Different levels and methods of community involvement will be appropriate as the Oxfordshire Plan progresses through the plan-making process. Table 1 sets out the key consultation stages and milestone dates in the preparation of the Plan, together with the different groups we have involved in the plan-making process so far, and how we proposed to involve them in future. As Table 1 demonstrates, extensive consultation has already taken place at this early stage in the plan-making process. We have provided feedback on consultation responses received so far (in the form of a consultation summary report, published on our website) and will continue to do so at each future stage of consultation.

## **Review of the SCI**

35. The SCI will be updated if a review is required due to changes to:
  - Legislation/national policy
  - Local decisions
  - Changes to consultation methods and technology
  - Revised COVID-19 public health guidance

**Table 1: Consultation stages in the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 preparation process**

<b>Who was/will be involved?</b>	<b>What were we/are we consulting on?</b>	<b>How did we consult, or how are we consulting? (methods are likely to include)</b>
<b>Stakeholder Launch Consultation - (December 2018)</b>		
Informal dialogue with targeted stakeholders and other interested bodies as appropriate - focusing on the challenges/opportunities for developing strategy options	An event for key stakeholders (including duty to co-operate bodies) to introduce the Oxfordshire Plan project and to ask for their initial views on what the Oxfordshire Plan's vision, aspirations and objectives should be.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website</li> <li>• Contact consultees/ organisations by email</li> <li>• Stakeholder meeting/workshop</li> <li>• Press release</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report – (7<sup>th</sup> January – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019)</b>		
Consulted people/organisations listed in the Regulations and others as appropriate	The formal consultation sought to elicit views on whether the scope of the document was appropriate as set out considering the role of the Oxfordshire Plan to help meet and manage Oxfordshire's growth needs and development ambition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email contact</li> <li>• Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website</li> <li>• LPA Websites</li> </ul>
<b>Call for Strategic Development Options (to be considered through the plan)</b>		
Landowners, developers, agents, general public	To identify options for the availability, suitability and deliverability of land for strategic growth that should be considered through the plan process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted e-mail contact</li> <li>• Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website</li> <li>• LPA websites</li> </ul>
<b>Consultation on Vision, Aspirations and Objectives (Reg.18 Part 1) – (11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019 – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019)</b>		
Consulted people/organisations listed in the Regulations, general public and other interested bodies as appropriate.	Publish document - six weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website</li> <li>• Contacted consultees/ organisations by email</li> <li>• Social media posts</li> <li>• Events/ exhibitions</li> <li>• Press release</li> <li>• Documents available to view in council buildings</li> </ul>
<b>Call for Ideas Consultation - (21<sup>st</sup> February – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019)</b>		

Consulted people/organisations listed in the Regulations, general public and other interested bodies as appropriate	This consultation aimed to give the public an opportunity to present ideas as to where the most suitable places for residential development and economic growth might be. – six weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website</li> <li>• Contacted consultees/ organisations by email</li> <li>• Events/ exhibitions</li> <li>• Press releases</li> <li>• Documents available to view in council buildings</li> </ul>
<b>Oxfordshire Plan Stakeholder Event - (May 2019)</b>		
Targeted stakeholders	A further event for key stakeholders (including duty to co-operate bodies) to help refine the Oxfordshire Plan's vision, aspirations and objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website</li> <li>• Contact consultees/ organisations by email</li> <li>• Stakeholder meeting/ workshop</li> <li>• Press release</li> </ul>
<b>Oxfordshire Open Thought - (1<sup>st</sup> June – 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020)</b>		
Consulted people/organisations listed in the Regulations, general public and other interested bodies as appropriate.	<p>This followed a recognition that the shift in timeline presented an opportunity for further engagement while also seeking to address feedback from the Reg 18 part 1 that suggested the Plan need to be bolder and more innovative.</p> <p>Open Thought sought to consider three main challenges facing the county in the future – climate change, connectivity, and living and working. While the themes were wider than the scope of the Plan, the engagement sought to gain potential policy ideas for the Plan by tapping into the knowledge and expertise within the county.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire Open Thought website</li> <li>• Contact consultees/ organisations by email</li> <li>• Social media posts</li> <li>• Press releases</li> </ul>
<b>Consultation on Preferred Strategy (Reg.18 Part 2) - (July/August/September 2021)</b>		

Consult people/organisations listed in the Regulations, general public and other interested bodies as appropriate.	Consulting upon Policy and Spatial Growth Options (including scale and Broad Locations of Growth) – ten weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website</li> <li>• Contact consultees/organisations by email</li> <li>• Virtual events including webinars and workshops</li> <li>• Social media posts</li> <li>• Press Release</li> </ul>
<b>Consultation on Submission (Draft) Plan (Reg. 19) – (May/June 2022)</b>		
Consult people/organisations listed in the Regulations, general public and other interested bodies as appropriate.	Consulting on the Draft Submission Plan document - six weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website</li> <li>• Contact consultees/organisations by email</li> <li>• Virtual events including webinars and workshops</li> <li>• Social media posts</li> <li>• Press release</li> </ul>
<b>Examination - (November/December 2022)</b>		
Notify people/organisations listed in the Regulations and others as appropriate via Programme Officer	Publish dates and programmes associated with Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website</li> <li>• Contact consultees/organisations by email</li> <li>• Press release</li> <li>• Social media posts</li> </ul>
<b>Consultation on Inspectors main modifications to the draft plan (if any)</b>		
Notify people/organisations listed in the Regulations and others as appropriate via Programme Officer	Potential main modifications to JSSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website</li> <li>• Contact consultees/organisations by email</li> <li>• Press release</li> <li>• Social media posts</li> </ul>
<b>Receipt and Publication of Inspector's Report - (February/March 2023)</b>		
Notify people/organisations listed in the Regulations and others as appropriate via Programme Officer	Only distributed for information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website</li> <li>• Contact consultees/organisations by email</li> <li>• Press release</li> <li>• Social media posts</li> </ul>
<b>Adoption (subject to examination)</b>		
May/June 2023 - No further consultation		

## Appendix 1: Consultation Bodies

### Specific Consultation Bodies<sup>2</sup>

- (a) the Coal Authority
- (b) the Environment Agency
- (c) the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (known as Historic England)
- (d) the Marine Management Organisation
- (e) Natural England
- (f) Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (company number 2904587),
- (g) Highways England (formerly the Highways Agency)
- (h) a relevant authority any part of whose area is in or adjoins the local planning authority's area<sup>3</sup>
- (i) any person—
  - (i) to whom the electronic communications code applies by virtue of a direction given under section 106(3)(a) of the Communications Act 2003 and
  - (ii) who owns or controls electronic communications apparatus situated in any part of the local planning authority's area
- (j) if it exercises functions in any part of the local planning authority's area—
  - (i) The NHS Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (formerly the Primary Care Trust established under section 18 of the National Health Service Act 2006(g) or continued in existence by virtue of that section)
  - (ii) a person to whom a licence has been granted under section 6(1)(b) or (c) of the Electricity Act 1989
  - (iii) a person to whom a licence has been granted under section 7(2) of the Gas Act 1986(
  - (iv) a sewerage undertaker; and
  - (v) a water undertaker
- (k) the Homes and Communities Agency

### Other Consultees

#### General Consultation Bodies<sup>4</sup>

- (a) voluntary bodies some or all of whose activities benefit any part of the local planning authority's area
- (b) bodies which represent the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the local planning authority's area
- (c) bodies which represent the interests of different religious groups in the local planning authority's area
- (d) bodies which represent the interests of disabled persons in the local planning authority's area
- (e) bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying on business in the local planning authority's area

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<sup>2</sup> As set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

<sup>3</sup> Neighbouring authorities: Buckinghamshire Council; Cotswold District Council; Gloucestershire County Council; West Northamptonshire Council; Reading Borough Council; Stratford-on-Avon District Council; Swindon Borough Council; Warwickshire County Council; West Berkshire Council; Wiltshire Council; Wokingham Borough Council; Wycombe District Council

<sup>4</sup> As set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

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## **Oxfordshire Plan 2050**

### **Duty to Co-operate Statement**

Second Regulation 18 Consultation  
July 2021



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## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Oxfordshire Plan is a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP) which is being produced by Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council (referred to throughout this document as 'Oxfordshire's City and District Councils'). The Oxfordshire Plan will provide a strategic planning framework for Oxfordshire to 2050.
- 1.2 In producing the Oxfordshire Plan, Oxfordshire's City and District Councils have a legal duty to engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis with each other, Oxfordshire County Council, neighbouring authorities and specific organisations set out in the Planning Regulations<sup>1</sup> in order to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan in addressing cross-boundary strategic planning matters. This legal duty is known as the 'duty to co-operate'.
- 1.3 This Duty to Co-operate Statement explains how Oxfordshire's City and District Councils have complied with the duty to co-operate through the preparation of the Oxfordshire Plan to date (up to the second Regulation 18 consultation). This Statement sets out:
- How Oxfordshire's City and District Councils are working together, and in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, to produce the Oxfordshire Plan;
  - The other organisations that Oxfordshire's City and District Councils are co-operating with in producing the Oxfordshire Plan, as well as the strategic matters relevant to each of these organisations;
  - The nature and timing of the co-operation undertaken to date; and
  - The outcomes of the co-operation to date, including how it has influenced the production of the Oxfordshire Plan.
- 1.4 As co-operation to address cross-boundary strategic planning matters will continue throughout the plan-making process, an updated version of this Duty to Co-operate Statement will be published at the Regulation 19 stage.

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<sup>1</sup> The Town and Country Planning (England) Regulations 2012, Part 2, Regulation 4

## 2 Duty to Co-operate Requirements

### **Legal Requirements**

- 2.1 The duty to co-operate is a legal requirement under Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as inserted by Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011).
- 2.2 The duty to co-operate requires local planning authorities to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with other local planning authorities, county councils and prescribed bodies in order to maximise the effectiveness of development plan documents in relation to strategic planning matters.
- 2.3 Legislation<sup>2</sup> defines strategic matters as:
  - a) 'Sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, including (in particular) sustainable development or use of land for, or in connection with, infrastructure that is strategic and has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas; and
  - b) Sustainable development or use of land in a two-tier area if the development or use is a county matter, or it has/would have a significant impact on a county matter.'

### **National Planning Policy Framework (February 2019)**

- 2.4 Paragraphs 24-27 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) provide further detail on how the duty to co-operate should be applied through the plan-making process.
- 2.5 Paragraph 25 of the NPPF states that 'strategic policy-making authorities should collaborate to identify the relevant strategic matters that they need to address in their plans'.
- 2.6 Paragraph 26 of the NPPF states that 'effective and on-going joint working between strategic policy-making authorities and relevant bodies is integral to the production of a positively prepared and justified strategy. In particular, joint working should help to determine where additional infrastructure is necessary and whether development needs that cannot be met wholly within a particular plan area could be met elsewhere'.
- 2.7 Paragraph 27 of the NPPF states that 'in order to demonstrate effective and on-going joint working, strategic policy-making authorities should prepare and maintain one or more statements of common ground'. A statement of common ground should document the strategic cross-boundary planning matters being addressed and the progress made in addressing them. Statements of common ground 'should be produced using the approach set out in national planning guidance and be made publicly available throughout the plan-making process to provide transparency'.

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<sup>2</sup> Planning and Compulsory Act 2004, Section 33A, Subsection 4 (as inserted by the Localism Act 2011)

- 2.8 Before they can be adopted, all emerging development plan documents are examined to assess whether they have been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements (including the duty to co-operate) and whether they are sound. Paragraph 35 of the NPPF sets out the four tests of soundness, two of which are directly related to the duty to co-operate:

*Test of soundness A:* 'Positively prepared - providing a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed needs; and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development'.

*Test of soundness C:* 'Effective - deliverable over the plan period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground'.

### **Planning Practice Guidance**

- 2.9 National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) provides additional detail in relation to the application of the duty to co-operate, including the organisations that should be engaged with, how the duty to co-operate will be considered at examination and how two or more strategic policy-making authorities can co-operate in plan preparation. The PPG highlights that local planning authorities can agree to prepare joint plans with neighbouring authorities under Section 28 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as a means of co-operating in local plan preparation.<sup>3</sup> The PPG also provides more detailed information on how statements of common ground should be prepared and presented.

### **Other Relevant Guidance**

- 2.10 The Planning Inspectorate's Procedure Guide for Local Plan Examinations<sup>4</sup> states that in order to demonstrate compliance with the duty to co-operate, 'the most helpful approach is for local planning authorities to submit a statement of compliance with the duty'. The statement of compliance should identify and detail:
- i. Any relevant strategic matters and how they have been resolved, or, if they have not been resolved, why not;
  - ii. Who local planning authorities have co-operated with and on which strategic matter(s);
  - iii. The nature and timing of the co-operation (for example by including meeting notes); and
  - iv. The outcomes of the co-operation, including how it has influenced the plan.

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<sup>3</sup> Planning Practice Guidance: Plan-making: Maintaining Effective Engagement: How can 2 or more strategic policy-making authorities co-operate on local plan preparation to satisfy the duty to co-operate? Paragraph: 032 Reference ID: 61-032-20190315 Revision date: 15 03 2019

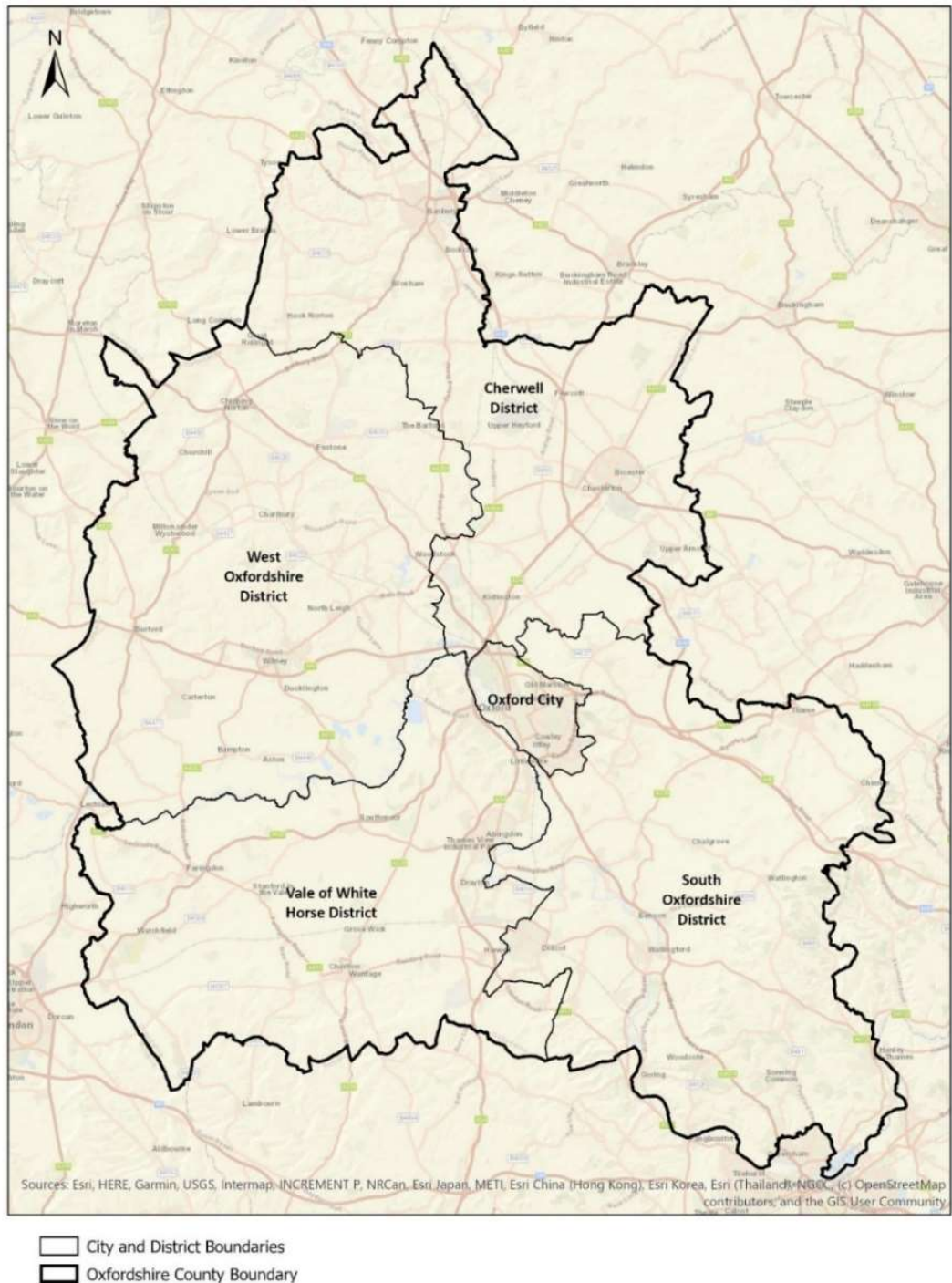
<sup>4</sup> The Planning Inspectorate (February 2021) Procedure Guide for Local Plan Examinations. Seventh Edition.

### 3 Duty to Co-operate Bodies

#### Oxfordshire Authorities

- 3.1 Oxfordshire has a two-tier local government arrangement. There are five City and District Councils (Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council) and one county council (Oxfordshire County Council) which spans the entire Oxfordshire area. Figure 1 shows Oxfordshire's administrative boundaries.

**Figure 1: Oxfordshire's Administrative Boundaries**



- 3.2 Oxfordshire's City and District Councils are the local planning authorities and are responsible for strategic plan-making. Oxfordshire's City and District Councils are working together to produce the Oxfordshire Plan under Section 28 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as a means of co-operating to effectively address strategic planning matters in Oxfordshire.
- 3.3 Oxfordshire County Council has responsibilities including transport, education and minerals and waste planning.
- 3.4 Oxfordshire's City and District Councils and Oxfordshire County Council have a legal duty to engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis with each other in the production of the Oxfordshire Plan. Oxfordshire County Council is a key partner in the production of the Oxfordshire Plan.

### **Neighbouring Authorities**

- 3.5 In producing the Oxfordshire Plan, Oxfordshire's City and District Councils are co-operating with the authorities that adjoin Oxfordshire in relation to relevant cross-boundary strategic planning matters.
- 3.6 The following local authorities have administrative boundaries that directly adjoin Oxfordshire:
- Buckinghamshire Council
  - Cotswold District Council
  - Gloucestershire County Council
  - Reading Borough Council
  - Stratford-Upon-Avon District Council
  - Swindon Borough Council
  - Warwickshire County Council
  - West Berkshire Council
  - West Northamptonshire Council
  - Wiltshire Council
  - Wokingham Borough Council
- 3.7 A map illustrating neighbouring authorities' geographical relationships with Oxfordshire is provided at Appendix 1.
- 3.8 When work on the Oxfordshire Plan commenced, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire had two-tier arrangements of local government. However, on 1 April 2020 a new unitary authority for Buckinghamshire was created and on 1 April 2021 Northamptonshire became two new unitary authorities – North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire.
- 3.9 Prior to 1 April 2020, local government in Buckinghamshire consisted of four district councils (Aylesbury Vale District Council, Chiltern District Council, South Bucks District Council and Wycombe District Council) and one county council (Buckinghamshire County Council). Aylesbury Vale District Council, Wycombe District Council and

Buckinghamshire County Council all had administrative boundaries that directly adjoined Oxfordshire.

- 3.10 In producing the Oxfordshire Plan, engagement was undertaken with all the Buckinghamshire district councils and Buckinghamshire County Council up to 31 March 2020. Whilst Chiltern District Council and South Bucks District Council did not directly adjoin Oxfordshire's boundary, those authorities were engaged with in order that any strategic planning matters relevant to the wider Buckinghamshire area could be identified and addressed from the early stages of producing the Oxfordshire Plan. From 1 April 2020 engagement has been with the newly formed Buckinghamshire Council.
- 3.11 Prior to 1 April 2021, local government in Northamptonshire consisted of seven district/borough councils and one county council. Within this structure, Northamptonshire County Council and South Northamptonshire District Council had administrative boundaries that directly adjoined Oxfordshire. From 1 April 2021, Northamptonshire become two unitary authorities - West Northamptonshire Council and North Northamptonshire Council.
- 3.12 In producing the Oxfordshire Plan, engagement was undertaken with Daventry District Council, Northampton Borough Council, South Northamptonshire Council and Northamptonshire County Council up to 31 March 2021. Whilst Daventry District Council and Northampton Borough Council did not directly adjoin Oxfordshire's boundary, those authorities were engaged with in order that any strategic planning matters relevant to the wider West Northamptonshire area could be identified and addressed from the early stages of producing the Oxfordshire Plan. From 1 April 2021 engagement has been with the newly formed West Northamptonshire Council.

### **Prescribed Bodies**

- 3.13 The Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012<sup>5</sup> identify prescribed bodies that local planning authorities must co-operate with in plan-making.
- 3.14 In producing the Oxfordshire Plan, Oxfordshire's City and District Councils are co-operating with relevant prescribed bodies in relation to cross-boundary strategic planning matters. The prescribed bodies relevant to the production of the Oxfordshire Plan are:
- i. Environment Agency
  - ii. Historic England<sup>6</sup>
  - iii. Natural England
  - iv. The Mayor of London
  - v. The Civil Aviation Authority
  - vi. Homes England<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> The Town and Country Planning (England) Regulations 2012, Part 2, Regulation 4

<sup>6</sup> Previously the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England.

<sup>7</sup> Previously the Homes and Communities Agency.

- vii. Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)<sup>8</sup> - The majority of Oxfordshire is within the Oxfordshire CCG area, but there are small areas of Oxfordshire that fall within the Buckinghamshire CCG and Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG areas (Appendix 2).
- viii. The Office of Rail and Road<sup>9</sup>
- ix. Highways Authority - Highways England is responsible for motorways and major trunk roads in England. Local roads are managed by Oxfordshire County Council.

3.15 Whilst Oxfordshire is not within, and does not directly adjoin, the Greater London administrative boundary, engagement with the Mayor of London (via the Greater London Authority) will be undertaken under the duty to co-operate. This is because London, as a major capital city, has social and economic influences to varying extents across the wider south-east area, including with Oxfordshire and the Oxford-Cambridge Arc area. There is therefore some potential for relevant strategic matters.

3.16 The following organisations are also identified as prescribed bodies in the Regulations but are not considered relevant to the production of the Oxfordshire Plan:

*Integrated Transport Authorities* - Integrated Transport Authorities are only established for the six main metropolitan areas<sup>10</sup> outside of London. Oxfordshire does not fall within an Integrated Transport Authority area, nor does it adjoin an Integrated Transport Authority area. There is no apparent functional relationship between Oxfordshire and any Integrated Transport Authority area. It is therefore considered that there are no strategic matters with Integrated Transport Authorities relevant to the production of the Oxfordshire Plan.

*Marine Management Organisations* - Marine Management Organisations licence, regulate and plan marine activities in the seas around England. Oxfordshire is centrally located within England and is entirely inland. Oxfordshire does not include any coastline, nor do any of authorities that adjoin Oxfordshire. There is no obvious functional relationship between Oxfordshire and the sea. It is therefore considered that there are no strategic matters with Marine Management Organisations relevant to the production of the Oxfordshire Plan.

*Transport for London (TfL)* - TfL has potential to provide support to projects located outside of London but that provide connections to London. However, engagement with TfL has confirmed that there are no strategic matters with TfL relevant to the production of the Oxfordshire Plan.

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<sup>8</sup> Previously Primary Care Trusts.

<sup>9</sup> Previously the Office of Rail Regulation.

<sup>10</sup> Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, Sheffield City Region, Tyne and Wear, the West Midlands and West Yorkshire.

### **Local Enterprise Partnerships**

- 3.17 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) are private sector led partnerships between businesses and local public sector bodies. They aim to bring private sector expertise into local economic decision making and to encourage collaboration and strategic decision making at a functional economic area scale.
- 3.18 The PPG states that LEPs are not subject to the requirements of the duty to co-operate themselves, but that local planning authorities must co-operate with LEPs. Local planning authorities must have regard to the activities of LEPs when preparing plans, so long as those activities are relevant to plan-making.<sup>11</sup>
- 3.19 The Oxfordshire LEP covers the entire county of Oxfordshire. The Oxfordshire LEP is a key partner in the production of the Oxfordshire Plan.
- 3.20 In producing the Oxfordshire Plan, engagement will be undertaken with neighbouring LEPs under the duty to co-operate as there may be strategic matters where co-operation is required given the Oxfordshire Plan's strategic nature and long timeframe. However, it is recognised that that relationships with surrounding functional economic areas are likely to vary in terms of their nature, strength and significance. It should also be noted that considerable joint working is being undertaken between LEPs across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc area (Section 7).
- 3.21 The following LEPs have boundaries that directly adjoin Oxfordshire (Appendix 3):
- Buckinghamshire LEP
  - Coventry and Warwickshire LEP
  - Gloucestershire LEP
  - South East Midlands LEP
  - Swindon and Wiltshire LEP
  - Thames Valley Berkshire LEP

### **Local Nature Partnerships**

- 3.22 Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) are partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people who aim to bring about improvements in their local natural environment.
- 3.23 The PPG states that LNPs are not subject to the requirements of the duty to co-operate themselves, but that local planning authorities must co-operate with LNPs. Local planning authorities must have regard to the activities of LNPs when they are preparing plans, so long as those activities are relevant to plan-making.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Planning Practice Guidance: Plan-Making: Maintaining Effective Cooperation: Are other public bodies subject to the duty to co-operate? Paragraph: 030 Reference ID: 61-030-20190315 Revision date: 15 03 2019

<sup>12</sup> Planning Practice Guidance: Plan-Making: Maintaining Effective Cooperation: Are other public bodies subject to the duty to co-operate? Paragraph: 030 Reference ID: 61-030-20190315 Revision date: 15 03 2019

- 3.24 Oxfordshire does not currently have a LNP. However, on 31 July 2019 West Oxfordshire District Council passed a motion calling for a LNP for Oxfordshire to be formed.<sup>13</sup> West Oxfordshire District Council then wrote to the other Oxfordshire authorities to ask for support in taking this forward. On 28 January 2020 the Oxfordshire Growth Board provided its support for establishing a LNP for Oxfordshire which could link in with the Growth Board's work and wider regional discussions concerning the natural environment. Since the Growth Board offered support for the establishment of an LNP, there have been several informal discussions with local partners to develop proposals. Progress is still being made towards establishing an LNP with the support of funding from the Growth Board.
- 3.25 In lieu of an LNP for Oxfordshire, informal engagement will be undertaken with the Oxfordshire Environment Board (OxEB) and Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Group (BAG) in addition formal co-operation with Natural England and the Environment Agency in relation to natural environment matters. The membership of both OxEB and BAG represent a wide range of natural environment bodies including: the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT); Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Conservation Boards; the Earth Trust; Thames Valley Environment Records Centre (TVERC); Wild Oxfordshire and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).
- 3.26 In producing the Oxfordshire Plan, engagement will be undertaken with neighbouring LNPs under to the duty to co-operate as there may be strategic matters where co-operation is required given the Oxfordshire Plan's strategic nature and long timeframe. However, it is recognised that adjoining LNPs have varying levels of resources and that some have more formalised structures than others, which is likely to result in variations in their capacity to engage in the Oxfordshire Plan process. It should also be noted that considerable joint working is being undertaken between LNPs and other organisations across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc in relation to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment (Section 7).
- 3.27 The following LNPs have boundaries that directly adjoin Oxfordshire (Appendix 4):
- Berkshire LNP
  - Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes LNP
  - Gloucestershire LNP
  - Northamptonshire LNP
  - Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull LNP
  - Swindon and Wiltshire LNP (Link 2 Nature)

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<sup>13</sup> Minutes of this meeting are available to view on West Oxfordshire District Council's website: <https://cmis.westoxon.gov.uk/cmisis/Meetings.aspx>

## 4 Strategic Matters

4.1 Paragraph 20 of the NPPF sets out the matters that are considered strategic in plan-making. These are matters which relate to the overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development, and make provision for:

- a) 'housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;
- b) infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
- c) community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure); and
- d) conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.'

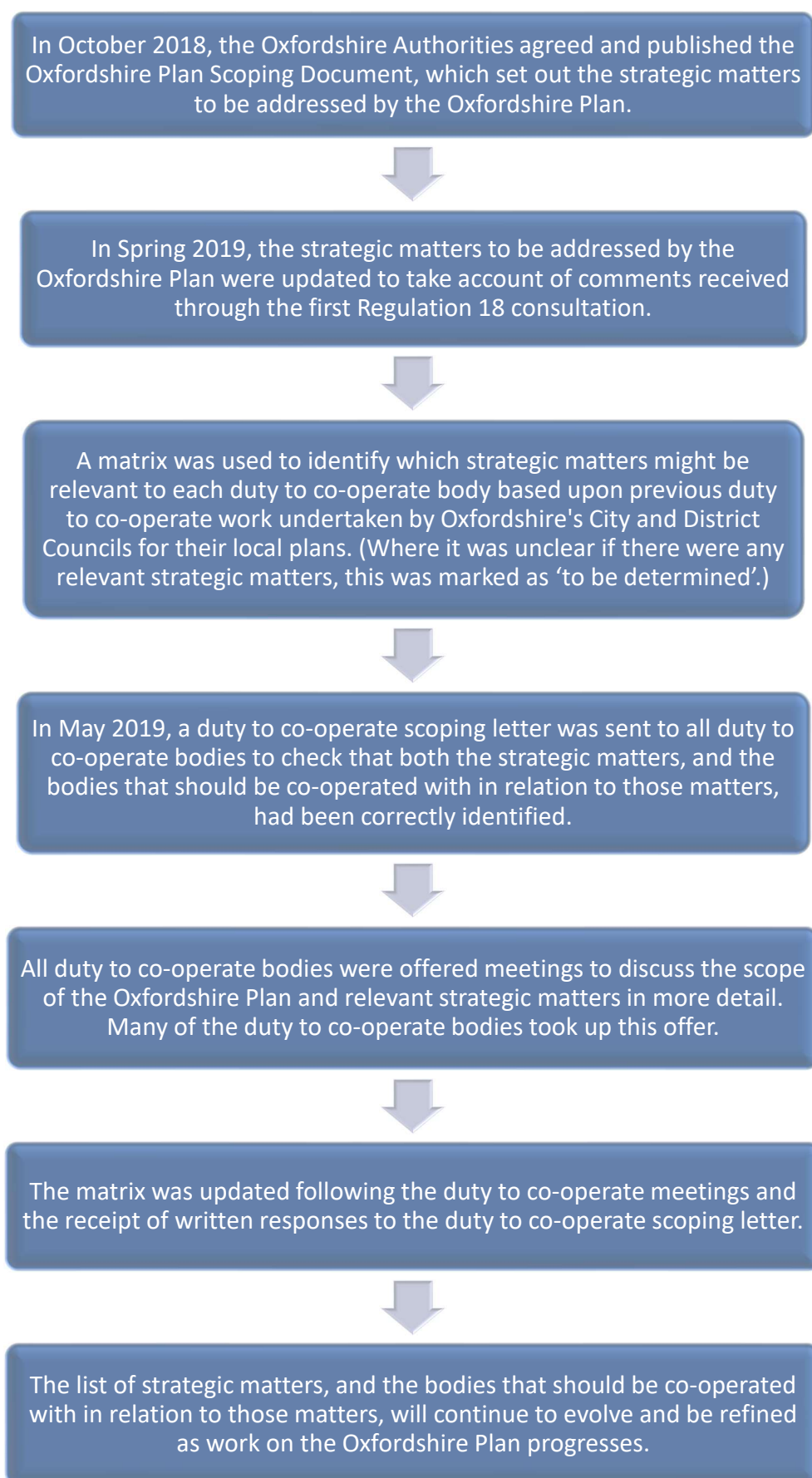
The PPG states that this list is not exhaustive and that this may be adapted to meet specific local needs.<sup>14</sup>

4.2 A duty to co-operate scoping exercise was undertaken to identify the relevant strategic matters for the Oxfordshire Plan and the duty to co-operate bodies that should be engaged with in relation to these matters (Figure 2).

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<sup>14</sup> Planning Practice Guidance: Plan Making: Maintaining Effective Cooperation: What are the strategic matters on which cooperation is required? Paragraph: 014 Reference ID: 61-014-20190315 Revision date: 15 03 2019

**Figure 2: The Oxfordshire Plan Duty to Co-operate Scoping Process**



4.3 Through the scoping process, the following strategic matters for the Oxfordshire Plan were identified:

- Biodiversity / Natural Environment / Green Infrastructure
- Boat dwellers
- Climate Change (including mitigation and adaption)
- Community Facilities (including health and education)
- Contaminated Land
- Economy and Employment
- Flood Risk
- Green Belt
- Gypsies, Travellers, Caravan Dwellers, Travelling Showpeople
- Healthy Placeshaping
- Heritage and Historic Environment
- Housing Requirements
- Housing Supply
- Landscape Quality and Character
- Other infrastructure (including water supply)
- Retail/Leisure/other commercial development
- Transport
- Water Resources / Water Quality

4.4 The full matrix showing which strategic matters have been identified as relevant to each duty to co-operate body is provided at Appendix 5. It should be noted that this is a 'living list' and that the strategic matters relevant to each duty to co-operate body may evolve over time in response to emerging evidence, further engagement and changing circumstances.

## 5 Co-operation within Oxfordshire

### **Background to Joint Working in Oxfordshire**

- 5.1 Oxfordshire's City and District Councils and Oxfordshire County Council have a long history of co-operation and joint working in relation to strategic planning matters.
- 5.2 The six Oxfordshire authorities were members of the Oxfordshire Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership (SPIP) which oversaw the preparation of the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) (published in 2014)<sup>15</sup> and the Oxford and Oxfordshire City Deal<sup>16</sup> (signed in January 2014).
- 5.3 In 2014, the SPIP became the Oxfordshire Growth Board<sup>17</sup> - a joint committee with the leaders of all six Oxfordshire authorities as the core voting members. The Oxfordshire Growth Board also includes associate members from the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Universities, Oxfordshire Skills Board, Environment Agency, Homes England, Network Rail and Highways England. Oxfordshire Growth Board meetings are held in public every two months. The work of the Oxfordshire Growth Board is supported by a Scrutiny Panel and focused Advisory Sub-Groups.
- 5.4 The Oxfordshire Growth Board exists to help Oxfordshire's leaders and partners work together for the benefit of residents by building consensus on strategic issues such as supporting good growth, strategic service planning and placemaking. The Oxfordshire Growth Board has no direct decision-making powers in relation to planning and development, which is carried out by the elected councillors at each of Oxfordshire's City and District Councils.
- 5.5 The Oxfordshire authorities worked together as part of the Oxfordshire Growth Board to assess how unmet housing need from Oxford City might best be accommodated within the Oxfordshire Housing Market Area. Local plans based on the 2014 SHMA, and which accommodate Oxford City's unmet housing need, have all now been adopted.
- 5.6 The Oxfordshire authorities also worked together through the Oxfordshire Growth Board to produce the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy<sup>18</sup> (OxIS) - a shared evidence base that has helped to inform local plans and to address strategic infrastructure issues, particularly transport (for example by supporting funding bids such as the Housing and Infrastructure Fund).
- 5.7 In 2017, the government announced the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal in the autumn budget. The Housing and Growth Deal was subsequently signed in March 2018.

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<sup>15</sup> GL Hearn (April 2014) Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment

<sup>16</sup> The Oxford and Oxfordshire City Deal was signed by the Deputy Prime Minister on 30 January 2014. Details are available online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/city-deal-oxford-and-oxfordshire>

<sup>17</sup> Details of the Oxfordshire Growth Board terms of reference, meetings, work programmes and evidence documents are available at: [www.oxfordshiregrowthboard.org](http://www.oxfordshiregrowthboard.org)

<sup>18</sup> AECOM (November 2017) Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy

- 5.8 Through the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal, the Oxfordshire authorities committed to:
- i. The submission and adoption, subject to the inspection process, of a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (the Oxfordshire Plan) covering all five district councils in Oxfordshire by 2021<sup>19</sup>; and
  - ii. Plan for and support the delivery of 100,000 new homes between 2011 and 2031 – backed up with a credible plan for delivery, outlining interim milestones and targets as agreed with Homes England and Government.
- 5.9 Through the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal, the Government committed to:
- i. Provide Oxfordshire with up to £215 million funding for investment in new homes and infrastructure; and
  - ii. Explore options to grant Oxfordshire certain time-limited planning flexibilities, subject to consultation where appropriate.
- 5.10 In September 2019, the Oxfordshire Growth Board resolved to undertake a review of its role and functions.<sup>20</sup> Following an extensive public review in 2020, the Growth Board has adopted a new purpose which is to:
- i. Co-ordinate local efforts to manage economic, housing and infrastructure development in a way that is inclusive and maximises local social and environmental benefits;
  - ii. Support the development of local planning policy that meets the UK Government's stated aim of net zero carbon by 2050, and contributes towards biodiversity gain whilst embracing the changes needed for a low carbon world; and
  - iii. Seek to secure funding in the pursuit of these aims and oversee the delivery of related work programmes delegated to it by the Joint Committee's constituent local authority members.

### **Strategic Vision**

- 5.11 In 2020, the Oxfordshire Growth Board began to develop a strategic vision for Oxfordshire's long-term sustainable development (known as the 'Strategic Vision'). Consultation on a draft Strategic Vision was undertaken from November 2020 to January 2021. The Strategic Vision was subsequently refined (taking account of the comments received) and endorsed by the Oxfordshire Growth Board in March 2021.
- 5.12 Each of the six Oxfordshire authorities has now agreed the Strategic Vision and it will inform future plans and strategies for Oxfordshire, including the Oxfordshire Plan, the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan, the OxIS review and future local plans.

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<sup>19</sup> In July 2020 Oxfordshire Growth Board secured support in principle from the Government for extensions to various programmes within the [Housing & Growth Deal](#) including the preparation of the Oxfordshire Plan. The meetings notes are available online: <https://www.oxfordshiregrowthboard.org/oxfordshire-housing-growth-deal-extension/>

<sup>20</sup> Oxfordshire Growth Board meeting 24 September 2019. Agenda and minutes are available to view online: <http://democratic.southoxon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=330&MIId=2473>

### **Co-operation in the Production of the Oxfordshire Plan**

- 5.13 The Oxfordshire Plan is a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP) which is being produced by Oxfordshire's City and District Councils in close partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and OxLEP. The Oxfordshire Plan will provide a strategic planning framework for Oxfordshire to 2050 and will inform the production of future local plans and decision-making on development proposals. The Oxfordshire Plan is a key commitment of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.
- 5.14 Oxfordshire's City and District Councils are working together to produce the Oxfordshire Plan under Section 28 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as a means of co-operating to effectively address strategic planning matters in Oxfordshire.
- 5.15 The Oxfordshire Plan is being developed by consensus, with officers and elected members from all the Oxfordshire authorities and OxLEP working together at every stage of plan-making process to ensure that individual and collective views are taken into account. A number of mechanisms for co-operation and joint working between elected members and officers (at all levels) have been established to support the delivery of the Oxfordshire Plan (Tables 1 and 2).

<b>Table 1: Mechanisms for co-operation and joint working between the six Oxfordshire authorities and OxLEP in the production of the Oxfordshire Plan – Officers</b>		
<b>Mechanism for Joint Working</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Frequency of Meeting</b>
Programme Board	Senior officers from the six Oxfordshire authorities and OxLEP are responsible for overseeing the delivery, project management and finances of Growth Deal workstreams, including the Oxfordshire Plan.	Fortnightly
Heads of Planning	Oxfordshire's City and District Councils' Heads of Planning, with senior officers from Oxfordshire County Council and OxLEP, oversee and provide direction on the delivery of the Oxfordshire Plan and its evidence base.	Monthly
Oxfordshire Plan Core Team	A core team of planning policy officers has been established to co-ordinate the day to day delivery of the Oxfordshire Plan and its evidence base. The Core Team helps to facilitate co-operation and joint working between the six Oxfordshire authorities and OxLEP at every stage of plan-making process. Many of the Core Team officers are seconded from the Oxfordshire authorities.	Daily
Officer Liaison Meetings	Planning policy officers from Oxfordshire's City and District Councils, with officers from Oxfordshire County Council and OxLEP, are involved in the day to day delivery of the Oxfordshire Plan and its evidence base. These officers are committed to dedicating one day per week to Oxfordshire Plan work.	Fortnightly
Working Groups	Working groups have been established to produce and/or oversee the production of specific evidence base workstreams for the Oxfordshire Plan. Working groups comprise officers from each of the Oxfordshire authorities (often these are officers with specialist expertise), the Core Team and other organisations, including OxLEP and prescribed bodies, as appropriate.	As required

<b>Table 2: Mechanisms for co-operation and joint working between the six Oxfordshire authorities and OxLEP in the production of the Oxfordshire Plan – Elected Members</b>		
<b>Mechanism for Joint Working</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Frequency of Meeting</b>
Oxfordshire's City and District Councils	All key stages in the plan-making process will be formally approved by Oxfordshire's City and District Councils at public meetings according to their constitutions (cabinet and/or council meetings) and subjected to the relevant scrutiny processes of each council.	As required
Oxfordshire Growth Board	The Oxfordshire Growth Board is a joint committee with the leaders of all six Oxfordshire authorities as the core voting members. The Oxfordshire Growth Board also includes associate members from OxLEP, the Universities, Oxfordshire Skills Board, Environment Agency, Homes England, Network Rail and Highways England. Whilst it is not a plan-making authority, the Growth Board discusses items relevant to the Oxfordshire Plan such as evidence base studies.	Quarterly
Oxfordshire Growth Board Advisory Sub-Group	A specialist sub-group of the Oxfordshire Growth Board which provides advisory input into the development of the Oxfordshire Plan.  The Chair of the Sub-Group is drawn from the voting members of the Oxfordshire Growth Board, with the express requirement that their role is to act independently in the interests of Oxfordshire and the Growth Board, and not of their own political group or local authority area. The other members of the Sub-Group are drawn from elected members from each of the Oxfordshire authorities.	Monthly
Oxfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Panel	Includes three councillors from each of the Oxfordshire authorities. It is empowered to review any decisions and make recommendations on reports to the Growth Board.	Quarterly

5.16 Oxfordshire's City and District Councils, in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and OxLEP, have produced and agreed a number of key documents to support the delivery of the Oxfordshire Plan. This includes:

i. *Oxfordshire Plan Scoping Document (October 2018)*<sup>21</sup>

At the outset of the project, Oxfordshire's City and District Councils agreed the scope of the Oxfordshire Plan, including its geographical extent, policy context, plan period, timetable, structure, and governance arrangements.

ii. *Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) (February 2019)*<sup>22</sup> (Revised July 2019)

The SCI sets out how and when Oxfordshire's City and District Councils intend to inform, involve and consult interested parties in the preparation of the Oxfordshire Plan. An updated SCI, which takes account of the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, will be published alongside the second Regulation 18 consultation.

iii. *Local Development Scheme (LDS) (October 2018)*<sup>23</sup>

The LDS sets out the timetable for producing the Oxfordshire Plan.

<sup>21</sup> Oxfordshire Plan 2050 [Scoping Document](#) (October 2018)

<sup>22</sup> Oxfordshire Plan 2050 [Statement of Community Involvement](#) (February 2019)

<sup>23</sup> Oxfordshire Plan 2050 [Local Development Scheme](#) (October 2018)

**Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS) Update**

- 5.17 OxIS is a shared evidence base that has helped to inform local plans and to address strategic infrastructure issues, particularly transport (for example by supporting funding bids such as the Housing and Infrastructure Fund).
- 5.18 The Oxfordshire Growth Board has commissioned an OxIS update to support and inform the Oxfordshire Plan. The OxIS update will establish infrastructure investment priorities and potential delivery and funding opportunities to 2050.

## 6 Co-operation with Adjoining Authorities, LEPs, LNPs and Prescribed Bodies

- 6.1 Oxfordshire's City and District Councils are co-operating with adjoining authorities, adjoining LEPs, adjoining LNPs and prescribed bodies throughout the production of the Oxfordshire Plan.
- 6.2 Table 3 summarises the key stages of engagement with adjoining authorities, LEPs, LNPs and prescribed bodies to date (up to the second Regulation 18 consultation).

<b>Table 3: Key stages of engagement with Adjoining Authorities, LEPs, LNPs and Prescribed Bodies</b>	
<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Type of Engagement</b>
Nov 2018 - Jan 2019	<b>Oxfordshire Plan Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Consultation</b> Consultation on the SCI sought to ensure that the methods and timing of engagement in the plan-making process would be appropriate and effective.
Dec 2018	<b>Oxfordshire Plan Stakeholder Launch Event</b> A launch event was held for key stakeholders (including adjoining authorities and prescribed bodies) to introduce the Oxfordshire Plan and to ask for their initial views on what the Oxfordshire Plan's vision, aspirations and objectives should be.
Jan - Mar 2019	<b>Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report</b> Consultation was undertaken on the Sustainability Appraisal's proposed scope and objectives.
Feb - Mar 2019	<b>Regulation 18 (Part 1) Consultation</b> Consultation focused on identifying Oxfordshire's key strategic issues and opportunities, developing a vision, aspirations and objectives for the Oxfordshire Plan and considering the advantages and disadvantages of different high-level spatial typologies for distributing growth in Oxfordshire.
Mar - Apr 2019	<b>Call for Ideas</b> An open call for broad locations to be considered through the plan-making process for housing and/or employment development, infrastructure projects or environmental designations.
May 2019	<b>Oxfordshire Plan Stakeholder Event</b> A further event for key stakeholders (including duty to co-operate bodies) to help refine the Oxfordshire Plan's vision, aspirations and objectives.
May 2019	<b>Duty to Co-operate Scoping Letter</b> A duty to co-operate scoping letter was sent to adjoining authorities, LEPs, LNPs and prescribed bodies to check that both the strategic matters, and the bodies that should be co-operated with in relation to those matters, had been correctly identified.
May 2019 - Jan 2020	<b>Duty to Co-operate Scoping Meetings</b> Duty to co-operate meetings were held with adjoining authorities, LEPs, LNPs and prescribed bodies to discuss the scope of the Oxfordshire Plan and relevant strategic matters in more detail.
July 2020	<b>Duty to Co-operate Update Letter</b> Letters were sent to adjoining authorities, LEPs, LNPs and prescribed bodies to provide an update on the revised timetable for the Oxfordshire Plan (in light of the Covid-19 pandemic), to introduce Oxfordshire Open Thought and to provide an update on next steps.

June – Aug 2020	<b>Engagement on Key Technical Challenges arising from Regulation 18 (Part 1): Oxfordshire Open Thought</b> An online tool used to discuss three big challenges facing Oxfordshire as it plans for the future: how we will all live and work, how we will move around and how we will tackle climate change.
Nov 2020 - Jan 2021	<b>Strategic Vision Consultation</b> Whilst the Strategic Vision will have a wider role and influence, it will be a key influencer for the Oxfordshire Plan. Consultation was undertaken on the draft Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire.
Dec 2020	<b>Duty to Co-operate Update Letter</b> Letters were sent to adjoining authorities, LEPs, LNPs and prescribed bodies to provide an update on the revised timetable for the Oxfordshire Plan (following a new agreement with Government), to introduce the Strategic Vision and to provide an update on next steps.
May - June 2021	<b>Pre-Regulation 18 (Part 2) Duty to Co-operate Meetings</b> Duty to co-operate meetings were held with adjoining authorities, LEPs, LNPs and prescribed bodies to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide an update on the Oxfordshire Plan (work undertaken to date and proposed next steps);</li> <li>Discuss emerging policy and spatial options and related cross-boundary strategic planning matters;</li> <li>Discuss the Oxfordshire Plan's emerging evidence base and related cross-boundary strategic planning matters; and</li> <li>Receive an update from adjoining authorities, LEPs, LNPs and prescribed bodies on development plan preparation, evidence base development and/or any other work relevant to cross-boundary strategic planning matters.</li> </ol>

6.3 In addition to the key stages of engagement set out above, there has been co-operation with relevant adjoining authorities, LEPs, LNPs and prescribed bodies through other mechanisms where appropriate, specifically:

- Where appropriate, prescribed bodies are associate members of the Oxfordshire Growth Board – for example, Highways England;
- Where appropriate, prescribed bodies are members of working groups that produce and/or oversee the production of specific evidence base workstreams for the Oxfordshire Plan (Table 1) – for example, the Environment Agency is part of the Water Cycle Study working group;
- Where appropriate, prescribed bodies have reviewed proposed methodologies and draft outputs for emerging evidence base documents - for example Natural England reviewed the proposed Habitats Regulations Assessment methodology;
- Where appropriate, prescribed bodies have reviewed and made suggestions relating to emerging policy options – for example the Environment Agency reviewed and made suggestions relating to water quality policy options;
- Where appropriate, additional duty to co-operate meetings have taken place with adjoining authorities, LEPs, LNPs and prescribed bodies; and
- Where appropriate, co-operation with adjoining authorities, LEPs, LNPs and prescribed bodies has been undertaken through related workstreams, for

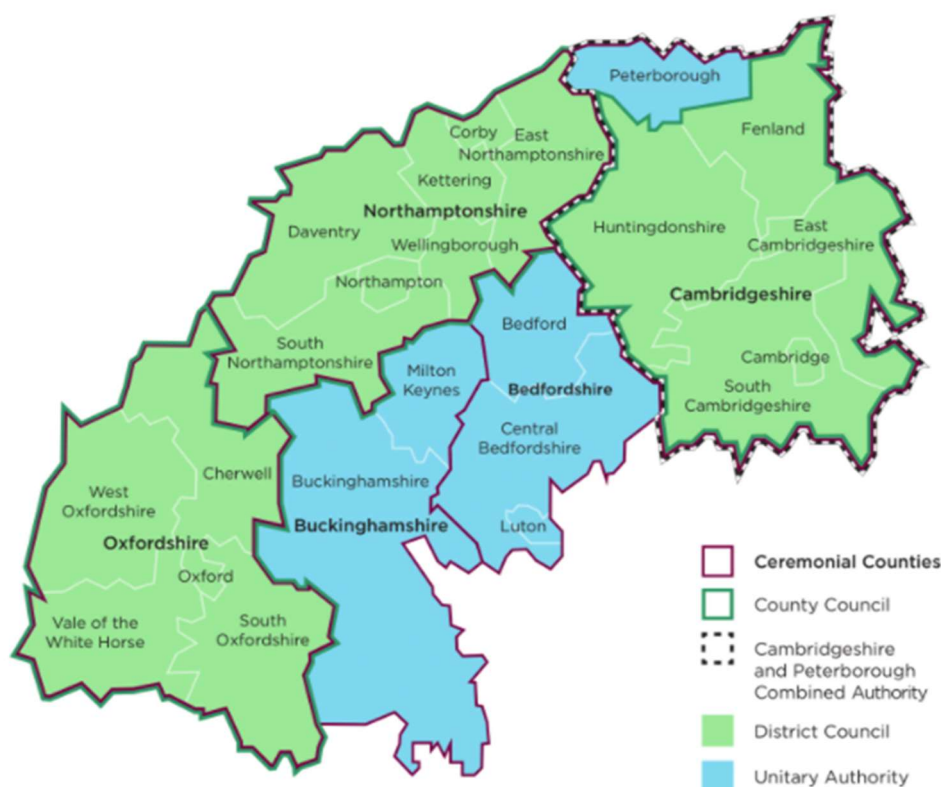
example through England Economic Heartland and Oxford-Cambridge Arc workstreams.

- 6.4 Detailed records of engagement with adjoining authorities, adjoining LEPs, adjoining LNPs and prescribed bodies and how this has helped to ensure that the Oxfordshire Plan effectively addresses strategic matters is provided at Appendix 6.

## 7 Co-operation across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc

- 7.1 The Oxford-Cambridge Arc (the Arc) is a globally significant area between Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge. It is formed of five ceremonial counties: Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Oxford-Cambridge Arc**



*Note: On 1 April 2021 unitary authorities were created covering West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire.*

- 7.2 The Government has identified the Arc as a national economic priority and is committed to developing, with local partners, a Spatial Framework for the Arc. The Arc Spatial Framework is being led by Government and in February 2021 an 'Introduction to the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework' was published. This document sets out the Government's continued commitment to working collaboratively with residents and local partners, seeking input at each stage of decision-making.
- 7.3 The Arc has already generated close cooperation between Councils, LEPs and Universities across the Arc, and the Oxfordshire Growth Board has played an active role in developing the Arc since its inception. All the Oxfordshire local authorities are committed to reaching the potential for transformational growth and environmental improvement across the Arc.
- 7.4 Many of the ambitions of the Arc align with the objectives of the Oxfordshire Plan. The Arc provides a forum for joint working across important issues such as climate change,

connectivity, environmental quality and housing needs. Alongside the Arc, the Government is investing in and supporting a number of other deals and projects. Those specifically related to Oxfordshire include the growth deal with Oxfordshire, investing in the new East West Rail link, providing £400 million of Housing Infrastructure Fund investment, an agreed city deal with Oxford, and a commitment to examine the case for development corporations, linked to the new transport hubs around East West Rail station.

- 7.5 In preparing the Oxfordshire Plan, engagement with the Government and relevant partners on the Arc forums will continue, with it likely that Oxfordshire's role within the Arc will be an increasingly important influence. Participation in the various forums, including the deals and projects referred to above, which have direct and indirect links with the Arc provide an opportunity for joint working on wider cross boundary topics such as water stress and electricity supply.
- 7.6 Engagement already takes place with those local authorities which have boundaries adjoining Oxfordshire and which are also part of the Arc area, Buckinghamshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council. It is recognised that the relationship with those Arc areas beyond those immediately adjoining are likely to vary in terms of their strength and significance.

## 8 Statement of Common Ground

- 8.1 In 2018, revisions to the NPPF introduced a requirement for strategic policy-making authorities to prepare and maintain one or more statements of common ground throughout the plan-making process.<sup>24</sup>
- 8.2 A statement of common ground documents the cross-boundary strategic planning matters being addressed and the progress made in cooperating to address those matters. It documents where effective co-operation is and is not happening throughout the plan-making process and is a way of demonstrating at examination that plans are deliverable and based on effective joint working across local authority boundaries.<sup>25</sup> The NPPF requires that statements of common ground are produced using the approach set out in the PPG, and that they are made publicly available throughout the plan-making process to provide transparency.
- 8.3 A statement of common ground documenting the cross-boundary strategic planning matters being addressed through the production of the Oxfordshire Plan and the progress made in co-operating to address those matters will be agreed and published as part of the second Regulation 18 consultation.
- 8.4 The statement of common ground for the Oxfordshire Plan will be a living document and will be reviewed and updated throughout the plan-making process.
- 8.5 The PPG is clear that statements of common ground are expected to be concise and are not intended to document every occasion that strategic policy-making authorities meet, consult with each other or otherwise engage under the duty to co-operate. Therefore, whilst statements of common ground form part of the evidence required to demonstrate that the duty to co-operate has been complied with, they will also need to provide clear signposting or links to more detailed evidence.<sup>26</sup> This Duty to Co-operate Statement provides the detailed record of co-operation that sits behind the statement of common ground for the Oxfordshire Plan.

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<sup>24</sup> A revised National Planning Policy Framework was published in July 2018 and was subsequently updated in February 2019. The requirement to produce a statement of common ground is set out at Paragraph 27.

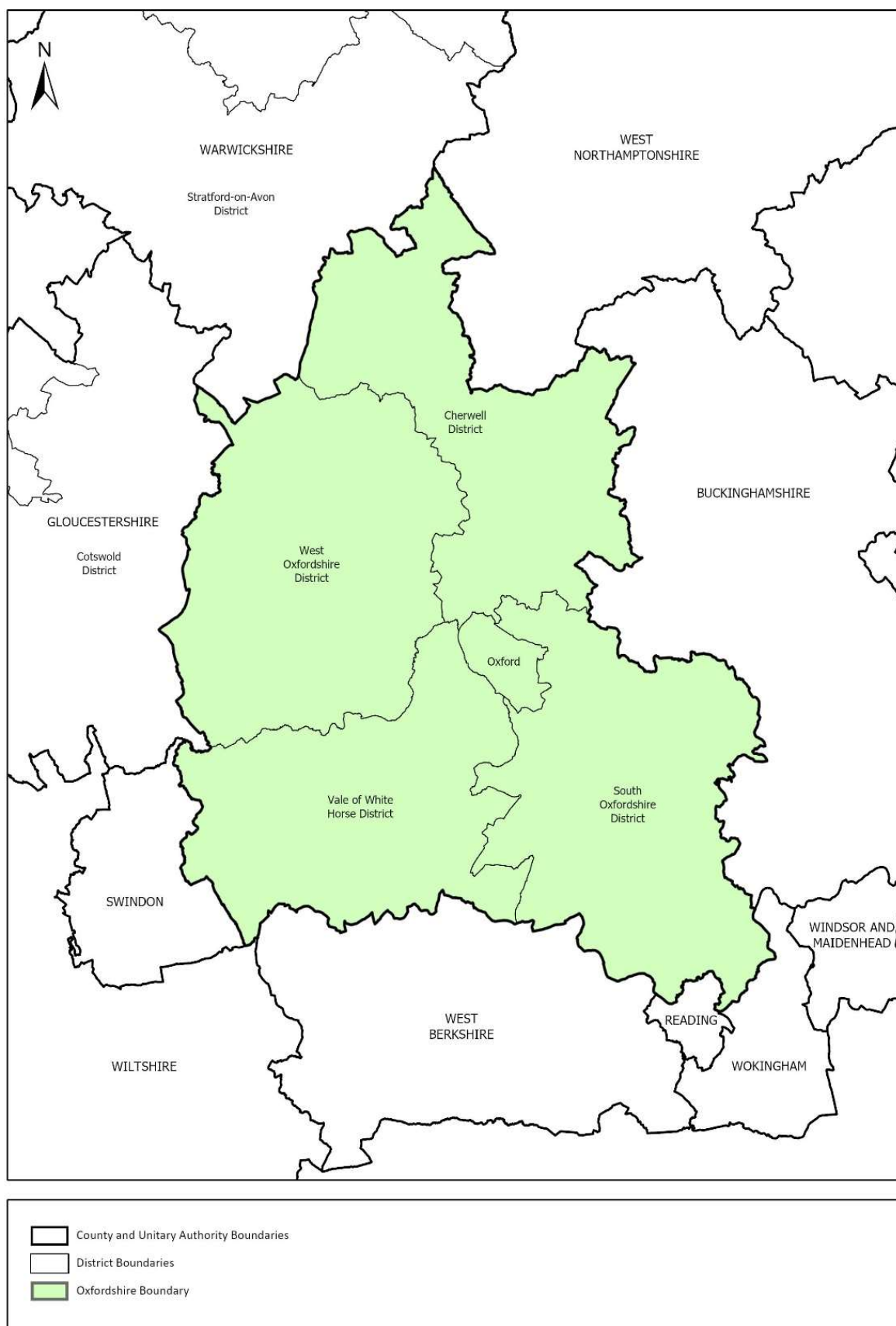
<sup>25</sup> Planning Practice Guidance: Plan-Making: Maintaining Effective Cooperation: What is a statement of common ground? Paragraph 010 Reference ID: 61-010-20190315 Revision Date: 15 03 2019

<sup>26</sup> Planning Practice Guidance: Plan-Making: Maintaining Effective Cooperation: Statement of Common Ground - Scope: What is a statement of common ground expected to contain? Paragraph 011 Reference ID: 61-011-20190315 Revision Date: 15 03 2019

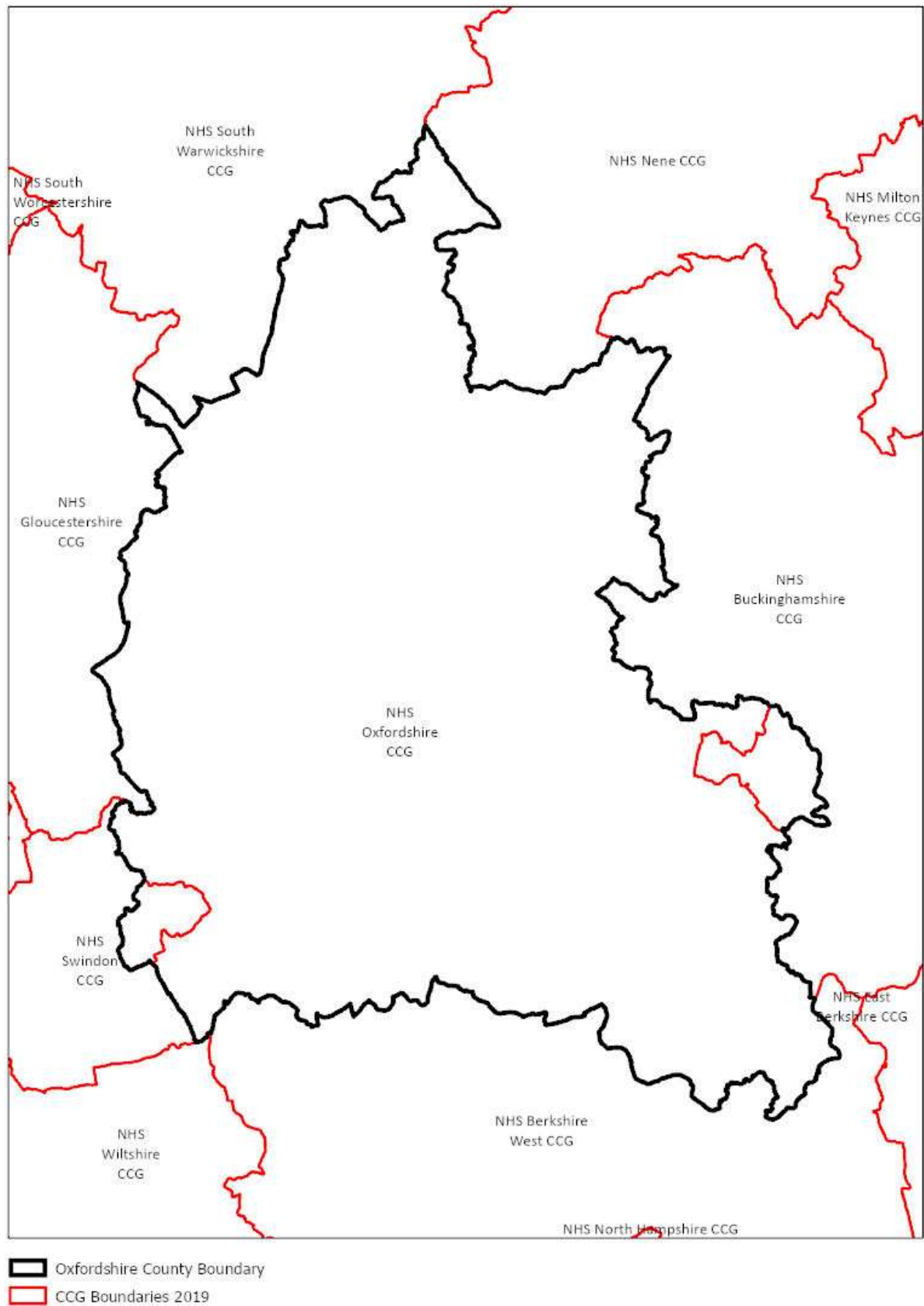
## 9 Conclusions

- 9.1 This Duty to Co-operate Statement sets out how Oxfordshire's City and District Councils have engaged constructively, actively and on an on-going basis with each other, Oxfordshire County Council, neighbouring authorities, prescribed bodies, LEPs and LNPs in the production of the Oxfordshire Plan to date (up to the second Regulation 18 consultation).
- 9.2 As co-operation to address cross-boundary strategic planning matters will continue throughout the plan-making process, an updated version of this Duty to Co-operate Statement will be published at the Regulation 19 stage.

## Appendix 1: Neighbouring Authorities Map

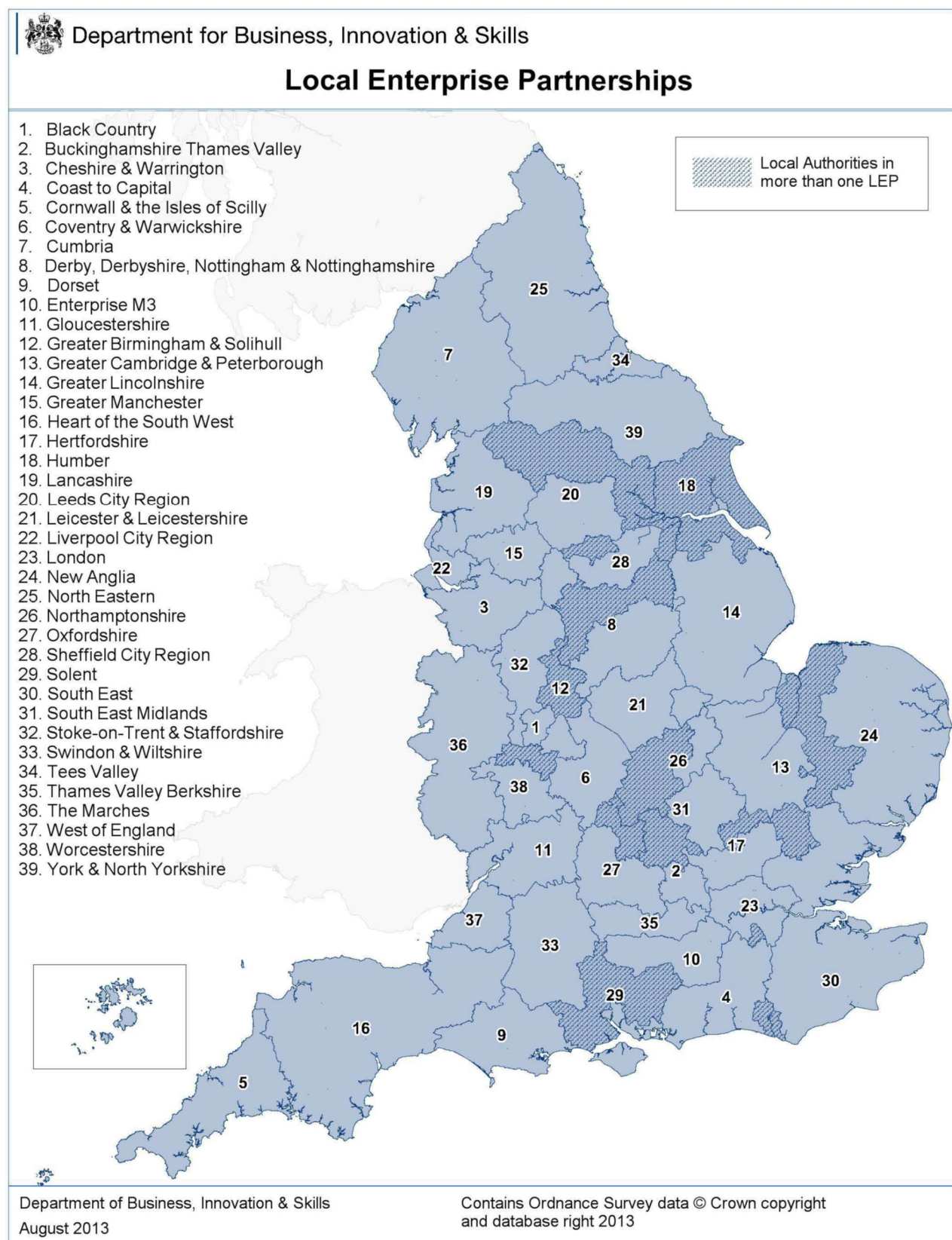


## Appendix 2: Clinical Commissioning Group Boundaries<sup>27</sup>



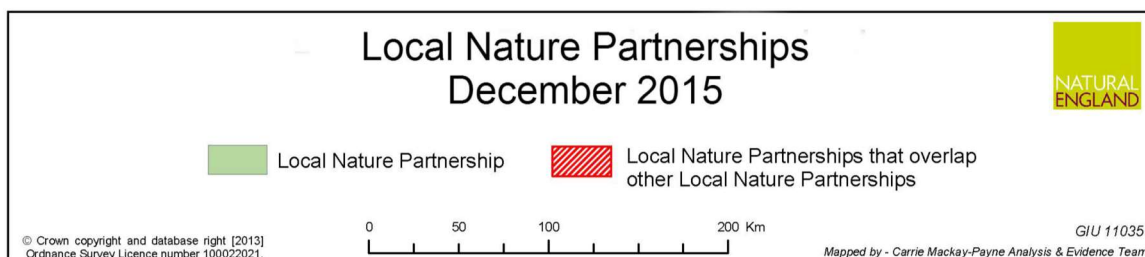
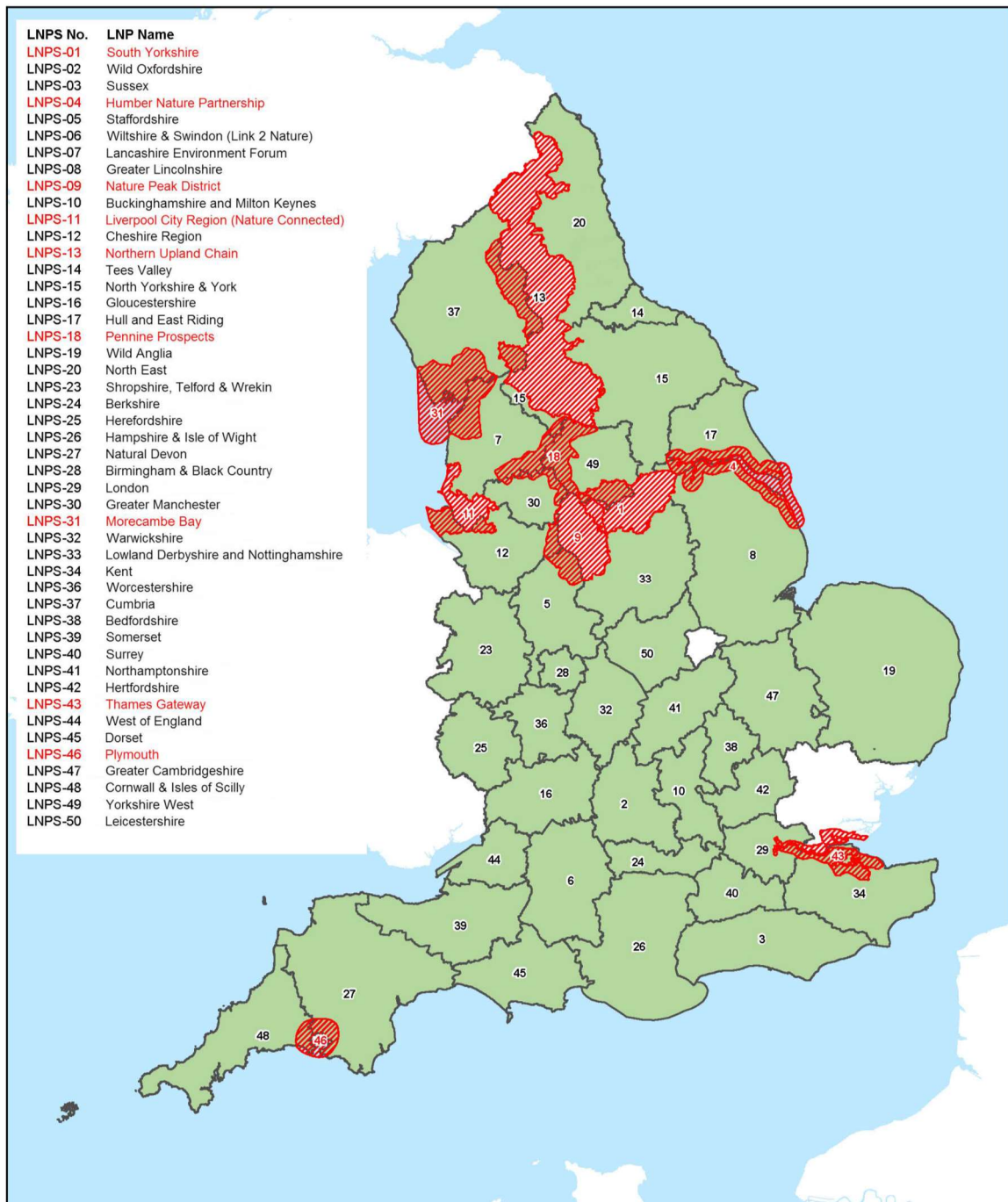
<sup>27</sup> It should be noted that NHS Swindon CCG and NHS Wiltshire CCG are now part of the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG.

## Appendix 3: Neighbouring Local Enterprise Partnerships Map<sup>28</sup>



<sup>28</sup> It should be noted that a review is currently underway to eliminate overlaps and to ensure that all businesses and communities are represented by one local enterprise partnership.

## Appendix 4: Local Nature Partnerships Map<sup>29</sup>



<sup>29</sup> It should be noted that this map was produced in 2015 and some information is now out of date. For example, it shows Wild Oxfordshire as the LNP for Oxfordshire. Oxfordshire does not currently have a LNP.

## Appendix 5: Strategic Matters Matrix

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	Housing Requirements	Housing Supply	Gypsies & Travellers,	Boat Dwellers	Economy & Employment	Retail\Leisure\Other Commercial Development	Transport	Community Facilities (inc. Health & Education)	Other Infrastructure (inc. Water Supply)	Healthy Place-Shaping	Climate Change (inc. Mitigation & Adaptation)	Flood Risk	Water Resources\Water Quality	Heritage & Historic Environment	Biodiversity\Natural Environment\GI	Green Belt	Contaminated Land	Landscape Quality & Character
<b>Oxfordshire</b>																		
Cherwell District Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oxford City Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
South Oxfordshire District Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vale of White Horse District Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
West Oxfordshire District Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oxfordshire County Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	

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		Housing Requirements (	Housing Supply	Gypsies, & Travellers	Boat Dwellers	Economy & Employment	Retail\Leisure\Other Commercial Development	Transport	Community Facilities (inc. Health & Education)	Other Infrastructure (inc. Water Supply)	Healthy Place-Shaping	Climate Change (inc. Mitigation & Adaptation)	Flood Risk	Water Resources\Water Quality	Heritage & Historic Environment	Biodiversity\Natural Environment\GI	Green Belt	Contaminated Land	Landscape Quality & Character
<b>Adjoining Authorities</b>																			
<b>Berkshire</b>	Reading Borough Council	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			
	West Berkshire Council	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			✓			✓
	Wokingham Borough Council	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			✓			
<b>Buckinghamshire</b>	Buckinghamshire Council	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	Cotswold District Council		✓					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
	Gloucestershire County Council			✓		✓	✓	✓					✓			✓			✓
<b>Northamptonshire</b>	West Northamptonshire Council		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		✓	✓			✓
<b>Swindon &amp; Wiltshire</b>	Swindon Borough Council		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓	✓		✓			✓
	Wiltshire Council		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓	✓		✓			✓
<b>Warwickshire</b>	Stratford-on-Avon District Council		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓								✓			✓
	Warwickshire County Council			✓		✓	✓	✓					✓			✓			✓

	Housing Requirements	Housing Supply	Gypsies & Travellers,	Boat Dwellers	Economy & Employment	Retail\Leisure\Other Commercial Development	Transport	Community Facilities (inc. Health & Education)	Other Infrastructure (inc. Water Supply)	Healthy Place-Shaping	Climate Change (inc. Mitigation & Adaptation)	Flood Risk	Water Resources\Water Quality	Heritage & Historic Environment	Biodiversity\Natural Environment\GI	Green Belt	Contaminated Land	Landscape Quality & Character
<b>Prescribed Bodies</b>																		
Civil Aviation Authority							✓											
Environment Agency		✓	✓	✓					✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
Highways England	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓					✓				✓		
Historic England	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Homes England	✓	✓	✓															
Mayor of London	✓	✓			✓		✓		✓				✓					
Natural England		✓			✓		✓				✓		✓		✓			✓
NHS Buckinghamshire CCG								✓		✓								
NHS Oxfordshire CCG	✓	✓			✓			✓		✓								
NHS Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG								✓		✓								
Office of Rail & Road							✓											

	Housing Requirements	Housing Supply	Gypsies & Travellers,	Boat Dwellers	Economy & Employment	Retail\Leisure\Other Commercial Development	Transport	Community Facilities (inc. Health & Education)	Other Infrastructure (inc. Water Supply)	Healthy Place-Shaping	Climate Change (inc. Mitigation & Adaptation)	Flood Risk	Water Resources\Water Quality	Heritage & Historic Environment	Biodiversity\Natural Environment\Gl	Green Belt	Contaminated Land	Landscape Quality & Character
<b>Adjoining Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)</b>																		
Buckinghamshire LEP	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coventry & Warwickshire LEP	<i>To be determined (if any)</i>																	
Gloucestershire LEP	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			✓			✓
South East Midlands LEP					✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				✓			
Swindon & Wiltshire LEP					✓		✓				✓				✓			
Thames Valley Berkshire LEP					✓		✓				✓							

	Housing Requirements	Housing Supply	Gypsies & Travellers,	Boat Dwellers	Economy & Employment	Retail\Leisure\Other Commercial Development	Transport	Community Facilities (inc. Health & Education)	Other Infrastructure (inc. Water Supply)	Healthy Place-Shaping	Climate Change (inc. Mitigation & Adaptation)	Flood Risk	Water Resources\Water Quality	Heritage & Historic Environment	Biodiversity\Natural Environment\GI	Green Belt	Contaminated Land	Landscape Quality & Character
Adjoining Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs)																		
Berkshire LNP															✓			✓
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes LNP	To be determined (if any)																	
Gloucestershire LNP	To be determined (if any)																	
Northamptonshire LNP	To be determined (if any)																	
Swindon and Wiltshire LNP - Link to Nature	To be determined (if any)																	
Warwickshire LNP	To be determined (if any)																	

## Appendix 6: Records of Co-operation

### Record of Co-operation: Berkshire

This record summarises co-operation to date (up to the second Regulation 18 consultation) with:

- Reading Borough Council (Reading BC);
- West Berkshire Council;
- Wokingham Borough Council (Wokingham BC);
- Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (TVBLEP); and
- Berkshire Local Nature Partnership (LNP).

Record of Co-operation: Berkshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
SCI Consultation	Nov 2018 - Jan 2019	Reading BC, West Berkshire Council, Wokingham BC, TVBLEP and Berkshire LNP did not submit comments on the SCI.	N/A
Stakeholder Launch Event	Dec 2018	Reading BC, West Berkshire Council, Wokingham BC, TVBLEP and Berkshire LNP did not attend this Event.	N/A
SA Scoping Report Consultation	Jan - Mar 2019	Reading BC, West Berkshire Council, Wokingham BC, TVBLEP and Berkshire LNP did not submit comments on the SA Scoping Report.	N/A
Regulation 18 Consultation (1)	Feb - Mar 2019	<p>Wokingham BC made the following comments:</p> <p><u>Cross-boundary Relationships</u></p> <p>The important links between Oxfordshire and the wider region, particularly the strong economic and transport links between Oxfordshire and the Berkshire/Thames Valley areas, should be recognised and taken into account. All technical analysis and future engagement should fully recognise cross-boundary relationships and impacts.</p>	<p><u>Cross-boundary Relationships</u></p> <p>The emerging Oxfordshire Plan and its supporting evidence base recognise and take account of cross-boundary relationships at a range of geographical scales.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Berkshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<p><u>Spatial Scenarios</u> It is important that all scenarios consider the potential opportunities and impacts beyond Oxfordshire's boundary. Co-operation with the relevant authorities beyond Oxfordshire will be vital.</p> <p><u>Strategic Infrastructure</u> A potential new Thames river crossing between Oxfordshire and the Wokingham/Reading area is of particular interest to Wokingham BC. There are historic and ongoing discussions between South Oxfordshire District Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Reading BC and Wokingham BC. This potential link should be acknowledged through the Oxfordshire Plan.</p>	<p><u>Spatial Scenarios</u> Five spatial options are identified at the second Regulation 18 stage. Potential opportunities and impacts are identified at a high level and will be tested, including through the second Regulation 18 consultation. A more detailed assessment will be undertaken to identify the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19. This assessment process will include co-operation with adjoining authorities.</p> <p><u>Strategic Infrastructure</u> The potential for a new Thames river crossing or any other necessary transport solutions between Oxfordshire and the Wokingham/Reading area will be considered through both the plan-making process and the OxIS update. This will include consideration of need, impacts, opportunities and deliverability. There is ongoing engagement with Berkshire in relation to this matter.</p>
Call for Ideas	Mar-Apr 2019	<p>Reading BC submitted three proposals through the Call for Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Location for an additional crossing of the River Thames, east of Reading.</li> <li>▪ Park and Ride locations along three corridors into Reading from South Oxfordshire (the A4074 from Woodcote, B481 from Sonning Common and A4155 from Henley-on-Thames).</li> <li>▪ Consideration of implications for strategic development on the edge of Reading.</li> </ul>	Call for Ideas submissions will be considered through the plan-making process and, where appropriate, the OxIS update. Call for Ideas submissions will be assessed as part of the identification of the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19.

Record of Co-operation: Berkshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
<b>Duty to Co-operate Scoping Exercise</b>	May 2019	<p>A joint response was submitted by Reading BC, Wokingham BC and TVBLEP which highlighted existing and on-going co-operation in relation to a potential new Thames river crossing between Oxfordshire and the Wokingham/Reading area.</p> <p>Reading BC confirmed that the schedule of matters for which it is identified as a potential duty to co-operate partner accord relatively well with those in their own Duty to Co-operate Scoping Strategy (December 2015) for which Oxfordshire authorities are identified. The principal difference is that Reading's strategy identifies a need for co-operation with South Oxfordshire District Council on strategic landscape matters, as well as on tall buildings (with such buildings in Reading likely visible from parts of the Chilterns AONB within South Oxfordshire). However, it is appreciated that these are more likely to be specific duty to co-operate matters with South Oxfordshire, rather than for the Oxfordshire Plan as a whole.</p>	Engagement with Berkshire will be undertaken under the duty to co-operate in relation to relevant strategic matters throughout the plan-making process in order to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan. The strategic matters identified at this stage will be the starting point for this engagement. However, it is recognised that the strategic matters relevant to Berkshire may require review/refinement as work on the Oxfordshire Plan progresses. Discussions with Berkshire in relation to relevant strategic matters will be ongoing throughout the plan-making process.
<b>Stakeholder Event</b>	May 2019	Reading BC, West Berkshire Council, Wokingham BC, TVBLEP and Berkshire LNP did not attend this Event.	N/A
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	24 Sept 2019	<p>A joint duty to co-operate meeting took place with Reading BC, West Berkshire Council, Wokingham BC and TVBLEP.</p> <p><u>Housing Need and Supply</u> Berkshire's housing needs will be met within the Berkshire housing market area. There is no unmet housing need for Oxfordshire to consider.</p>	<p><u>Housing Need and Supply</u> No unmet housing need from Berkshire to consider.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Berkshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<p><u>New Thames Crossing</u> Joint approach and evidence needed to explore the feasibility of improving north-south connections between Reading/Wokingham/Oxfordshire. One option is a bridge, but all reasonable options need to be explored. No current local plan allocations are dependent on a new Thames crossing. No funding currently identified.</p> <p><u>Park and Ride Provision</u> Reading's local plan identifies the need for new park and ride provision. Opportunities for new sites will be sought on key corridors, this includes possible locations within South Oxfordshire.</p> <p><u>Education</u> There is pressure on secondary school places in Reading. Any growth close to Reading would need to take appropriate account of this.</p>	<p><u>New Thames Crossing</u> The potential for a new Thames river crossing or any other transport solutions between Oxfordshire and the Wokingham/Reading area will be considered through both the plan-making process and the OxIS update. This will include consideration of need, impacts, opportunities and deliverability. There is ongoing engagement with Reading Borough Council, Wokingham Borough Council and TVBLEP in relation to this matter.</p> <p><u>Park and Ride Provision</u> The potential for new park and ride provision to serve Reading will be considered through both the plan-making process and the OxIS update. This will include consideration of need, impacts, opportunities and deliverability. There is ongoing engagement with Reading Borough Council in relation to this matter.</p> <p><u>Education</u> - Potential opportunities and impacts beyond Oxfordshire's boundary will be considered as part of the identification of the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19.</p>
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	11 Feb 2020	A joint duty to co-operate meeting took place with neighbouring local nature partnerships, which Berkshire LNP attended. The emerging natural environment evidence base for the Oxfordshire Plan was discussed, including natural capital, nature recovery, green infrastructure, the water cycle study and Habitats Regulations Assessment. Berkshire LNP highlighted challenges related to establishing an active LNP and ensuring the strategic co-ordination of natural environment issues.	Engagement with Berkshire LNP will be undertaken under the duty to co-operate in relation to relevant strategic matters throughout the plan-making process in order to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan.

Record of Co-operation: Berkshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
Oxfordshire Open Thought	Jun - Aug 2020	Reading BC, West Berkshire Council, Wokingham BC, TVBLEP and Berkshire LNP did not submit comments via Open Thought.	N/A
Strategic Vision Consultation	Nov 2020 - Jan 2021	Reading BC, West Berkshire Council, Wokingham BC, TVBLEP and Berkshire LNP did not submit comments on the Strategic Vision.	N/A
Duty to Co-operate Meeting	14 May 2021	<p>A joint duty to co-operate meeting took place with Reading BC, West Berkshire Council, Wokingham BC, TVBLEP and Berkshire LNP.</p> <p><u>Strategic Infrastructure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TVBLEP's Recovery &amp; Renewal Plan includes references to north-south connectivity and A34 improvements (including bus routes between West Berkshire and Harwell).</li> <li>Environment Agency flood-relief schemes across the Thames river catchment area.</li> <li>Potential new Thames river crossing between Oxfordshire and the Wokingham/Reading area.</li> </ul> <p>A review of the strategic matters relevant to each organisation was undertaken.</p> <p>It was agreed that a statement of common ground was not needed at the second Regulation 18 stage.</p>	<p><u>Strategic Infrastructure</u></p> <p>Strategic infrastructure requirements will be considered through both the plan-making process and the OxIS update. This will include consideration of need, impacts, opportunities and deliverability. There is ongoing engagement with Berkshire in relation to strategic infrastructure.</p>

**Record of Co-operation: Buckinghamshire**

This record summarises co-operation to date (up to the second Regulation 18 consultation) with:

- Aylesbury Vale District Council, Chiltern District Council, South Buckinghamshire District Council, Wycombe District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council (until 31 March 2020);
- Buckinghamshire Council (from 1 April 2020);
- Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership (BLEP); and
- Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership (BMKLNP).

<b>Record of Co-operation: Buckinghamshire</b>			
<b>Engagement Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process</b>
<b>SCI Consultation</b>	Nov 2018 - Jan 2019	The Buckinghamshire councils, BLEP and BMKLNP did not submit comments on the SCI.	N/A
<b>Stakeholder Launch Event</b>	Dec 2018	A Buckinghamshire CC representative attended this event which introduced the Oxfordshire Plan and highlighted some of the key challenges in planning to 2050. Attendees were asked their views on Oxfordshire's future.	Stakeholder feedback from this event fed into the first Regulation 18 consultation document.
<b>SA Scoping Report Consultation</b>	Jan - Mar 2019	Buckinghamshire CC confirmed that it did not have any comments on the SA Scoping Report. No comments received from the district councils, BLEP and BMKLNP.	N/A
<b>Regulation 18 Consultation (1)</b>	Feb - Mar 2019	<p>The Buckinghamshire authorities submitted a joint response.</p> <p><u>Plan Vision, Objectives &amp; Aspirations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Oxfordshire Plan's vision should emphasise future economic, transport links with neighbouring authorities and the wider south east region, with an emphasis on sustainable modes.</li> <li>▪ Reference to conserving the natural environmental in the vision is insufficient given the Government's commitment to environmental gains.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Plan Vision, Objectives &amp; Aspirations</u></p> <p>The Oxfordshire Plan's vision and objectives were amended to take account of comments received through the first Regulation 18 consultation.</p> <p>The emerging Oxfordshire Plan and its supporting evidence base recognise and take account of cross-boundary relationships at a range of geographical scales.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Buckinghamshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally supportive of the aspirations but would like to see more reference to the wider context, beyond Oxfordshire, and a greater emphasis on climate change.</li> <li>A number of specific points were made in relation to draft objectives 1-9.</li> </ul> <p><u>Growth Proposals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An early understanding of how growth proposals in Oxfordshire respond to the Ox-Cam Arc and Expressway is needed.</li> <li>Early notification and discussion is needed should growth be proposed at Thame, Chinnor or Bicester to allow potential cross-boundary effects to be assessed.</li> <li>There is no mention of the Aecom study being undertaken on behalf of the Government into the options for new development in relation to new settlements and or urban extensions. However, the Arc Leaders have expressed reservations about the Aecom work and are of the view that the locations for new developments should be driven from the bottom up. This should be reflected in the Plan. It is vitally important the approach in Oxfordshire connects to the approach across the rest of the Arc. Aylesbury Vale has also already undertaken work in relation to the potential location of new settlements which should also be considered. Whichever distribution option is chosen it is essential that it maximises the use of existing or future sustainable transport options, protects environmental capital and takes into account the location of development and infrastructure in the wider sub-region beyond the county boundary. It is also observed that the longer term delivery of new settlements is</li> </ul>	<p>Addressing climate change and improving environmental quality have been identified as key themes within the emerging Oxfordshire Plan.</p> <p><u>Growth Proposals</u></p> <p>Five spatial options are identified at the second Regulation 18 stage. Potential opportunities and impacts are identified at a high level and will be tested, including through the second Regulation 18 consultation. A more detailed assessment will be undertaken to identify the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19. This assessment process will include co-operation with adjoining authorities</p>

Record of Co-operation: Buckinghamshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<p>ideally suited to the longer term nature of a plan reaching to 2050.</p> <p><u>Green Infrastructure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The lack of reference to green infrastructure at a strategic scale is a considerable omission. The Chilterns AONB, River Thames and other assets need greater visibility.</li> </ul> <p><u>Transport Infrastructure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High levels of cross-boundary travel, particularly by car. The cross-boundary impacts of growth on local and strategic roads needs to be monitored and mitigated.</li> <li>Keen to explore opportunities for public transport and active travel connections benefiting both areas.</li> <li>Improving connectivity within the Oxford-Cambridge Arc corridor is key.</li> <li>Support improvements to rail services across the region.</li> <li>Freight movements on rural roads is an issue for Buckinghamshire. Buckinghamshire Freight Strategy published in 2018. More weight should be given to reducing the impacts of road freight as a key sustainability issue. Cross-boundary working on this issue welcomed.</li> </ul> <p><u>Transport Infrastructure: Specific Ambitions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Haddenham Train Station to Thame Cycleway.</li> <li>Long Crendon to Thame walking and cycle opportunities.</li> <li>Strategic cycling network improvements, possibly including connections between all proposed East West Rail Stations.</li> <li>Buckingham and Brackley cycleway, with connections across the HS2 line.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Green Infrastructure</u></p> <p>Green infrastructure is highlighted in the second Regulation 18 consultation document, with policy options related to natural capital, nature recovery, landscape and water quality.</p> <p><u>Transport Infrastructure</u></p> <p>The emerging Oxfordshire Plan and its supporting evidence base recognise and take account of cross-boundary relationships at a range of geographical scales. Planning for sustainable travel and connectivity is a core theme in the emerging Oxfordshire Plan and the production of the Oxfordshire Plan is aligned with the production of the Oxfordshire Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) and the OxIS update. The second Regulation 18 consultation document includes policy options related to supporting sustainable freight management. There is ongoing engagement with Buckinghamshire in relation to this matter.</p> <p><u>Transport Infrastructure: Specific Ambitions</u></p> <p>Strategic infrastructure requirements will be considered through both the plan-making process and the OxIS update. This will include consideration of need, impacts, opportunities and deliverability. There is ongoing engagement with Buckinghamshire in relation to strategic infrastructure.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Buckinghamshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<p><u>Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are currently a number of Buckinghamshire residents that attend primary and secondary schools in South Oxfordshire (particularly Thame). Similarly, a number of Oxfordshire residents attend schools in Buckinghamshire (predominantly secondary school pupils). Any proposed future growth in Thame and the surrounding areas will be likely to increase demand for school places and will have an impact on pupil movements between Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.</li> </ul> <p><u>Wider Infrastructure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome the focus on providing infrastructure to support electric vehicle use and the focus on redirecting energy generation towards more sustainable sources.</li> <li>The importance of securing adequate water resources is also acknowledged as an issue for the whole of the south east so new facilities must be viewed in that wider context and over the longer term.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Education</u></p> <p>Strategic infrastructure requirements will be considered through both the plan-making process and the OxIS update. Cross-boundary opportunities and impacts will be considered as part of the detailed assessment process to identify the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19. Co-operation with adjoining authorities will be undertaken as part of this process.</p> <p><u>Wider Infrastructure</u></p> <p>These points are noted.</p>
<b>Call for Ideas</b>	Mar-Apr 2019	The Buckinghamshire authorities, BLEP and BMKLN did not make a Call for Ideas submission.	N/A
<b>Duty to Co-operate Scoping Exercise</b>	May 2019	<p>The Buckinghamshire councils submitted a joint response to the Duty to Co-operate Scoping Letter.</p> <p>The district authorities are to be the leads on the following strategic matters until the new unitary authority is made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing requirements</li> <li>Housing supply</li> <li>Gypsies, Travellers, Caravan Dwellers and Travelling Showpeople</li> <li>Employment</li> </ul>	Engagement with Buckinghamshire will be undertaken under the duty to co-operate in relation to relevant strategic matters throughout the plan-making process in order to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan. The strategic matters identified at this stage will be the starting point for this engagement. However, it is recognised that the strategic matters relevant Buckinghamshire may require review/refinement as work on the Oxfordshire Plan progresses. Discussions with

Record of Co-operation: Buckinghamshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Retail, leisure and other commercial development</li> <li>▪ Other infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Climate Change</li> <li>▪ Landscape quality and character</li> </ul> <p>Buckinghamshire County Council is to be the lead on the following strategic matters until the new unitary authority for Buckinghamshire is made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transport</li> <li>▪ Community facilities including health and education</li> <li>▪ Flood risk</li> </ul> <p>Buckinghamshire County Council also stated that whilst water resources and water quality has not been identified as a strategic matter, they would like to be involved in discussions as the lead body for Buckinghamshire if required.</p> <p>Wycombe District Council also submitted an individual response which identified that water supply and flood risk may also be strategic cross-boundary issues with Wycombe District.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes' Natural Environment Partnership should be added to the list of duty to co-operate bodies as the Local Nature Partnership (LNP) for Buckinghamshire.</p>	Buckinghamshire in relation to relevant strategic matters will be ongoing throughout the plan-making process.
<b>Stakeholder Event</b>	May 2019	A Buckinghamshire County Council representative attended this event.	Stakeholder feedback from this event fed into the review of the Oxfordshire Plan's vision, aspirations and objectives.
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	4 Nov 2019	Duty to co-operate for the Oxfordshire Plan was added to the agenda for a regular Buckinghamshire Planning Policy Officers Group (BPPOG) meeting.	

Record of Co-operation: Buckinghamshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<p><u>Housing Need and Supply</u> Buckinghamshire does not currently have any unmet need. Oxfordshire also anticipates meeting its own needs within its boundaries.</p> <p><u>Strategic Infrastructure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Growth at Haddenham and/or Princes Risborough has potential to impact on infrastructure/services at Thame.</li> <li>▪ Buckinghamshire County Council is keen for further discussions in relation to sustainable transport. There are opportunities through the emerging transport vision for the Oxfordshire Plan and the development of the new Oxfordshire Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.</li> <li>▪ Oxfordshire County Council is putting together a proposal to look at the A41 through Bicester in 2020/21, including making it more attractive for sustainable modes. Will liaise with Buckinghamshire on cross-boundary issues.</li> <li>▪ Expressway – several councils across Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire have expressed concerns or objections to the Expressway. The Oxfordshire Plan will need to test all reasonable options.</li> </ul> <p><u>Evidence Base</u> Water – The EA raised issues related to River Thames modelling through the Wycombe local plan process. Similar issues may be raised for Oxfordshire.</p>	<p><u>Housing Need and Supply</u> No unmet housing need from Buckinghamshire to consider.</p> <p><u>Strategic Infrastructure</u> Cross-boundary opportunities and impacts will be considered as part of the detailed assessment process to identify the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19. Co-operation with adjoining authorities will be undertaken as part of this process.</p> <p>Planning for sustainable travel and connectivity is a core theme in the emerging Oxfordshire Plan. The production of the Oxfordshire Plan is aligned with the production of the LTCP and the OxIS update. Oxfordshire County Council will engage with Buckinghamshire as part of the LTCP process. Co-operation with Buckinghamshire will also be undertaken in relation to transport evidence to support the Oxfordshire Plan.</p> <p>The Oxford to Cambridge Expressway project has now been cancelled.</p> <p><u>Evidence Base</u> Noted. This will be taken into consideration in the production of relevant evidence base studies.</p>
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	11 Feb 2020	A joint duty to co-operate meeting took place with neighbouring local nature partnerships, which BMKLNLP attended. The emerging natural environment evidence base for the Oxfordshire Plan was discussed, including natural	Engagement with BMKLNLP will be undertaken under the duty to co-operate in relation to relevant strategic matters throughout the plan-making process in order to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan.

Record of Co-operation: Buckinghamshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		capital, nature recovery, green infrastructure, the water cycle study and Habitats Regulations Assessment. BMKLNP highlighted that the Buckinghamshire authorities have agreed a biodiversity accounting approach and have produced a model policy. BMKLNP also highlighted strategic-scale environmental opportunities mapping across the Arc.	
<b>Oxfordshire Open Thought</b>	Jun - Aug 2020	Buckinghamshire Council, BLEP and BMKLNP did not submit comments via Oxfordshire Open Thought.	N/A
<b>Strategic Vision Consultation</b>	Nov 2020 - Jan 2021	Buckinghamshire Council, BLEP and BMKLNP did not submit comments on the Draft Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire.	N/A
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	27 April 2021	<p>A duty to co-operate meeting took place with Buckinghamshire Council and BLEP.</p> <p><u>Oxford-Cambridge Arc</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alignment between the emerging Oxfordshire Plan and the emerging Arc Spatial framework.</li> <li>Buckinghamshire LEP is not part of Arc governance arrangements.</li> </ul> <p><u>Growth Locations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement with Buckinghamshire needed as spatial options are refined to identify the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth.</li> </ul> <p><u>Economy and Employment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government is currently undertaking a review of the role and coverage of LEPs across England.</li> <li>Unknown implications of Brexit and Covid-19.</li> <li>BLEP's recovery strategy is based on increased productivity.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Oxford-Cambridge Arc</u> These points are noted.</p> <p><u>Growth Locations</u> Cross-boundary opportunities and impacts will be considered as part of the detailed assessment process to identify the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19. Co-operation with adjoining authorities will be undertaken as part of this process.</p> <p><u>Economy and Employment</u> Policy options related to the economy and employment will be published as part of the second Regulation 18 consultation. Engagement with Buckinghamshire and BLEP will continue throughout the plan-making process.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Buckinghamshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oxfordshire Plan needs flexibility to respond to long term change.</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that a statement of common ground was not needed at the second Regulation 18 stage.</p>	

### Record of Co-operation: Gloucestershire

This record summarises co-operation to date (up to the second Regulation 18 consultation) with:

- Cotswold District Council (Cotswold DC)
- Gloucestershire County Council (Gloucestershire CC)
- Gloucestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLEP)
- Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership (GLNP)

Record of Co-operation: Gloucestershire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
<b>SCI Consultation</b>	Nov 2018 - Jan 2019	Gloucestershire CC confirmed that it did not have any comments to make on the SCI. Cotswold DC, GLEP and GLNP did not submit comments on the SCI.	N/A
<b>Stakeholder Launch Event</b>	Dec 2018	Cotswold DC, Gloucestershire CC, GLEP and GLNP did not attend the Oxfordshire Plan Stakeholder Launch Event.	N/A
<b>SA Scoping Report Consultation</b>	Jan-Mar 2019	<p>Gloucestershire CC made the following comments:</p> <p><u>Cross-boundary Relationships</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In describing Oxfordshire's location, proximity to Gloucestershire could be noted. There are links in relation to transport priorities, impacts and opportunities at a strategic and local level. The pull of the Evesham area is of relevance.</li> </ul>	The Oxfordshire authorities, with the SA consultants working on their behalf, reviewed all of the comments received in relation to the SA Scoping Report and considered where the SA Scoping Report required amendments. This process is set out in detail in Appendix 3 of the revised SA Scoping Report (LUC, May 2019).

Record of Co-operation: Gloucestershire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire share the Cotswolds AONB. Challenges and opportunities related to the AONB are shared. Joint working and pooled or co-ordinated resources may better meet AONB transport challenges.</li> <li>Oxfordshire's growth projections are mirrored in neighbouring counties. The effects of development and travel at a regional level may also need to be considered.</li> </ul> <p><u>Transport Infrastructure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Strategic and Major Road Networks are of particular relevance to both Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire. Arterial routes carry significant levels of traffic, including freight. Gloucestershire County Council are concerned about growth along the A40 if the impacts are not fully mitigated. The need for joint working in relation to freight management should be recognised. The long-term role of the A40 as an extension to the OxCam Expressway (to the M5) as needs to be considered.</li> <li>Gloucestershire County Council would be less concerned about growth affecting the A44 around the area of Chipping Norton, as this is a local access route. However, if the impacts of growth along the A40 are not mitigated, freight might switch to this route causing additional problems at Moreton-in-Marsh.</li> <li>There is no direct rail access between the Central Severn Vale of Gloucestershire and Oxford, although the new Worcestershire Parkway train station will improve connectivity. Substantial investment will be required at existing stations along the North Cotswold line to encourage and facilitate greater use of rail services. The North Cotswold Line Task Force (of which</li> </ul>	

Record of Co-operation: Gloucestershire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<p>Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire County Councils are members) is undertaking studies looking at improving frequency and journey times between Worcester, Oxford and London. It is also considering the infrastructure improvements required to bring about these service enhancements. It would be useful to reference this ongoing work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Providing quality bus services connecting development to stations will be critical in reducing car dependency.</li> </ul>	
<b>Regulation 18 Consultation (1)</b>	Feb-Mar 2019	<p>Gloucestershire CC made the following comments:</p> <p><u>Transport Infrastructure</u></p> <p>Transport issues are a concern for Gloucestershire CC. Some transport priorities, impacts and opportunities are linked to those of Oxfordshire. The pull of the Evesham area is of relevance.</p> <p>The Strategic and Major Road Networks are of particular relevance to both Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire. Arterial routes carry significant levels of traffic, including freight. Gloucestershire County Council are concerned about growth along the A40 if the impacts are not fully mitigated. The need for joint working in relation to freight management should be recognised. The long-term role of the A40 as an extension to the OxCam Expressway (to the M5) as needs to be considered.</p> <p>Substantial investment will be required at existing stations along the North Cotswold line to encourage and facilitate greater use of rail services. The North Cotswold Line Task Force (of which Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire County Councils are members) is undertaking studies looking at</p>	<p><u>Transport Infrastructure</u></p> <p>The emerging Oxfordshire Plan and its supporting evidence base recognise and take account of cross-boundary relationships at a range of geographical scales. Planning for sustainable travel and connectivity is a core theme in the emerging Oxfordshire Plan and the production of the Oxfordshire Plan is aligned with the production of the Oxfordshire LTCP and the OxIS update. The second Regulation 18 consultation document includes policy options related to supporting sustainable freight management.</p> <p>The emerging Oxfordshire Plan and its evidence base, including the OxIS update, recognises potential to enhance rail services. One of the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial options is focused on sustainable transport hubs and corridors. Potential rail infrastructure improvements are considered at a high level within this option and will be considered in greater detail as part of the detailed assessment process to identify the Oxfordshire Plan's</p>

Record of Co-operation: Gloucestershire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<p>improving frequency and journey times between Worcester, Oxford and London. It is also considering the infrastructure improvements required to bring about these service enhancements. It would be useful to reference this ongoing work. The relationship between the work of the NCLTF and other transport related bodies within Oxfordshire should be set out to ensure an integrated and joined up approach.</p> <p>Providing quality bus services connecting development to stations will be critical in reducing car dependency.</p>	<p>spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19. Co-operation with adjoining authorities will be undertaken as part of this process.</p>
<b>Call for Ideas</b>	Mar-Apr 2019	Cotswold DC, Gloucestershire CC, GLEP and GLNP did not make a Call for Ideas submission.	N/A
<b>Duty to Co-operate Scoping Exercise</b>	June 2019	<p>Gloucestershire CC agreed with the strategic matters identified and suggested including Network Rail and Great Western Railway as other bodies on the schedule.</p> <p>Cotswold DC identified the following strategic matters as of being of relevance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Housing Supply (specifically related to RAF Fairford)</li> <li>▪ Community Facilities (inc. Health &amp; Education)</li> <li>▪ Other Infrastructure (inc. Water Supply)</li> <li>▪ Climate Change (inc. Mitigation &amp; Adaptation)</li> <li>▪ Flood Risk</li> <li>▪ Water Resources\Water Quality</li> <li>▪ Heritage &amp; Historic Environment</li> </ul> <p>GLEP identified the following strategic matters as being of relevance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Housing requirements</li> <li>▪ Housing supply</li> <li>▪ Economy and employment</li> <li>▪ Retail, leisure and other commercial development</li> </ul>	<p>Network Rail and Great Western Railway are not prescribed bodies for the purposes of the duty to co-operate. Engagement will be undertaken with Network Rail and Great Western Railway via other means as appropriate.</p> <p>Engagement with Gloucestershire will be undertaken under the duty to co-operate in relation to relevant strategic matters throughout the plan-making process in order to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan. The strategic matters identified at this stage will be the starting point for this engagement. However, it is recognised that the strategic matters relevant to Gloucestershire may require review/refinement as work on the Oxfordshire Plan progresses. Discussions with Gloucestershire in relation to relevant strategic matters will be ongoing throughout the plan-making process.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Gloucestershire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transport</li> <li>Climate Change</li> <li>Flood Risk</li> <li>Biodiversity, natural environment and green infrastructure</li> <li>Landscape quality and character</li> </ul>	
Stakeholder Event	May 2019	Cotswold DC, Gloucestershire CC, GLEP and GLNP did not attend the Stakeholder Event.	N/A
Duty to Co-operate Meeting	30 Oct 2019	<p>A joint duty to co-operate meeting took place with Cotswold DC, Gloucestershire CC and GLEP. The following issues were discussed:</p> <p><u>Cross-boundary Relationships</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned growth at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire is a key issue with potential cross boundary implications for Oxfordshire.</li> </ul> <p><u>Economy and Employment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Gloucestershire LEP is preparing a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) focused on cyber-tech, agricultural-technologies and green issues.</li> </ul> <p><u>Transport Infrastructure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan (LTP) is currently being reviewed. The new LTP will extend to 2041 and will include 'connecting places strategies' with cross-boundary connectivity. Potential to link into and benefit from the Oxford-Cambridge Arc is likely to be a key aspiration.</li> <li>A Rail Investment Strategy has been commissioned which will cover the North Cotswolds rail corridor and aims to</li> </ul>	<p><u>Cross-boundary Relationships</u></p> <p>Cross-boundary opportunities and impacts will be considered throughout the plan-making process.</p> <p><u>Economy and Employment</u></p> <p>Noted. Potential synergies will be considered through the plan-making process.</p> <p><u>Transport Infrastructure</u></p> <p>The emerging Oxfordshire Plan and its supporting evidence base recognise and take account of cross-boundary relationships at a range of geographical scales. Planning for sustainable travel and connectivity is a core theme in the emerging Oxfordshire Plan and the production of the Oxfordshire Plan is aligned with the production of the Oxfordshire LTCP and the OxIS update. Co-operation with Gloucestershire to continue in relation to this matter.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Gloucestershire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<p>deliver faster rail connections between Worcester and Oxford.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roads such as the A40 and A44 are key corridors connecting Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.</li> </ul> <p><u>Strategic Matters</u> Cotswold DC identified the following additional strategic matters as being of relevance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transport;</li> <li>Biodiversity/Natural Environment/Green Infrastructure</li> <li>Landscape Quality and Character</li> </ul>	<p><u>Strategic Matters</u> Engagement with Cotswold DC will be undertaken under the duty to co-operate in relation to relevant strategic matters throughout the plan-making process in order to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan.</p>
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	11 Feb 2020	A joint duty to co-operate meeting took place with neighbouring local nature partnerships, which GLNP attended. The emerging natural environment evidence base for the Oxfordshire Plan was discussed, including natural capital, nature recovery, green infrastructure, the water cycle study and Habitats Regulations Assessment.	Engagement with GLNP will be undertaken under the duty to co-operate in relation to relevant strategic matters throughout the plan-making process in order to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan.
<b>Oxfordshire Open Thought</b>	Jun - Aug 2020	Cotswold DC, Gloucestershire CC, GLEP and GLNP did not submit comments via Oxfordshire Open Thought.	N/A
<b>Strategic Vision Consultation</b>	Nov 2020 - Jan 2021	<p>Gloucestershire CC made the following comments on the Draft Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire:</p> <p><u>Mineral and Waste Planning Authority Comments</u> Officers broadly support the inclusion of engagement and collaboration as one of the guiding principles for the emerging Oxfordshire strategic vision. Joint working should be a priority in the future planning for minerals and waste to support growth and to help address climate change.</p>	Amendments were made to the Strategic Vision to take account of comments received prior to the Strategic Vision being agreed by the Oxfordshire authorities.

Record of Co-operation: Gloucestershire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<p><u>Historic Environment Comments</u></p> <p>The Strategic Vision should acknowledge the contribution that the historic environment can make to regeneration, sense of place and wellbeing. Detailed engagement with Historic England Place Advisors and its published guidance would allow more considered inclusion of historic environment issues.</p>	
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	30 April 2021	<p>A duty to co-operate meeting took place with Gloucestershire CC, Cotswold DC and GLEP.</p> <p><u>Housing Needs and Supply</u></p> <p>Gloucestershire's housing needs to be met within the Gloucestershire housing market area.</p> <p><u>Spatial Options</u></p> <p>If clusters of settlements are being considered, then the potential for cross-boundary clusters should form part of this consideration. Potential for joint evidence.</p> <p><u>Infrastructure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing communication needed regarding transport matters, particularly concerning freight and quarry movements. Cumulative impacts of growth could start to have implications for development strategies.</li> <li>▪ Education - need to recognise cross-boundary relationships (such as the draw of Chipping Campden School).</li> </ul> <p><u>Natural Environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Both Oxfordshire and Cotswolds DC emphasise the importance of addressing climate change, with a focus on nature-based solutions.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Housing Needs and Supply</u></p> <p>No unmet housing need from Gloucestershire to consider.</p> <p><u>Spatial Options</u></p> <p>Cross-boundary opportunities and impacts will be considered as part of the detailed assessment process to identify the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19. Co-operation with adjoining authorities will be undertaken as part of this process.</p> <p><u>Infrastructure</u></p> <p>Strategic infrastructure requirements will be considered through both the plan-making process and the OxIS update. Cross-boundary opportunities and impacts will be considered as part of the detailed assessment process to identify the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19. Co-operation with adjoining authorities will be undertaken as part of this process. The second Regulation 18 consultation document includes policy options related to</p>

Record of Co-operation: Gloucestershire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The River Thames starts in Gloucestershire. Interventions in Gloucestershire could provide flood alleviation benefits downstream.</li> <li>▪ Cotswold DC involved in discussions around possible canal extensions. Potential connections to Oxford. Cotswold DC to provide future updates.</li> <li>▪ Gloucestershire authorities are utilising their nature recovery network in their HELAA process.</li> <li>▪ Gloucestershire authorities noted sensitivities around North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC. Ongoing discussions with Natural England. This is more than 10km from Oxfordshire, however possible impacts would need to be considered if the Oxfordshire Plan proposed significant growth close to the western boundary.</li> <li>▪ Cotswold AONB Management Plan is not supported by Cotswold DC.</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that a statement of common ground was not needed at the second Regulation 18 stage.</p>	<p>supporting sustainable freight management. There is ongoing engagement with Gloucestershire in relation to strategic infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Natural Environment</u> There is ongoing engagement with Gloucestershire in relation to natural environment matters.</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Oxfordshire Plan takes account of protected sites beyond Oxfordshire's boundary. Further cross-boundary discussions to take place if there is a risk of the Oxfordshire Plan having likely significant effects on North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC.</p>

**Record of Co-operation: Mayor of London**

This record summarises co-operation to date (up to the second Regulation 18 consultation) with:

- The Mayor of London (via the Greater London Authority (GLA)).

<b>Record of Co-operation: Mayor of London / Greater London Authority (GLA)</b>			
<b>Engagement Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process</b>
<b>SCI Consultation</b>	Nov 2018 - Jan 2019	The GLA did not submit comments on the SCI.	N/A
<b>Stakeholder Launch Event</b>	Dec 2018	The GLA did not attend this event.	N/A
<b>SA Scoping Report Consultation</b>	Jan - Mar 2019	The GLA did not submit comments on the SA Scoping Report.	N/A
<b>Regulation 18 Consultation (1)</b>	Feb - Mar 2019	The GLA did not submit comments at the first Regulation 18 (Part 1) stage.	N/A
<b>Call for Ideas</b>	Mar-Apr 2019	The GLA did not make a Call for Ideas submission.	N/A
<b>Duty to Co-operate Scoping Exercise</b>	May 2019	The GLA identified the following relevant strategic matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Housing</li> <li>▪ Employment and Economy</li> <li>▪ Transport</li> <li>▪ Water Management (in particular water supply/resources)</li> </ul>	Engagement with the GLA will be undertaken under the duty to co-operate in relation to relevant strategic matters throughout the plan-making process in order to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan. The strategic matters identified at this stage will be the starting point for this engagement. However, it is recognised that the strategic matters relevant to the GLA may require review/refinement as work on the Oxfordshire Plan progresses. Discussions with the GLA in relation to relevant strategic matters will be ongoing throughout the plan-making process.
<b>Stakeholder Event</b>	May 2019	The GLA do not attend this event.	N/A

Record of Co-operation: Mayor of London / Greater London Authority (GLA)			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	14 Jan 2020	<p>A duty co-operate meeting was held with GLA officers.</p> <p>Given the number of authorities in the South East, the GLA is focused on engaging with clusters through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sub-national transport bodies</li> <li>▪ Local Enterprise Partnerships</li> <li>▪ Strategic partnerships looking at growth</li> </ul> <p><u>Housing Need and Supply</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ London takes a bespoke approach to SHMAs and SHLAAs.</li> <li>▪ Emerging London Plan sought to meet London's housing needs in full, but the Inspector queried some of the assumptions around small sites which would leave a shortfall in supply compared to demand, so has advised reducing the housing target in the plan. If SoS requires an early Plan review then likely to need to explore other options to meet demand, particularly the potential to work with authorities outside of London. Not currently looking at Green Belt release.</li> </ul> <p><u>Economy and Employment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Industrial land and logistics – London is experiencing that as land is lost, values are increasing. In parallel, demand for logistics near urban centres is increasing as things like 'one hour delivery' become more common.</li> </ul> <p><u>Strategic Infrastructure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GLA updated infrastructure costings October 2019. Includes pooled contributions to tackle strategic items</li> </ul>	<p><u>Housing Need and Supply</u></p> <p>No unmet housing need from London to consider at this stage.</p> <p><u>Economy and Employment</u></p> <p>Noted. The Oxfordshire Plan will need to consider current and future trends.</p> <p><u>Strategic Infrastructure</u></p> <p>Noted. OxIS update to consider potential funding sources for strategic infrastructure.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Mayor of London / Greater London Authority (GLA)			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<u>Water Resources</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Mayor does not currently have a formal position on the need for the Oxfordshire reservoir. Would need to consider the evidence first.</li> <li>GLA emphasis on water efficiency first.</li> </ul>	<u>Water Resources</u> Noted. The second Regulation 18 document has some ambitious options related to water efficiency.
<b>Oxfordshire Open Thought</b>	Jun – Aug 2020	The GLA did not make a Call for Ideas submission.	N/A
<b>Strategic Vision Consultation</b>	Nov 2020 - Jan 2021	The GLA did not submit comments on the Strategic Vision.	N/A
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	7 Jun 2021	A duty co-operate meeting was held with GLA officers.  <u>Natural Environment</u> Similarities between the London Plan and the Oxfordshire Plan. Both aspire to set exemplar policies and to push beyond national standards where possible.  <u>Oxford - Cambridge Arc</u> The relationship between the Oxfordshire Plan and the Arc Spatial Framework was discussed.  <u>Economy and Employment</u> Impacts of Covid-19 and challenges of planning for recovery. Unprecedented situation. Particular impact on high streets.  <u>Design</u> Making an efficient use of land - London delivering high densities using a 'mansion block model' where height is not appropriate.  Value in maintaining communication, beyond the duty to co-operate, as two strategic planning bodies. Whilst London and Oxfordshire are planning at different scales there are synergies.	<u>Natural Environment</u> Noted. There may be opportunities to learn from approaches taken in the London Plan 2021.  <u>Oxford-Cambridge Arc</u> Noted.  <u>Economy and Employment</u> Noted. Policy options related to the economy and employment will be published as part of the second Regulation 18 consultation. Oxfordshire Plan needs flexibility to respond to long term change.  <u>Design</u> Noted. There may be lessons that Oxfordshire can learn from this approach, albeit that London and Oxfordshire are planning at very different scales.

Record of Co-operation: Mayor of London / Greater London Authority (GLA)			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		It was agreed that a statement of common ground was not needed at the second Regulation 18 stage.	

### Record of Co-operation: West Northamptonshire

This record summarises co-operation to date (up to the second Regulation 18 consultation) with:

- Daventry District Council, Northampton Borough Council, South Northamptonshire District Council and Northamptonshire County Council (until 31 March 2021);
- West Northamptonshire Council (from 1 April 2021);
- South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP); and
- Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership (NLNP).

Record of Co-operation: West Northamptonshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
<b>SCI Consultation</b>	Nov 2018 - Jan 2019	The West Northamptonshire authorities, SEMLEP and NLNP did not submit comments on the SCI.	N/A
<b>Stakeholder Launch Event</b>	Dec 2018	A joint Cherwell DC and South Northamptonshire DC representative attended this event.	Stakeholder feedback from this event fed into the Regulation 18 (1) consultation document.
<b>SA Scoping Report Consultation</b>	Jan - Mar 2019	Cherwell DC and South Northamptonshire DC submitted joint comments on the SA Scoping Report. They highlighted that several of the numbers in Table 3.9 of the SA Scoping Report were inaccurate and recommended that this be checked by the Thames Valley Records Centre.	The Oxfordshire authorities, with the SA consultants working on their behalf, reviewed all of the comments received in relation to the SA Scoping Report and considered where the SA Scoping Report required amendments. This process is set out in detail in Appendix 3 of the revised SA Scoping Report (LUC, May 2019).
<b>Regulation 18 Consultation (1)</b>	Feb - Mar 2019	The West Northamptonshire authorities, SEMLEP and NLNP did not submit comments at Regulation 18 (1).	N/A

Record of Co-operation: West Northamptonshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
Call for Ideas	Mar-Apr 2019	The West Northamptonshire authorities, SEMLEP and NLNP did not make a Call for Ideas submission.	N/A
Duty to Co-operate Scoping Exercise	May 2019	<p>South Northamptonshire DC identified the following additional strategic matters as being of relevance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heritage and Historic Environment</li> <li>Landscape quality and character</li> <li>Healthy place-shaping</li> <li>Transport</li> </ul> <p>Northamptonshire CC stated that the strategic matters of relevance are transport and flood risk.</p> <p>SEMLEP stated its significant interest in the Oxfordshire Plan as a neighbouring LEP and as part of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc.</p>	Engagement with West Northamptonshire will be undertaken under the duty to co-operate in relation to relevant strategic matters throughout the plan-making process in order to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan. The strategic matters identified at this stage will be the starting point for this engagement. However, it is recognised that the strategic matters relevant to West Northamptonshire may require review/refinement as work on the Oxfordshire Plan progresses. Discussions with West Northamptonshire in relation to relevant strategic matters will be ongoing throughout the plan-making process.
Stakeholder Event	May 2019	The West Northamptonshire authorities, SEMLEP and NLNP did not attend this event.	N/A
Duty to Co-operate Meeting	27 April 2020	<p>A joint duty to co-operate meeting was held with Northampton Borough Council, South Northamptonshire Council and the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit.</p> <p><u>Housing Needs and Supply</u> The West Northamptonshire authorities expect to meet their own development needs.</p> <p><u>Oxford - Cambridge Arc</u> Both Oxfordshire and West Northamptonshire are part of the Arc and the authorities will also work together as part of that project.</p>	<p><u>Housing Needs and Supply</u> No unmet housing need from West Northamptonshire to consider.</p> <p><u>Oxford - Cambridge Arc</u> Noted. Joint working across the Arc will continue as the Government seeks to develop a Spatial Framework.</p>

Record of Co-operation: West Northamptonshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<p><u>Infrastructure</u></p> <p>The importance of health facilities in Oxfordshire to residents of West Northamptonshire was highlighted - particularly Horton General Hospital (Banbury) and the John Radcliffe (Oxford). Access to the John Radcliffe is a particular concern.</p> <p>The West Northamptonshire districts are also working together to produce a joint strategic plan to 2050. There are mutual benefits to having conversations that go beyond duty to co-operate matters and start to share experiences and lessons learnt from joint planning to 2050.</p>	<p><u>Infrastructure</u></p> <p>Strategic infrastructure requirements will be considered through both the plan-making process and the OxIS update. This will include consideration of cross-boundary opportunities and impacts.</p>
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	30 June 2020	<p>A joint duty to co-operate meeting was held with Daventry District Council, Northampton Borough Council, South Northamptonshire Council and the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit.</p> <p><u>Housing Needs and Supply</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oxfordshire seeking to align HELAAs. Discussed experiences in West Northamptonshire and the use of an expert panel.</li> <li>▪ West Northants housing and economic needs assessment underway. Interim findings received. The West Northamptonshire authorities still expect to meet their own development needs.</li> <li>▪ Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment (OGNA) addendum commissioned to take account of Covid-19.</li> </ul> <p><u>Cross-boundary Relationships</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Banbury's role as a service centre extends into West Northamptonshire.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Housing Needs and Supply</u></p> <p>No unmet housing need from West Northamptonshire to consider.</p> <p><u>Cross-boundary Relationships</u></p> <p>Cross-boundary opportunities and impacts will be considered as part of the detailed assessment process to identify the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19. Co-operation with adjoining authorities will be undertaken as part of this process.</p>

Record of Co-operation: West Northamptonshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<u>Infrastructure</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West Northamptonshire authorities working with SEMLEP and EEH on a Strategic Infrastructure Plan.</li> </ul>	<u>Infrastructure</u> Noted. Potential synergies will be considered through the plan-making process.
<b>Oxfordshire Open Thought</b>	Jun - Aug 2020	The West Northamptonshire authorities, SEMLEP and NLNP did not submit comments via Oxfordshire Open Thought.	N/A
<b>Strategic Vision Consultation</b>	Nov 2020 - Jan 2021	The West Northamptonshire authorities, SEMLEP and NLNP did not submit comments on the Draft Strategic Vision.	N/A
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	11 May 2021	<p>A duty to co-operate meeting was held with West Northamptonshire Council and SEMLEP.</p> <p><u>Housing Needs and Supply</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West Northamptonshire housing and economic needs assessment nearing completion. Additional work undertaken to take account of Covid-19. West Northamptonshire still expect to meet their own development needs.</li> </ul> <p><u>Spatial Options</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West Northamptonshire developing a set of spatial options. Expected publication July 2021.</li> <li>West Northamptonshire commissioning work on new settlements. Will consider the potential role of new settlements, areas of search and all reasonable alternatives.</li> <li>West Northamptonshire testing spatial options against different infrastructure packages. More detailed site specific work to follow.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Housing Needs and Supply</u></p> No unmet housing need from West Northamptonshire to consider. <p><u>Spatial Options</u></p> Cross-boundary impacts and opportunities to be considered throughout the plan-making process. No significant considerations for Oxfordshire identified at this stage.

Record of Co-operation: West Northamptonshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<u>Economy and Employment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEMLEP Economic Recovery Strategy published December 2020. Increased emphasis on environmental sustainability and net zero carbon.</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that a statement of common ground was not needed at the second Regulation 18 stage.</p>	<u>Economy and Employment</u> Synergies with Oxfordshire's Recovery Strategy are noted.

### Record of Co-operation: Swindon and Wiltshire

This record summarises co-operation to date (up to the second Regulation 18 consultation) with:

- Swindon Borough Council (Swindon BC);
- Wiltshire Council;
- Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP); and
- Swindon and Wiltshire Local Nature Partnership (SWLNP).

Record of Co-operation: Swindon and Wiltshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
SCI Consultation	Nov 2018 - Jan 2019	Swindon BC, Wiltshire Council, SWLEP and SWLNP did not submit comments on the SCI.	N/A
Stakeholder Launch Event	Dec 2018	Swindon BC, Wiltshire Council, SWLEP and SWLNP did not attend this event.	N/A
SA Scoping Report Consultation	Jan - Mar 2019	Swindon BC, Wiltshire Council, SWLEP and SWLNP did not submit comments on the SA Scoping Report.	N/A
Regulation 18 Consultation (1)	Feb - Mar 2019	Swindon BC, Wiltshire Council, SWLEP and SWLNP did not submit comments at Regulation 18 (1).	N/A

<b>Record of Co-operation: Swindon and Wiltshire</b>			
<b>Engagement Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process</b>
<b>Call for Ideas</b>	Mar-Apr 2019	Swindon BC, Wiltshire Council, SWLEP and SWLNP did not make a Call for Ideas submission.	N/A
<b>Duty to Co-operate Scoping Exercise</b>	May 2019	Swindon BC advised that water resources/quality should be added to the strategic matters of relevance to Swindon Borough given that Oxfordshire and Swindon are in the same catchment area and there are known concerns over long-term security of supply.	Engagement with Swindon and Wiltshire will be undertaken under the duty to co-operate in relation to relevant strategic matters throughout the plan-making process in order to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan. The strategic matters identified at this stage will be the starting point for this engagement. However, it is recognised that the strategic matters relevant to Swindon and Wiltshire may require review/refinement as work on the Oxfordshire Plan progresses. Discussions with Swindon and Wiltshire in relation to relevant strategic matters will be ongoing throughout the plan-making process.
<b>Stakeholder Event</b>	May 2019	Swindon BC, Wiltshire Council, SWLEP and SWLNP did not attend this event.	N/A
<b>Liaison Meeting</b>	12 Nov 2019	Members of the Oxfordshire Plan Core Team attended a regular Oxfordshire/Swindon liaison meeting. The matters discussed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oxfordshire Plan progress, feedback from Regulation 18 (1) and next steps.</li> <li>▪ Update on emerging Oxfordshire LTCP</li> <li>▪ Update on strategic planning in Swindon, including Local Plan progress and New Eastern Villages.</li> <li>▪ England's Economic Heartland.</li> <li>▪ Oxford-Cambridge Expressway.</li> <li>▪ Oxfordshire Rail Study.</li> <li>▪ A420 corridor.</li> </ul>	Swindon's New Eastern Villages are close to the Oxfordshire boundary and there are potential cross boundary impacts and opportunities that need to be considered through the plan-making process.  Transport is a key strategic matter with Swindon. The emerging Oxfordshire Plan and its supporting evidence base recognise and take account of cross-boundary relationships at a range of geographical scales. Planning for sustainable travel and connectivity is a core theme in the emerging Oxfordshire Plan and the production of the Oxfordshire Plan is aligned with the production of the Oxfordshire LTCP and the OxIS update. There will be ongoing engagement with Swindon and Wiltshire in relation to this matter.

<b>Record of Co-operation: Swindon and Wiltshire</b>			
<b>Engagement Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process</b>
<b>Liaison Meeting</b>	3 March 2020	<p>Members of the Oxfordshire Plan Core Team attended a regular Oxfordshire/Swindon liaison meeting. The matters discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oxfordshire Plan progress, forthcoming Open Thought engagement and evidence commissioned.</li> <li>▪ Update on emerging Oxfordshire LTCP.</li> <li>▪ Update on strategic planning in Swindon, including Local Plan progress and New Eastern Villages.</li> <li>▪ Rail strategies.</li> </ul>	<p>Swindon's New Eastern Villages are close to the Oxfordshire boundary and there are potential cross boundary impacts and opportunities that need to be considered through the plan-making process.</p> <p>The emerging Oxfordshire Plan and its evidence base, including the OxIS update, recognises potential to enhance rail services. One of the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial options is focused on sustainable transport hubs and corridors. Potential rail infrastructure improvements are considered at a high level within this option and will be considered in greater detail as part of the detailed assessment process to identify the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19. Co-operation with adjoining authorities will be undertaken as part of this process.</p>
<b>Oxfordshire Open Thought</b>	Jun - Aug 2020	Swindon BC, Wiltshire Council, SWLEP and SWLNP did not make an Open Thought submission.	N/A
<b>Liaison Meeting</b>	17 Sept 2020	<p>Members of the Oxfordshire Plan Core Team attended a regular Oxfordshire/Swindon liaison meeting. The matters discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oxfordshire Plan progress and timetable updates.</li> <li>▪ Update on emerging Oxfordshire LTCP.</li> <li>▪ Update on strategic planning in Swindon including Local Plan progress and New Eastern Villages.</li> </ul>	Swindon's New Eastern Villages are close to the Oxfordshire boundary and there are potential cross boundary impacts and opportunities that need to be considered through the plan-making process.
<b>Strategic Vision Consultation</b>	Nov 2020 - Jan 2021	Swindon BC, Wiltshire Council, SWLEP and SWLNP did not submit comments on the Strategic Vision.	N/A
<b>Liaison Meeting</b>	18 March 2021	Members of the Oxfordshire Plan Core Team attended a regular Oxfordshire/Swindon liaison meeting. The matters discussed included:	Swindon's New Eastern Villages are close to the Oxfordshire boundary and there are potential cross

Record of Co-operation: Swindon and Wiltshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oxfordshire Plan progress, new timetable, development of policy options and spatial strategy, and Strategic Vision.</li> <li>▪ Update on emerging Oxfordshire LTCP.</li> <li>▪ Update on strategic planning in Swindon including Local Plan progress and New Eastern Villages.</li> <li>▪ Rail and bus matters</li> </ul>	<p>boundary impacts and opportunities that need to be considered through the plan-making process.</p> <p>Transport is a key strategic matter with Swindon. Planning for sustainable travel and connectivity is a core theme in the emerging Oxfordshire Plan and the production of the Oxfordshire Plan is aligned with the production of the Oxfordshire LTCP and the OxIS update. There will be ongoing engagement with Swindon in relation to this matter.</p>
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	10 May 2021	<p>A duty to co-operate meeting was held with Swindon BC, Wiltshire Council and SWLEP.</p> <p><u>Housing Need and Supply</u> Swindon BC and Wiltshire Council have joint housing and economic needs evidence, which needs updating to take account of Covid-19. Swindon and Wiltshire are not looking to OXFORDSHIRE to accommodate any unmet housing need.</p> <p><u>Spatial Options</u> Oxfordshire's spatial strategy options recognise cross-boundary functional relationships. The relationship with Swindon is likely to be particularly important in south-west Oxfordshire. This will be a key consideration in Spatial Strategy Option 5 (supporting rural communities). Relationships to be further explored as work progresses.</p> <p>The need to consider infrastructure capacity/delivery in identifying the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy was highlighted.</p>	<p><u>Housing Need and Supply</u> No unmet housing need from Swindon and Wiltshire to consider.</p> <p><u>Spatial Options</u> Five spatial options are identified at the second Regulation 18 stage. Potential opportunities and impacts are identified at a high level and will be tested, including through the second Regulation 18 consultation. A more detailed assessment will be undertaken to identify the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19. This assessment process will include co-operation with adjoining authorities.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Swindon and Wiltshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<p><u>Cross-Boundary Relationships</u> The need for the Oxfordshire Plan to consider different spatial geographies (based around different economic, policy/programme and transport influencers) was highlighted. This includes EEH, the Oxford - Cambridge Arc and the Fast Growth Cities Network.</p> <p><u>Transport</u> A key area for collaboration between Swindon, Wiltshire and Oxfordshire will be transport.</p> <p>SWLEP is exploring new energy vehicles (particularly hydrogen) and potential impacts on key routes, including the M4 and A420. Engagement with logistics businesses is being undertaken.</p> <p>Swindon and Wiltshire Rail Strategy work is ongoing. Bids submitted for Corsham and Wilton</p> <p><u>Natural Environment</u> SWLEP has joint funded PhD research into natural capital. The research will take five years to complete, but outputs will be published in stages.</p> <p><u>Economy &amp; Employment</u> Swindon and Wiltshire Local Industrial Strategy published March 2020.</p> <p>Innovation Campus at Wroughton linked to the circular economy.</p> <p><u>Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople</u> Lack of time for detailed discussion. No cross-boundary issues raised but further discussion needed.</p>	<p><u>Cross-Boundary Relationships</u> The emerging Oxfordshire Plan and its supporting evidence base recognise and take account of cross-boundary relationships at a range of geographical scales.</p> <p><u>Transport</u> Transport is a key strategic matter with Swindon. Planning for sustainable travel and connectivity is a core theme in the emerging Oxfordshire Plan and the production of the Oxfordshire Plan is aligned with the production of the Oxfordshire LTCP and the OxIS update. There will be ongoing engagement with Swindon in relation to this matter.</p> <p><u>Natural Environment</u> Noted. Any staged outputs will be considered where their timing aligns with the production of the Oxfordshire Plan and its evidence base.</p> <p><u>Economy &amp; Employment</u> Noted. Consideration will be given to any learning that can be taken from circular economy examples/best practice.</p> <p><u>Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople</u> Topic to be picked up at next duty to co-operate meeting.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Swindon and Wiltshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<p><u>Water Supply/Water Quality</u></p> <p>This is to be identified as a strategic matter for Wiltshire Council. Strategic water transfer infrastructure being considered in Wiltshire. (Note that this is not expected to relate to Swindon and Oxfordshire, as Wiltshire is in a different water supply area.)</p> <p>It was agreed that a statement of common ground was not needed at the second Regulation 18 stage.</p>	<p><u>Water Supply/Water Quality</u></p> <p>Noted. Strategic matters matrix updated. Future engagement to take place with Wiltshire Council in relation to water supply/water quality.</p>

### Record of Co-operation: Warwickshire

This record summarises duty to co-operation to date (up to the second Regulation 18 consultation) with:

- Stratford-Upon-Avon District Council (Stratford-Upon-Avon DC);
- Warwickshire County Council (Warwickshire CC);
- Coventry and Warwickshire LEP (CWLEP); and
- Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Nature Partnership (WCSLNP).

Record of Co-operation: Warwickshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	How this has shaped the Oxfordshire Plan
SCI Consultation	Nov 2018 - Jan 2019	Stratford-Upon-Avon DC, Warwickshire CC, CWLEP and WCSLNP did not submit comments on the SCI.	N/A
Stakeholder Launch Event	Dec 2018	Stratford-Upon-Avon DC, Warwickshire CC, CWLEP and WCSLNP did not attend this event.	N/A
SA Scoping Report Consultation	Jan - Mar 2019	Stratford-Upon-Avon DC, Warwickshire CC, CWLEP and WCSLNP did not submit comments on the SA Scoping Report.	N/A

Record of Co-operation: Warwickshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	How this has shaped the Oxfordshire Plan
Regulation 18 Consultation (1)	Feb - Mar 2019	<p>Warwickshire CC made the following comments:</p> <p><u>Transport Infrastructure</u></p> <p>The Oxfordshire Economic Plan identifies transport schemes that will support the 'knowledge spine', which is a fundamental component of the Ox-Cam Arc. Oxfordshire County Council is also refreshing its transport evidence. Joining up these strategic opportunities would be mutually beneficial.</p> <p>Warwickshire CC wishes to work with the Oxfordshire authorities to develop a joint understanding of the likely cumulative impacts of strategic growth in Oxfordshire on a number of key routes in Warwickshire.</p> <p>Warwickshire CC is supportive of the three transport themes set out in the strategy and considers that improved rail infrastructure and services will have a positive impact on these aims. Of specific relevance is the further development of the Nuneaton - Coventry - Kenilworth - Leamington (NUCKLE) corridor where there are aspirations to develop services beyond Warwickshire to the Thames Valley and the East Midlands.</p> <p>Connectivity to the proposed East-West rail services is important and Warwickshire CC will continue to work with the relevant train operators to ensure successful integration with key rail corridors such as the West Coast Main Line and Chiltern Line.</p> <p>Both Oxfordshire County Council and Warwickshire CC are members of the North Cotswold Line Taskforce and are</p>	<p><u>Transport Infrastructure</u></p> <p>Planning for sustainable travel and connectivity is a core theme in the emerging Oxfordshire Plan and the production of the Oxfordshire Plan is aligned with the production of the Oxfordshire Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) and the OxIS update. There will be ongoing co-operation with Warwickshire in relation to this strategic matter.</p> <p>The emerging Oxfordshire Plan and its evidence base, including the OxIS update, recognises potential to enhance rail services. One of the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial options is focused on sustainable transport hubs and corridors. Potential rail infrastructure improvements are considered at a high level within this option and will be considered in greater detail as part of the detailed assessment process to identify the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19. Co-operation with adjoining authorities will be undertaken as part of this process.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Warwickshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	How this has shaped the Oxfordshire Plan
		<p>committed to working to secure infrastructure and service improvements to the North Cotswold Line.</p> <p><u>Cross-Boundary Relationships</u> There are shared synergies and growth ambitions between the Warwickshire and Oxfordshire economic areas.</p> <p>Stratford-Upon-Avon DC made the following comments:</p> <p><u>Vision and Aspirations</u> Generally support the vision but note that there is no reference to the wider context or role of Oxfordshire.</p> <p>The five aspirations seem appropriate. However, it is suggested that explicit reference is made to the Cotswolds AONB under Aspiration 1 and acknowledgement of the regional role of Oxfordshire under Aspirations 4 and 5 in particular.</p> <p><u>Cross-Boundary Relationships</u> The wider context for Oxfordshire is missing from the consultation document which could otherwise help to inform which option or options may be preferable.</p>	<p><u>Cross-boundary Relationships</u> The emerging Oxfordshire Plan and its supporting evidence base recognise and take account of cross-boundary relationships at a range of geographical scales.</p> <p><u>Vision, Objectives &amp; Aspirations</u> The Oxfordshire Plan's vision and objectives were amended to take account of comments received through the first Regulation 18 consultation.</p>
<b>Call for Ideas</b>	Mar-Apr 2019	Stratford-Upon-Avon DC, Warwickshire CC, CWLEP and WCSLNP did not make a Call for Ideas submission.	N/A
<b>Duty to Co-operate Scoping Exercise</b>	May 2019	<p>Warwickshire CC confirmed it is content with the strategic matters identified as being relevant.</p> <p>Stratford-Upon-Avon DC made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is necessary to distinguish between housing requirements and housing supply as strategic matters?</li> </ul>	Engagement with Warwickshire will be undertaken under the duty to co-operate in relation to relevant strategic matters throughout the plan-making process in order to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan. The strategic matters identified at this stage will be the starting point for this engagement. However, it is recognised that the strategic matters relevant to

Record of Co-operation: Warwickshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	How this has shaped the Oxfordshire Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The relevance of strategic matters will only be known when the spatial strategy has been identified.</li> </ul>	Warwickshire may require review/refinement as work on the Oxfordshire Plan progresses. Discussions with Warwickshire in relation to relevant strategic matters will be ongoing throughout the plan-making process.
<b>Stakeholder Event</b>	May 2019	Stratford-Upon-Avon DC, Warwickshire CC, CWLEP and WCSLNP did not attend this event.	N/A
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	11 Feb 2020	A joint duty to co-operate meeting took place with neighbouring local nature partnerships, which WCSLP attended. The emerging natural environment evidence base for the Oxfordshire Plan was discussed, including natural capital, nature recovery, green infrastructure, the water cycle study and Habitats Regulations Assessment. WCSLNP highlighted that they hold habitats data going back a number of years and which helps to identify long-term trends. They are also undertaking monitoring using European Space Agency imagery.	Engagement with WCSLNP will be undertaken under the duty to co-operate in relation to relevant strategic matters throughout the plan-making process in order to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan.
<b>Oxfordshire Open Thought</b>	Jun - Aug 2020	Stratford-Upon-Avon DC, Warwickshire CC, CWLEP and WCSLNP did not make an Open Thought submission.	N/A
<b>Strategic Vision Consultation</b>	Nov 2020 - Jan 2021	Stratford-Upon-Avon DC, Warwickshire CC, CWLEP and WCSLNP did not submit comments on the Strategic Vision.	N/A
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	9 June 2021	<p>Duty to co-operate for the Oxfordshire Plan was added to the agenda for a regular Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Association of Planning officers (CSWAPO) meeting. (This included representatives from Stratford-Upon-Avon DC, Warwickshire CC and CWLEP.)</p> <p>An update on Oxfordshire Plan progress and next steps was provided.</p>	

Record of Co-operation: Warwickshire			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	How this has shaped the Oxfordshire Plan
		<p><u>Strategic Matters</u> It was agreed to keep the strategic matters for co-operation under review and to meet again, if necessary, following the start of the second Regulation 18 consultation.</p> <p><u>Housing Need and Supply</u> There is no unmet need from Warwickshire to discuss with Oxfordshire. The unmet need of Coventry is being met within the Warwickshire housing market area.</p> <p>It was agreed that a statement of common ground was not needed at the second Regulation 18 stage.</p>	<p><u>Strategic Matters</u> Noted. Strategic will be kept under review.</p> <p><u>Housing Need and Supply</u> No unmet housing need from Warwickshire to consider.</p>

**Record of Co-operation: The Civil Aviation Authority**

This record summarises co-operation to date (up to the second Regulation 18 consultation) with the Civil Aviation Authority.

<b>Record of Co-operation: The Civil Aviation Authority</b>			
<b>Engagement Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process</b>
<b>SCI Consultation</b>	Nov 2018 - Jan 2019	The Civil Aviation Authority did not submit comments on the SCI.	N/A
<b>Stakeholder Launch Event</b>	Dec 2018	The Civil Aviation Authority did not attend this event.	N/A
<b>SA Scoping Report Consultation</b>	Jan - Mar 2019	The Civil Aviation Authority did not submit comments on the SA Scoping Report.	N/A
<b>Regulation 18 Consultation (1)</b>	Feb - Mar 2019	The Civil Aviation Authority did not submit comments through the first Regulation 18 consultation.	N/A
<b>Call for Ideas</b>	Mar-Apr 2019	The Civil Aviation Authority did not make a Call for Ideas submission.	N/A
<b>Duty to Co-operate Scoping Exercise</b>	May 2019	The Civil Aviation Authority did not respond to the duty to co-operate scoping exercise.	N/A
<b>Stakeholder Event</b>	May 2019	The Civil Aviation Authority did not attend this event.	N/A
<b>Oxfordshire Open Thought</b>	Jun - Aug 2020	The Civil Aviation Authority did not make a submission via Oxfordshire Open Thought.	N/A
<b>Strategic Vision Consultation</b>	Nov 2020 - Jan 2021	The Civil Aviation Authority did not comment on the Strategic Vision.	N/A

**Record of Co-operation: Clinical Commissioning Groups**

This record summarises co-operation to date (up to the second Regulation 18 consultation) with:

- NHS Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (Oxfordshire CCG);
- NHS Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BANES, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG); and
- NHS Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group (Buckinghamshire CCG).

<b>Record of Co-operation: Clinical Commissioning Groups</b>			
<b>Engagement Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process</b>
<b>Oxfordshire Growth Board</b>	ONGOING	Oxfordshire CCG is an associate member of the Oxfordshire Growth Board.	The Growth Board discusses items relevant to the Oxfordshire Plan such as evidence base studies.
<b>Healthy Place Shaping Working Group</b>	ONGOING	Oxfordshire CCG is part of the Healthy Place Shaping Working Group. The working group is overseeing the delivery of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Health Impact Assessment</li> <li>▪ Oxfordshire Healthy Place Shaping Toolkit</li> <li>▪ Health Places Topic Paper</li> </ul>	This is helping to ensure that the Oxfordshire Plan and its evidence base are joined up with CCG ambitions, priorities and future plans.
<b>SCI Consultation</b>	Nov 2018 - Jan 2019	Oxfordshire CCG, BANES, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG and Buckinghamshire CCG did not submit comments on the SCI.	N/A
<b>Stakeholder Launch Event</b>	Dec 2018	An Oxfordshire CCG representative attended this event and provided input.	Stakeholder feedback from this event fed into the Regulation 18 (1) consultation document.
<b>SA Scoping Report Consultation</b>	Jan - Mar 2019	Oxfordshire CCG, BANES, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG and Buckinghamshire CCG did not submit comments on the SA Scoping Report.	N/A
<b>Regulation 18 Consultation (1)</b>	Feb - Mar 2019	Oxfordshire CCG made the following comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An objective relating to developing strong and healthy communities is welcomed.</li> <li>▪ Oxfordshire CCG would like to be involved in the development of a healthy place shaping policy.</li> <li>▪ Any future decision making around development, infrastructure and place-making would be expected to</li> </ul>	<p>Creating strong and healthy communities is a key theme in the emerging Oxfordshire Plan.</p> <p>Oxfordshire CCG is involved in the development of a healthy place shaping policy through the Healthy Place Shaping Working Group.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Clinical Commissioning Groups			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<p>make it easier for Oxfordshire to be physically active and maintain a healthy lifestyle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oxfordshire has a diverse population which results in a range of different service needs.</li> <li>▪ It is important that NHS services in Oxfordshire are able to attract and maintain the workforce required to deliver services to Oxfordshire's growing population.</li> </ul>	
Call for Ideas	Mar-Apr 2019	Oxfordshire CCG, BANES, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG and Buckinghamshire CCG did not make a Call for Ideas submission.	N/A
Duty to Co-operate Scoping Exercise	May 2019	A joint response was received from Oxfordshire CCG and Buckinghamshire CCG. Relevant strategic matters include health infrastructure funding and healthy place shaping which should likely be included as a strategic matter.	Engagement with CCGs will be undertaken under the duty to co-operate in relation to relevant strategic matters throughout the plan-making process in order to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan. The strategic matters identified at this stage will be the starting point for this engagement. However, it is recognised that the strategic matters relevant to CCGs may require review/refinement as work on the Oxfordshire Plan progresses. Discussions with CCGs in relation to relevant strategic matters will be ongoing throughout the plan-making process.
Stakeholder Event	May 2019	Oxfordshire CCG, BANES, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG and Buckinghamshire CCG did not attend this event.	N/A
Duty to Co-operate Meeting	26 Nov 2019	<p>A joint duty to co-operate meeting took place with Oxfordshire CCG and Buckinghamshire CCG.</p> <p><u>Housing Need and Supply</u></p> <p>The quantum and location of new homes will have effects on demand for NHS services.</p>	<p><u>Housing Need and Supply</u></p> <p>The relationship between the quantum and location of growth and potential infrastructure opportunities and impacts will be tested through the plan-making process, including through the second Regulation 18 consultation. A more detailed assessment will be undertaken as part of the identification of the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial</p>

Record of Co-operation: Clinical Commissioning Groups			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<p>The recruitment and retention of staff is a key issue for the CCGs. The CCGs emphasised the need for affordable housing for key workers.</p> <p><u>Community Facilities (Health)</u> The CCGs are concerned about the current infrastructure funding gap. The CCGs' long-term land requirements and estates strategy shows a move to expand the role of GP surgeries so that they are local hubs, linked into communities. This will require more land/building space.</p> <p><u>Healthy Place Shaping</u> Oxfordshire CCG is a member of the Oxfordshire Plan Health Place-Shaping working group.</p>	<p>strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19. This assessment process will include further co-operation with CCGs.</p> <p>The emerging Oxfordshire Plan recognises that housing affordability is a key issue in Oxfordshire.</p> <p><u>Community Facilities (Health)</u> OxIS update to consider potential funding sources for strategic infrastructure. Ongoing engagement with the CCGs to ensure that the Oxfordshire Plan and its evidence base are joined up with CCG ambitions, priorities and future plans.</p> <p><u>Healthy Place Shaping</u> Noted. This is a key mechanism for ensuring that the Oxfordshire Plan and its evidence base are joined up with CCG ambitions, priorities and future plans.</p>
<b>Oxfordshire Open Thought</b>	Jun - Aug 2020	Oxfordshire CCG, BANES, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG and Buckinghamshire CCG did not make an Open Thought submission.	N/A
<b>Strategic Vision Consultation</b>	Nov 2020 - Jan 2021	Oxfordshire CCG, BANES, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG and Buckinghamshire CCG did not submit comments on the Strategic Vision.	N/A
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	19 May 2021	<p>A joint duty to co-operate meeting took place with Oxfordshire CCG and Buckinghamshire CCG.</p> <p>It was noted that CCGs will be replaced by Integrated Care Systems (ICS) by April 2022. Oxfordshire will come under the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West ICS.</p>	Noted. Co-operation will take place with relevant ICSs when established.

Record of Co-operation: Clinical Commissioning Groups			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<p><u>Health Infrastructure</u></p> <p>A detailed review of OxIS health infrastructure schemes was undertaken.</p> <p>It was agreed that a statement of common ground was not needed at the second Regulation 18 stage.</p>	<p><u>Health Infrastructure</u></p> <p>There will be continued co-operation with CCGs as work on the OxIS update continues. This will include appropriate consideration of proposed strategic growth locations.</p>
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	26 May 2021	<p>A duty to co-operate meeting took place with BANES, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG.</p> <p><u>Health Infrastructure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussed OxIS update. No health infrastructure requirements identified for the Western Vale and environs sub-area.</li> <li>BANES, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG currently supporting partners in preparing Primary Care Network estate plans. Planned update of service model to prioritise home care. Intention to improve support within communities through joined up services rather than focusing solely on primary care. Could have implications for how S106 contributions are secured and spent.</li> <li>Recognition that patients in Shrivenham and Watchfield tend to look towards Swindon for healthcare facilities.</li> <li>Need to ensure that South Central Ambulance Service are engaged in the Oxfordshire Plan process.</li> <li>Transport is a key issue for staff and patients, particularly in terms of direct bus access to hospitals from parts of Oxfordshire. Discussions taking place through Local Transport Plan process between Swindon BC and Oxfordshire CC on sustainable transport and areas strategies.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Health Infrastructure</u></p> <p>There will be continued co-operation with CCGs as work on the OxIS update continues. This will include appropriate consideration of proposed strategic growth locations.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Clinical Commissioning Groups			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		It was agreed that a statement of common ground was not needed at the second Regulation 18 stage.	

### Record of Co-operation: Environment Agency

This record summarises co-operation to date (up to the second Regulation 18 consultation) with the Environment Agency.

Record of Co-operation: Environment Agency (EA)			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
<b>Oxfordshire Growth Board</b>	ONGOING	The EA is an associate member of the Oxfordshire Growth Board.	The Growth Board discusses items relevant to the Oxfordshire Plan such as evidence base studies.
<b>Biodiversity / Natural Capital Working Group</b>	ONGOING	As part of this working group, the EA has fed into the development of the biodiversity and natural capital evidence base. This includes feeding into the review and refinement of SA alternatives and testing.	This is helping to ensure that the Oxfordshire Plan and its evidence base are joined up with EA ambitions, priorities and best practice.
<b>Water &amp; Flood Risk Working Group</b>	ONGOING	The EA is part of the steering group for the WCS Phase 1 Outline. The EA will therefore have the opportunity to oversee and feed into this work throughout the project. Specific EA input and how this has shaped the Oxfordshire Plan is detailed below.	This is helping to ensure that the Oxfordshire Plan and its evidence base are joined up with EA ambitions, priorities and best practice.
<b>SCI Consultation</b>	Nov 2018 - Jan 2019	The EA made the following comments in relation to the SCI: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The timetable for producing the Oxfordshire Plan is extremely ambitious.</li> <li>• The timings for each phase of the Oxfordshire Plan's production should be specified in order to help stakeholders plan their workloads and ensure that they have suitable resources available to respond.</li> </ul>	A new timetable for producing the Oxfordshire Plan has since been agreed with the Government.

Record of Co-operation: Environment Agency (EA)			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The consultation in February 2019 should be included within the SCI.</li> <li>Sufficient time must be allowed for the preparation of and consultation on the Oxfordshire Plan's evidence base.</li> </ul>	
<b>Stakeholder Launch Event</b>	Dec 2018	An EA representative attended this event and provided input.	Stakeholder feedback from this event fed into the first Regulation 18 consultation document.
<b>SA Scoping Report Consultation</b>	Jan - Mar 2019	<p>The EA made a number of comments in relation to the proposed scope of the SA. These related to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunities to integrate environmental issues with social and economic factors should be taken.</li> <li>The natural capital approach and the need to provide net environmental gain should be more evident.</li> <li>Resilience to climate change needs to be embedded in all new developments.</li> <li>The potential to deliver natural floodplain management should be considered.</li> <li>Issues related to contaminated land and potential for remediation should be considered.</li> </ul>	The Oxfordshire authorities, with the SA consultants working on their behalf, reviewed all of the comments received in relation to the SA Scoping Report and considered where the SA Scoping Report required amendments. This process is set out in detail in Appendix 3 of the revised SA Scoping Report (LUC, May 2019).
<b>Regulation 18 Consultation (1)</b>	Feb - Mar 2019	<p>The EA made a number of comments on the first Regulation 18 document:</p> <p><u>Plan Vision, Objectives &amp; Aspirations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The vision could be more aspirational on environmental issues.</li> <li>The aspirations have missed an opportunity to fully integrate environmental issues with the social and economic factors at this strategic level for the whole of Oxfordshire.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Plan Vision, Objectives &amp; Aspirations</u></p> <p>The Oxfordshire Plan's vision and objectives were amended to take account of comments received through the first Regulation 18 consultation.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Environment Agency (EA)			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A number of specific comments were made in relation to the phrasing of the draft objectives.</li> </ul> <p><u>Natural Environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental enhancements could be provided through a natural capital approach to sustainable placemaking, the delivery of catchment wide natural flood management features and the implementation of climate change measures and adaption relating to water resources and carbon.</li> <li>The natural and built environment context section should mention the fluvial floodplains within Oxfordshire, which are a vital part of the natural environment and which should be appropriately considered within place making, not just as an environmental constraint but as important and valuable assets which provide a wide range of benefits.</li> <li>Resilience to climate change needs to be embedded in all new development.</li> <li>The remediation of contaminated land is an important issue.</li> </ul> <p><u>Water</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whilst the document recognises the problem of ensuring sustainable water resources within Oxfordshire, it doesn't identify the connection and direct implications of this key issue on the environment and the delivery of sustainable growth.</li> </ul> <p><u>Infrastructure</u></p> <p>The Infrastructure considerations section is silent on green and blue infrastructure and water related infrastructure.</p>	<p><u>Natural Environment</u></p> <p>Addressing climate change and improving environmental quality are key themes in the emerging Oxfordshire Plan. The second Regulation 18 consultation document identifies ambitious policy options related to natural capital, nature recovery, water quality and flood risk.</p> <p><u>Water</u></p> <p>This is explored through the Phase 1 Outline WCS. Further WCS work to be undertaken prior to Regulation 19.</p> <p><u>Infrastructure</u></p> <p>Green infrastructure is highlighted in the second Regulation 18 consultation document, with policy options related to natural capital, nature recovery, landscape and water quality.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Environment Agency (EA)			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
<b>Call for Ideas</b>	Mar-Apr 2019	<p>The EA made two submissions through the call for ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. A Strategic Nature Recovery Network – The promotion and facilitation of a landscape scale scheme which could be focused in part on the river valley network and linked to Conservation Target Areas to help deliver a net gain for biodiversity.</li> <li>ii. Thames Flood Storage – The EA is assessing the feasibility of various flood storage locations on the Thames upstream of Oxford and on the various upper tributaries of the Thames. The EA would like land to be safeguarded through the Oxfordshire Plan for flood storage.</li> </ul>	Call for Ideas submissions will be considered through the plan-making process and, where appropriate, the OxIS update. Call for Ideas submissions will be assessed as part of the identification of the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19.
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	16 April 2019	<p>A duty to co-operate meeting took place with the EA.</p> <p><u>Oxford-Cambridge Expressway</u> The EA has had limited engagement in this project. Potential to take account of natural capital work and environmental net gain suggested.</p> <p><u>Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme (OFAS)</u> Remains at planning application stage. The EA emphasised that the OFAS is focused on reducing flood risk to existing properties. It does not necessarily facilitate future growth. The OFAS may lower flood risk on some promoted sites, but these need to be subject to the same planning process as all other sites.</p> <p><u>Flood Risk</u> Districts' SFRA work was produced at different times and subsequently there are inconsistencies in the modelling information used and the consideration of climate change. Some SFRAs may already be out of date. An update will</p>	<p><u>Oxford-Cambridge Expressway</u> The Oxford to Cambridge Expressway project has now been cancelled.</p> <p><u>Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme (OFAS)</u> Noted.</p> <p><u>Flood Risk</u> An Oxfordshire-wide SFRA will be commissioned to support the Oxfordshire Plan.</p>

<b>Record of Co-operation: Environment Agency (EA)</b>			
<b>Engagement Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process</b>
		likely be required. Advised to also look at the County Council's SFRA for the Minerals and Waste Plan.  <u>Water</u> All districts have taken different WCS approaches. The EA advise that one consistent countywide study is undertaken to inform the Oxfordshire Plan.	<u>Water</u> An Oxfordshire-wide WCS will be commissioned to support the Oxfordshire Plan.
<b>Water Cycle Study (WCS) – Phase 1 Outline</b>	Apr-May 2019	The EA reviewed the brief for the Phase 1 Outline WCS and confirmed that it was generally supportive of the proposed requirements, but made the following specific comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The EA reiterated that the term 'environmental capacity' essentially means the ability of the receiving water environment to receive effluent without causing a deterioration in Water Framework Directive (WFD) status or compromising the attainment of future WFD objective status.</li> <li>▪ The EA emphasised that existing district level WCSs use different methodologies and are not directly comparable. The EA suggested that all growth within the plan period (both growth planned through local plans and proposed through the Oxfordshire Plan) is assessed consistently through a Phase 2 WCS.</li> <li>▪ The EA reminded us that the Water Companies Water Resources Management Plans (WRMPs) run to 2045 and that Oxfordshire spans multiple water companies with each having their own WRMPs.</li> </ul>	The brief for the Phase 1 Outline WCS was updated to ensure that expectations in terms of the consideration of environmental capacity and WRMPs were clearly articulated.  An exercise was undertaken to identify all the water companies relevant to Oxfordshire.
<b>Duty to Co-operate Scoping Exercise</b>	May 2019	The EA responded to the Duty to Co-operate Scoping Letter. The strategic matters relevant to the EA were identified as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Housing supply (in relation to locations)</li> </ul>	Engagement with the EA will be undertaken under the duty to co-operate in relation to relevant strategic matters throughout the plan-making process in order to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan. The

<b>Record of Co-operation: Environment Agency (EA)</b>			
<b>Engagement Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gypsies, Travellers. Caravan Dwellers, Travelling Showpeople (in relation to locations)</li> <li>▪ Boat Dwellers (in relation to the navigable watercourses and the location of houseboats rather than need/numbers)</li> <li>▪ Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Climate change</li> <li>▪ Flood Risk</li> <li>▪ Water Resources / Water Quality</li> <li>▪ Biodiversity / Natural Environment / Green Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Contaminated Land</li> </ul>	strategic matters identified at this stage will be the starting point for this engagement. However, it is recognised that the strategic matters relevant to the EA may require review/refinement as work on the Oxfordshire Plan progresses. Discussions with the EA in relation to relevant strategic matters will be ongoing throughout the plan-making process.
<b>Stakeholder Event</b>	May 2019	An EA representative attended this event and provided input.	Stakeholder feedback from this event fed into the review of the Oxfordshire Plan's vision, aspirations and objectives.
<b>EA presentation to Growth Board Advisory Sub-Group</b>	25 July 2019	A representative from the EA attended a Growth Board Member Sub-Group meeting and gave a presentation about the natural capital work being undertaken for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.	The presentation helped to raise awareness of the natural capital work being undertaken for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc amongst elected members.
<b>Water Cycle Study (WCS) – Phase 1 Outline</b>	Sept 2019	<p>Representatives from the EA attended the WCS inception meeting. The following issues were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oxfordshire Plan progress update</li> <li>▪ WCS objectives and timeline</li> <li>▪ WCS Methodology (water resources and supply, water quality and wastewater infrastructure and flood risk.</li> <li>▪ Data requirements</li> </ul> <p>The EA re-stated that existing SFRA's may not utilise the most up-to-date modelling data and that there is a need for an up-to-date Oxfordshire-wide SFRA to inform/ support the Oxfordshire Plan.</p>	<p>It was agreed that the Oxfordshire Plan, as a joint strategic plan with a long timeframe, provides an opportunity to take an ambitious approach to water efficiency.</p> <p>The EA provided technical advice in terms of the methodology and modelling tools. The WCS consultants will work with the EA to incorporate this into the WCS.</p> <p>An Oxfordshire-wide SFRA will be commissioned to support the Oxfordshire Plan.</p>

<b>Record of Co-operation: Environment Agency (EA)</b>			
<b>Engagement Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process</b>
<b>Water Cycle Study (WCS) – Phase 1 Outline</b>	March – April 2020	The EA reviewed the initial outputs from the Phase 1 Outline WCS and provided technical comments.	The technical comments from the EA have been incorporated into the WCS Phase 1 work and are reflected in the final report, which is a key evidence base document that will inform policy development and decision making.
<b>Thames Valley Flood Storage Scheme Meeting</b>	27 Jan 2021	<p>A meeting to discuss the EA's emerging work on the Thames Valley Flood Scheme.</p> <p>Project to explore opportunities for large scale flood storage schemes across the Thames Valley area. Currently have 18 options, with 5 in Oxfordshire, but no detail was given on specific locations at this stage.</p> <p>There are three stages of consultation planned. In May 2021 the EA will consult on project ambitions. In early 2022 the EA will consult on broad areas of interest (shorter list). In late 2022 the EA will look to consult on specific locations and aim to produce a business case for the project in 2024.</p> <p>The EA said they would write to the districts to brief them on the project and will offer a Q and A session.</p> <p>The EA gave the impression that both soft and hard infrastructure were being looked at. Project at the very early stages but there were references to these areas being used for recreation or biodiversity uses.</p>	<p>The development of the EA's Thames Valley Flood Scheme is likely to extend beyond the plan-making period. The emerging Oxfordshire Plan and OxIS update will take account of the project as far as they are able based upon available information.</p> <p>Potential for the Oxfordshire Plan to make a supportive/enabling statement in regard to this scheme will be explored through the second Regulation 18 consultation.</p>
<b>Oxfordshire Open Thought</b>	Jun - Aug 2020	The EA did not make an Open Thought submission.	N/A
<b>Strategic Vision Consultation</b>	Nov 2020 - Jan 2021	The EA did not submit comments on the Strategic Vision.	N/A

Record of Co-operation: Environment Agency (EA)			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
<b>Review of Emerging Options</b>	Mar - Apr 2021	The EA reviewed emerging policy options under the addressing climate change and improving environmental quality themes at an early stage of options development.	Recommendations from the EA were taken into account in the production of the second Regulation 18 consultation document.
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	13 May 2021	<p>A duty to co-operate meeting took place with the EA. The emerging policy options under the addressing climate change and improving environmental quality themes were discussed, as were key elements of the evidence base such as the WCS, SFRA, sequential test, nature recovery network and natural capital mapping.</p> <p><u>Water Resources</u> The EA will advise on any known plans that set or seek to set water efficiency standards beyond current Building Regulations.</p> <p><u>Flood Risk</u> The EA is concerned about the net-loss of flood plain through small scale householder developments.</p> <p><u>Natural Environment</u> The EA is supportive of the identification of a nature recovery network for Oxfordshire. The EA highlighted the need for guidance to ensure that biodiversity net gain requirements are consistently applied, monitored and reported across Oxfordshire. The EA also highlighted the need to consider how net gains are protected in the long-term. The Environment Bill raises the possibility of protective covenants. The EA questioned how natural capital evidence will be made accessible for us by planners, developers, communities and other stakeholders.</p>	<p><u>Water Resources</u> This will be taken into consideration prior to Regulation 19.</p> <p><u>Flood Risk</u> Options for managing the net-loss of flood plain through small scale householder developments will be tested through Regulation 18 consultation.</p> <p><u>Natural Environment</u> The practical application of policy approaches will be explored in more detail prior to Regulation 19.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Environment Agency (EA)			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		It was agreed that a statement of common ground was not needed at the second Regulation 18 stage.	

### Record of Co-operation: Highways England

This record summarises co-operation to date (up to the second Regulation 18 consultation) with Highways England.

Record of Co-operation: Highways England			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
<b>Oxfordshire Growth Board</b>	ONGOING	Highways England is an associate member of the Oxfordshire Growth Board.	The Growth Board discusses items relevant to the Oxfordshire Plan such as evidence base studies.
<b>SCI Consultation</b>	Nov 2018 - Jan 2019	Highways England did not submit comments on the SCI.	N/A
<b>Stakeholder Launch Event</b>	Dec 2018	Highways England did not attend this event.	N/A
<b>SA Scoping Report Consultation</b>	Jan - Mar 2019	Highways England did not submit comments in relation to the SA Scoping Report.	N/A
<b>Regulation 18 Consultation (1)</b>	Feb - Mar 2019	<p>Highways England made the following comments:</p> <p><u>Introducing the Oxfordshire Plan 2050</u></p> <p>Highways England will be concerned with proposals that have the potential to impact the Strategic Road Network (SRN), in this case the A34, A43 and M40.</p> <p>The route of the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway will have implications for local highway conditions as well as shaping the spatial strategy for the Oxfordshire Plan. Public consultation on OxCam route options is expected Autumn</p>	<p>Planning for sustainable travel and connectivity is a core theme in the emerging Oxfordshire Plan. The production of the Oxfordshire Plan is aligned with the production of the Oxfordshire Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) and the OxIS update.</p> <p>Transport evidence is being produced to inform the Oxfordshire Plan and to understand potential impacts and opportunities associated with growth, including</p>

Record of Co-operation: Highways England			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<p>2019, with a preferred route announcement expected in 2020.</p> <p>Highways England would like to engage at an early stage of evidence base development for the emerging Oxfordshire Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) (being produced to align with the Oxfordshire Plan 2050) to ensure that the LTCP is deliverable and to avoid adverse impacts on the SRN.</p> <p>Planned transport infrastructure for the earlier part of the plan period is set out in the current Local Transport Plan and Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS). However, a funding gap and deliverability issues mean that delivery is not guaranteed. A bold, forward thinking Oxfordshire Plan that sets a clear vision for growth is more likely to release opportunities for Government funding and will help direct local authority and developer funding.</p> <p>As the evidence base for the emerging LTCP to 2050 is developed, any funding gaps should be identified along with any potential future funding mechanisms to ensure that the plan is deliverable in transport terms and that the required infrastructure ensures that the SRN can continue to operate in a safe and efficient manner.</p> <p><u>Topic Paper 8: Improving Connectivity and Movement</u></p> <p>Transport and communications considerations to 2050 may have a substantial impact on travel across Oxfordshire. Early engagement throughout the development of the LTCP and refreshed OxIS would be welcomed to ensure that the scope of the proposed evidence base is sufficient in its approach to ensuring the safe and efficient operation of the SRN to 2050</p>	<p>impacts and opportunities related to the Strategic Road Network.</p> <p>The OxIS update will seek to prioritise infrastructure schemes and to consider potential funding sources.</p> <p>There will be ongoing engagement with Highways England throughout the plan-making process in regard to matters affecting the Strategic Road Network.</p> <p>The Oxford to Cambridge Expressway project has now been cancelled.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Highways England			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		and beyond. We would like to work in partnership to ensure the strategy developed aligns with the Highways England Road Investment Strategy to deliver the best outcomes for Oxfordshire and neighbouring authorities.	
<b>Call for Ideas</b>	Mar - Apr 2019	<p>Highways England made the following comments:</p> <p>Route Strategies form an important part of the evidence base for the Road Investment Strategy (RIS2). They provide a high-level view of the current performance of the SRN and provide evidence for future planning.</p> <p>Highways England looks forward to continuing the ongoing work with the local planning authorities and Oxfordshire County Council to identify and produce a robust transport strategy which would inform the size and scale of development deliverable within Oxfordshire up to and beyond the plan period.</p> <p>“The Strategic Road Network Planning for the Future” is a guide to working with Highways England on planning matters.</p>	There will be ongoing engagement with Highways England throughout the plan-making process in regard to matters affecting the Strategic Road Network.
<b>Duty to Co-operate Scoping Exercise</b>	May 2019	<p>The following strategic matters were identified as being of relevance to Highways England:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transport</li> <li>▪ Housing Requirements</li> <li>▪ Housing Supply</li> <li>▪ Economy and Employment</li> <li>▪ Retail/Leisure/Other Commercial</li> </ul> <p>Highways England may also have some interest other areas such as flood risk and Green Belt.</p>	Engagement with Highways England will be undertaken under the duty to co-operate in relation to relevant strategic matters throughout the plan-making process in order to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan. The strategic matters identified at this stage will be the starting point for this engagement. However, it is recognised that the strategic matters relevant to Highways England may require review/refinement as work on the Oxfordshire Plan progresses. Discussions with Highways England in relation to relevant strategic

Record of Co-operation: Highways England			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
			matters will be ongoing throughout the plan-making process.
Stakeholder Event	May 2019	Highways England did not attend this event.	N/A
Duty to Co-operate Meeting	15 Jan 2020	<p>The following matters were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oxfordshire Plan project update (including evidence base development), the emerging Oxfordshire LTCP and the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway.</li> <li>▪ The main strategic matter for Highways England is the A34, specifically its capacity limitations and the financial costs of upgrades.</li> <li>▪ Challenges associated with planning to 2050. Need to consider how the SRN will be used in the future. A bespoke approach may be needed for the later part of the plan period that is more reliant on narrative than data.</li> </ul>	The challenges related to planning to 2050 were explored through Oxfordshire Open Thought and will continue to be explored through the production of the Oxfordshire Plan's evidence base. There will be ongoing engagement with Highways England throughout the plan-making process in regard to matters affecting the Strategic Road Network.
Oxfordshire Open Thought	Jun - Aug 2020	Highways England did not make an Oxfordshire Open Thought submission.	N/A
Strategic Vision consultation	Nov 2020 - Jan 2021	<p>Highways England stated its particular support for Strategic Vision desired outcome 06 Connectivity &amp; Mobility: "The way we move around our county will be transformed, with greater connectivity and mobility in and between places in ways that enhance environmental, social and economic well-being."</p> <p>This strongly aligns with Highways England's Strategic Business Plan 2020-2025 outcomes. As agreed with DfT, Transport Focus and ORR, our framework reflects how we will deliver the following six committed outcomes:</p> <p>1) Improving safety for all</p>	Noted.

Record of Co-operation: Highways England			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<p>2) Providing fast and reliable journeys  3) A well-maintained and resilient network  4) Delivering better environmental outcomes  5) Meeting the needs of all users  6) Achieving efficient delivery</p> <p>Highways England will be concerned with proposals that have the potential to impact the safe and efficient operation of the SRN, in this case the A34, A43 and M40.</p>	
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	5 May 2021	<p>A duty to co-operate meeting took place with Highways England. Updates were given on the Oxfordshire Mobility Model (OMM), LTCP and OxIS update.</p> <p><u>Transport Evidence</u>  Challenges in developing an evidence base to support planning to 2050 were highlighted. Patterns of travel between home and work likely to become more complex and less certain over time.</p> <p><u>Infrastructure</u>  The A34 does not have capacity to accommodate significant growth. Also need to consider wider pressures on the SRN, e.g. growth at Southampton Port increasing freight movements through to the midlands. Local road network also has limited capacity.</p> <p>Strategic Growth Locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to consider infrastructure in the identification of growth locations.</li> <li>• MOD sites can be challenging due to their isolation. Often require significant transport infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<p>Transport evidence is being produced to inform the Oxfordshire Plan and to understand potential impacts and opportunities associated with growth, including impacts and opportunities related to the Strategic Road Network.</p> <p>The OxIS update will seek to prioritise infrastructure schemes and to consider potential funding sources.</p> <p>There will be ongoing engagement with Highways England throughout the plan-making process in regard to matters affecting the Strategic Road Network.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Highways England			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<p>Oxford has sustainable connections but limited capacity to accommodate growth. Spreading growth more widely, away from Oxford, generally increases infrastructure requirements</p> <p><u>Route Strategies</u></p> <p>Highways England is Developing Route Strategies which will identify infrastructure schemes and will be used to help make decisions on funding. Stakeholder views on needs and aspirations to be fed into the strategies. Consultation due to start shortly - an opportunity for the Oxfordshire authorities to feed into this. Potential to consider where the A34 may act as a hinderance to growth.</p> <p>It was agreed that a statement of common ground was not needed at the second Regulation 18 stage.</p>	

### Record of Co-operation: Historic England

This record summarises co-operation to date (up to the second Regulation 18 consultation) with Historic England.

Record of Co-operation: Historic England			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
<b>SCI Consultation</b>	Nov 2018 - Jan 2019	Historic England stated its satisfaction with the proposed approach to engagement set out in the SCI and reiterated its commitment to engaging with the councils on the preparation of the Oxfordshire Plan, including attendance at future stakeholder workshops and focused discussions with the councils on the historic environment.	Engagement with Historic England will be undertaken under the duty to co-operate in relation to relevant strategic matters throughout the plan-making process in order to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan.

Record of Co-operation: Historic England			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
Stakeholder Launch Event	Dec 2018	Historic England did not attend this event.	N/A
SA Scoping Report Consultation	Jan - Mar 2019	Historic England provided a link to its general advice on Sustainability Appraisal and the historic environment as set out in Historic England's Advice Note 8 "Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment" - <a href="https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/">https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/</a>	The Oxfordshire authorities, with the SA consultants working on their behalf, reviewed all of the comments received in relation to the SA Scoping Report and considered where the SA Scoping Report required amendments. This process is set out in detail in Appendix 3 of the revised SA Scoping Report (LUC, May 2019).
Regulation 18 Consultation (1)	Feb - Mar 2019	<p>Historic England made a number of comments in relation to the 'Introducing the Oxfordshire' Plan document:</p> <p><u>Terminology</u> There should be specific reference to the historic environment. The terms "built environment" and "historic environment" are not interchangeable and are referred to separately within the NPPF. Oxfordshire's historic environment includes archaeological assets, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens and historic landscapes.</p> <p><u>Objectives</u> Draft Objective 1 was welcomed and supported for its reference to enhancing the historic environment, although the wording conserve/protect (as opposed to maintain) is more consistent with the NPPF.</p> <p><u>Evidence Base</u> Agreed that the consideration of heritage assets (based on a clear understanding) should be fundamental to the choices made in the plan. A relevant and up-to-date historic</p>	<p><u>Terminology</u> Noted. Clearer language will be used as advised.</p> <p><u>Objectives</u> The Oxfordshire Plan's objectives were amended to take account of comments received through the first Regulation 18 consultation.</p> <p><u>Evidence Base</u> Detailed evidence may be commissioned to support the identification of the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Historic England			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<p>environment evidence base should be compiled. This should include consideration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Known and potential heritage assets (including assessing the likelihood of currently unidentified assets being identified);</li> <li>ii. Heritage assets beyond Oxfordshire's boundary; and</li> <li>iii. New areas that might be worthy of designations as conservation areas or local listing.</li> </ul> <p>This information could be collated within a Heritage Topic Paper to draw together the evidence base and to highlight its implications and actions required.</p> <p>The historic environment evidence base should be proportionate and may need to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Detailed historic characterisation work assessing the impact of potential urban extensions or rural development.</li> <li>ii. Heritage Impact Assessments considering the potential impacts of allocations on the significance of heritage assets.</li> <li>iii. Seeking the views of local communities about what they value about the historic environment.</li> <li>iv. Archaeological assessment to consider whether heritage assets with archaeological potential are likely to be present in areas where the HER indicates that there has been little or no previous investigation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Growth Locations</u> Development options that provide opportunities for improvement and enhancement of the natural and built environment should be favoured.</p>	<p><u>Growth Locations</u> Opportunities and impacts are identified at a high level and will be tested, including through the second Regulation 18 consultation. A more detailed assessment will be undertaken to identify the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Historic England			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
<b>Call for Ideas</b>	Mar-Apr 2019	Historic England reminded the councils of the need to have regard to potential impacts on the historic environment when considering potential development sites. Historic England also offered to provide further advice on the identification of sites and on the impact of potential sites on heritage assets.	Five spatial options are identified at the second Regulation 18 stage. Opportunities and impacts are identified at a high level and will be tested, including through the second Regulation 18 consultation. A more detailed assessment will be undertaken to identify the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19.
<b>Duty to Co-operate Scoping Exercise</b>	May 2019	Historic England confines its involvement in planning issues to matters that involve or otherwise affect the historic environment. Historic England's duty to co-operate is therefore appropriate in respect of strategic matters that would involve or otherwise affect a heritage asset. Given the extensive heritage resources of Oxfordshire, Historic England should be consulted on all policy areas as many of these will have impacts to some	Engagement with Historic England will be undertaken under the duty to co-operate in relation to relevant strategic matters throughout the plan-making process in order to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan. The strategic matters identified at this stage will be the starting point for this engagement. However, it is recognised that the strategic matters relevant to Historic England may require review/refinement as work on the Oxfordshire Plan progresses. Discussions with Historic England in relation to relevant strategic matters will be ongoing throughout the plan-making process.
<b>Stakeholder Event</b>	May 2019	Historic England did not attend this event.	N/A
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	24 Jan 2020	<p>A duty to co-operate meeting took place with Historic England.</p> <p><u>Evidence Base</u> Historic England advised that an updated Historic Environment Topic Paper and updated Conservation Area Appraisals would be beneficial to support the plan.</p> <p>Historic England to provide guidance on the evidence required to support the Oxfordshire Plan at each stage.</p>	<p><u>Evidence Base</u> Oxfordshire's City and District Councils will work with Historic England to ensure that the Oxfordshire Plan is supported by an appropriate and proportionate evidence base.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Historic England			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<p><u>Growth Locations</u> The Oxfordshire Plan should consider the density of development when considering impacts on heritage assets. Long term strategic thinking could enable wider greenfield areas to be considered for growth in order to protect heritage assets on brownfield sites, such as historic airfields.</p> <p><u>Ongoing Engagement</u> Informal engagement outside of statutory stages of consultation would be welcomed to help identify where significant issues might arise as a result of the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy.</p>	<p><u>Growth Locations</u> Noted. Opportunities and impacts related to the historic environment are identified at a high level and will be tested, including through the second Regulation 18 consultation. A more detailed assessment will be undertaken to inform the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19.</p> <p><u>Ongoing Engagement</u> Informal engagement outside of statutory stages of consultation will be undertaken as part of the identification of the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19.</p>
<b>Oxfordshire Open Thought</b>	Jun – Aug 2021	Historic England did not submit comments via Open Thought.	N/A
<b>Strategic Vision Consultation</b>	Nov 2020 - Jan 2021	<p>Historic England made the following comments on the draft strategic vision:</p> <p>Whilst none of the sections on good growth or guiding principles deal specifically with the historic environment, there are synergies between the historic environment and many of these subjects. Historic England produces research on such matters, in our Heritage Counts series. Reports on Heritage and Society, Heritage and the Environment, Carbon in the Built Historic Environment and Heritage in the Economy were recently published and are of relevance.</p> <p>Any objectives and policies that are developed based on, or influenced by the Strategic Vision, should take the opportunity to draw out the synergies between the historic environment and the guiding principles and definition of</p>	Noted. Options relevant to the historic environment are set out in the second Regulation 18 consultation document.

Record of Co-operation: Historic England			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		good growth. The historic environment should be given specific consideration where appropriate.	
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	14 June 2021	<p>A duty to co-operate meeting took place with Historic England.</p> <p>OxCam Arc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic Environment Records for the entire OxCam Arc are being collated. This should be accessible via Oxfordshire County Council.</li> </ul> <p><u>Broad Locations for Growth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An appropriate and proportionate evidence base is needed.</li> <li>Question around how geographically specific broad locations will be. Historic England able to provide advice on very broad areas.</li> </ul> <p><u>Evidence Base</u></p> <p>A proportionate Heritage Impact Assessment will be needed to inform the Oxfordshire Plan. If this is left until the local plan stage, it may be too late to realise opportunities and/or avoid negative impacts. Historic England able to review a draft Heritage Impact Assessment brief.</p> <p><u>Policy Approach</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploring how the Oxfordshire Plan can add value beyond NPPF/local plans.</li> <li>Uncertainty around forthcoming planning reforms.</li> <li>Aiming to set a positive strategy for the for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. Difficult to achieve at this early stage. Focus efforts once growth locations are identified.</li> </ul>	<p>Opportunities and impacts related to the historic environment are identified at a high level and will be tested, including through the second Regulation 18 consultation. A more detailed assessment will be undertaken to inform the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19.</p> <p>Informal engagement outside of statutory stages of consultation will be undertaken as part of the identification of the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth prior to Regulation 19.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Historic England			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conservation Officer input also likely to be of value.</li> </ul> <p><u>Spatial Options</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic England likely to be nervous about an Oxford focused strategy. Concern that this could result in pressure to build higher. High risk of impacts on heritage assets due to the historic nature of the city.</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that a statement of common ground was not needed at the second Regulation 18 stage.</p>	

### Record of Co-operation: Homes England

This record summarises co-operation to date (up to the second Regulation 18 consultation) with Homes England.

Record of Co-operation: Homes England			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process
<b>Oxfordshire Growth Board</b>	ONGOING	Homes England is an associate member of the Oxfordshire Growth Board.	The Growth Board discusses items relevant to the Oxfordshire Plan such as evidence base studies.
<b>Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal</b>	ONGOING	The role of Homes England in the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal is both as the operational arm of Government overseeing the Deal but also a partner and critical friend. They act as the liaison with Government, informally checking on progress with Deal targets reporting back as appropriate but also act as a critical friend to Oxfordshire, advising and mentoring on issues, challenges and opportunities arising from the project. Crucially they sit on the Oxfordshire Growth Board and supporting officer groups that oversee the	The Oxfordshire authorities will continue to work with Homes England as the commitments made in the Housing and Growth Deal are delivered, and in the longer term as appropriate.

<b>Record of Co-operation: Homes England</b>			
<b>Engagement Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process</b>
		delivery of the Deal and so are involved in overseeing its operational governance.	
<b>SCI Consultation</b>	Nov 2018 - Jan 2019	Homes England did not submit comments on the SCI.	N/A
<b>Stakeholder Launch Event</b>	Dec 2018	A Homes England representative attended this event and provided input.	Stakeholder feedback from this event fed into the first Regulation 18 consultation document.
<b>SA Scoping Report Consultation</b>	Jan - Mar 2019	Homes England did not submit comments on the SA Scoping Report.	N/A
<b>Regulation 18 Consultation (1)</b>	Feb - Mar 2019	Homes England did not submit comments through the first Regulation 18 consultation.	N/A
<b>Call for Ideas</b>	Mar-Apr 2019	Homes England did not make a Call for Ideas submission.	N/A
<b>Duty to Co-operate Scoping Exercise</b>	May 2019	Homes England did not respond to the duty to co-operate scoping exercise.	N/A
<b>Stakeholder Event</b>	May 2019	Homes England did not attend this event.	N/A
<b>Oxfordshire Open Thought</b>	Jun - Aug 2020	Homes England did not make a submission via Oxfordshire Open Thought.	N/A
<b>Strategic Vision Consultation</b>	Nov 2020 - Jan 2021	Homes England did not comment on the Strategic Vision.	N/A

**Record of Co-operation: Natural England**

This record summarises co-operation to date (up to the second Regulation 18 consultation) with Natural England.

<b>Record of Co-operation: Natural England</b>			
<b>Engagement Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>How this has shaped the Oxfordshire Plan</b>
<b>Biodiversity / Natural Capital Working Group</b>	ONGOING	As part of this working group, Natural England has fed into the development of the biodiversity and natural capital evidence base. This includes feeding into the review and refinement of SA alternatives and testing.	This is helping to ensure that the Oxfordshire Plan and its evidence base are joined up with Natural England's ambitions, priorities and best practice.
<b>SCI Consultation</b>	Nov 2018 - Jan 2019	Natural England did not submit comments on the SCI.	N/A
<b>Stakeholder Launch Event</b>	Dec 2018	A Natural England representative attended this event and provided input.	Stakeholder feedback from this event fed into the Regulation 18 (1) consultation document.
<b>HRA: Proposed Approach</b>	Dec 2018	Natural England reviewed the proposed HRA approach and made a number of comments relating to the sensitivities of protected habitats, the proposed approach to screening and the proposed approach to assessing air quality, water levels/quality and recreational pressure.	The HRA methodology was updated in response to Natural England's technical advice.
<b>SA Scoping Report Consultation</b>	Jan - Mar 2019	Natural England made the following comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The SA should align with any similar work undertaken for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.</li> <li>▪ The SA should consider natural capital and ecosystem services.</li> <li>▪ The SA should consider green infrastructure.</li> <li>▪ Local documents should be considered under other plans, policies and programmes of relevance.</li> <li>▪ Additional baseline information should be considered.</li> <li>▪ An additional SA objective could address natural capital.</li> </ul>	The Oxfordshire authorities, with the SA consultants working on their behalf, reviewed all of the comments received in relation to the SA Scoping Report and considered where the SA Scoping Report required amendments. This process is set out in detail in Appendix 3 of the revised SA Scoping Report (LUC, May 2019).

<b>Record of Co-operation: Natural England</b>			
<b>Engagement Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>How this has shaped the Oxfordshire Plan</b>
<b>Regulation 18 Consultation (1)</b>	Feb - Mar 2019	Natural England suggested that spatial planning at the Oxfordshire-scale provides an opportunity to take a natural capital approach to understanding priorities and opportunities to improve Oxfordshire's environment, including the principles of environmental net gain, a Nature Recovery Network and connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing. Natural England provided a number of suggestions as to how these principals could be further integrated into the plan.	Improving environmental quality is a key theme in the emerging Oxfordshire Plan. Ambitious policy options are identified at the second Regulation 18 stage. An extensive natural capital and nature recovery evidence base has been developed.
<b>Call for Ideas</b>	Mar-Apr 2019	Natural England suggested that the Oxfordshire Plan provides an opportunity to identify a Nature Recovery Network for Oxfordshire and local Nature Recovery Areas.	Establishing a Nature Recovery Network for Oxfordshire is a preferred policy option in the second Regulation 18 consultation document.
<b>Duty to Co-operate Scoping Exercise</b>	May 2019	<p>Natural England agreed with the strategic matters identified but noted that other matters (for example commercial development, community facilities and other infrastructure) may also affect the natural environment and early discussion in relation to these matters would be welcomed.</p> <p>Natural England advised that soils (including Best and Most Versatile agricultural land) and Natural Capital should be strategic matters.</p>	<p>Engagement with Natural England will be undertaken under the duty to co-operate in relation to relevant strategic matters throughout the plan-making process in order to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan. The strategic matters identified at this stage will be the starting point for this engagement. However, it is recognised that the strategic matters relevant to Natural England may require review/refinement as work on the Oxfordshire Plan progresses. Discussions with Natural England in relation to relevant strategic matters will be ongoing throughout the plan-making process.</p> <p>It was agreed that soils and natural capital would be considered as part of the Biodiversity / Natural Environment / Green Infrastructure strategic matter.</p>

<b>Record of Co-operation: Natural England</b>			
<b>Engagement Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>How this has shaped the Oxfordshire Plan</b>
<b>Stakeholder Event</b>	May 2019	A Natural England representative attended this event and provided input.	Stakeholder feedback from this event fed into the review of the Oxfordshire Plan's vision, aspirations and objectives.
<b>HRA: Distance Based Risk Zones</b>	May - June 2019	Natural England reviewed the proposed methodology for developing distance based risk zones. Natural England accepted the proposed 10km lower risk buffer. Natural England was satisfied with the proposed buffers for water and recreational impacts and commented on the recommended screening distance for air quality.	The HRA pre-screening 'distance-based risk zones' work was progressed with Natural England's agreement.
<b>HRA: Distance Based Risk Zones</b>	Sept- Oct 2019	Natural England reviewed the draft distance based risk zones report. Natural England was generally satisfied with the buffer zones identified in the report on the basis that they will be used at a high level to inform thinking on the distribution of growth and will be followed by full HRA work once a draft plan has been produced. Natural England made some specific comments relating to protected habitats' sensitivities and the consideration of air quality issues.	It is agreed that this work provides a useful starting point to begin to consider the risk of effects on protected sites, at a high level, when starting to consider the distribution of growth in Oxfordshire to 2050. It is agreed that a comprehensive HRA should be undertaken at the appropriate time.
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	18 Dec 2019	<p>A meeting took place with Natural England where the following matters were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oxfordshire Plan project update and next steps;</li> <li>▪ Emerging evidence base - Habitats Regulations Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal, Natural capital, Nature Recovery Network and Nature Recovery Strategy, Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study, Green Infrastructure, and Water Cycle Study.</li> <li>▪ Cost recovery arrangements.</li> <li>▪ Strategic matters for the Oxfordshire Plan.</li> <li>▪ Oxfordshire's Local Nature Partnership position.</li> </ul>	It was agreed that soils and natural capital would be considered as part of the Biodiversity / Natural Environment / Green Infrastructure strategic matter.

Record of Co-operation: Natural England			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	How this has shaped the Oxfordshire Plan
		The inclusion of soils as a strategic matter was discussed. The Oxfordshire Plan should assess and address impacts on Best and Most Versatile Land across the whole of Oxfordshire.	
<b>Oxfordshire Open Thought</b>	Jun - Aug 2020	Natural England did not submit comments via Oxfordshire Open Thought.	N/A
<b>Strategic Vision Consultation</b>	Nov 2020 - Jan 2021	<p>Natural England made the following comments:</p> <p><u>Defining Good Growth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The natural environment should feature more strongly.</li> <li>▪ The cross-cutting role of natural capital should be flagged.</li> <li>▪ It should include contributing to nature's recovery.</li> </ul> <p><u>Guiding Principles</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Should seek not only to enhance Oxfordshire's natural capital assets, but also to grow them.</li> <li>▪ Nature's recovery should be included within the guiding principles in terms of protecting and restoring the County's valuable habitats and species and improving ecological resilience through creating ecological networks.</li> </ul> <p><u>Strategic Influencers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Agree with the identification of the 25 Year Environment Plan and draft Oxfordshire Nature Recovery Network within this.</li> <li>▪ Suggest that the Oxfordshire Environment Board and Biodiversity Action Group are also included, with recognition that there is also a process underway to form an Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership.</li> <li>▪ Under the emerging Environment Bill, there will also be a requirement to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy</li> </ul>	Amendments were made to the Strategic Vision to take account of comments received prior to the Strategic Vision being agreed by the Oxfordshire authorities.

Record of Co-operation: Natural England			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	How this has shaped the Oxfordshire Plan
		<p>(LNRS). It would be helpful to flag this as a future Strategic Influencer.</p> <p><u>Desired Outcomes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Welcome the desire to become carbon neutral and move towards a carbon negative future.</li> <li>▪ Welcome recognition of the natural environment's role in helping to achieve this.</li> <li>▪ Suggest that the role of nature-based solutions in mitigating the impacts of climate change is also included. We recommend that consideration is given to the potential land-use changes that will occur to achieve Net Zero, particularly that these are compatible with enabling the valued landscapes and biodiversity of the County adapt to the impacts of climate change.</li> </ul>	
<b>Emerging Policy Options</b>	Mar – Apr 2021	Natural England reviewed and provided comments on an early draft of the emerging policy options under the 'Addressing Climate Change' and 'Improving Environmental Quality' themes, prior to the formal second Regulation 18 consultation.	Recommendations from Natural England were taken into account in the production of the second Regulation 18 consultation document.
<b>Duty to Co-operate Meeting</b>	6 May 2021	<p>A duty to co-operate meeting took place with Natural England. The emerging policy options under the addressing climate change and improving environmental quality themes were discussed, as were key elements of the evidence base such as the HRA, nature recovery network and natural capital mapping.</p> <p><u>Natural Environment</u></p> <p>Nature Recovery Network - Flexible wording needed to recognise that the requirement to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy is likely to come forward during the plan</p>	<p><u>Natural Environment</u></p> <p>Recommendations from Natural England were taken into account in the production of the second Regulation 18 consultation document.</p>

Record of Co-operation: Natural England			
Engagement Type	Date	Summary	How this has shaped the Oxfordshire Plan
		<p>period. Something similar is also likely to come forward for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.</p> <p>Biodiversity Net Gain – A 20% minimum requirement being considered/proposed for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.</p> <p>Natural Capital – The Oxfordshire Plan should emphasise the importance of natural capital. This will have strong links to other areas including the nature recovery network and air quality.</p> <p>Climate change – links to the Nature Recovery Network and potential for carbon sequestration should be recognised.</p> <p><u>Habitats Regulations Assessment</u></p> <p>Questions around how to assess and mitigate likely significant effects when we are dealing with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Broad areas for growth. (Detailed allocations to come through local plans.)</li> <li>ii. Longer timeframe. (Greater uncertainty the further ahead you plan. Hard to model travel patterns/modes.)</li> </ul> <p>This issue was also flagged at the West of England EiP. Further discussion with Natural England would be valuable.</p> <p>It was agreed that a statement of common ground was not needed at the second Regulation 18 stage.</p>	<p><u>Habitats Regulations Assessment</u></p> <p>Further engagement to take place with Natural England in relation to the HRA methodology.</p>

**Record of Co-operation: The Office of Rail and Road**

This record summarises co-operation to date (up to the second Regulation 18 consultation) with The Office of Rail and Road.

<b>Record of Co-operation: The Office of Rail and Road</b>			
<b>Engagement Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Impact of co-operation on the plan-making process</b>
<b>SCI Consultation</b>	Nov 2018 - Jan 2019	The Office of Rail and Road did not submit comments on the SCI.	N/A
<b>Stakeholder Launch Event</b>	Dec 2018	The Office of Rail and Road did not attend this event.	N/A
<b>SA Scoping Report Consultation</b>	Jan - Mar 2019	The Office of Rail and Road did not submit comments on the SA Scoping Report.	N/A
<b>Regulation 18 Consultation (1)</b>	Feb - Mar 2019	The Office of Rail and Road did not submit comments through the first Regulation 18 consultation.	N/A
<b>Call for Ideas</b>	Mar-Apr 2019	The Office of Rail and Road did not make a Call for Ideas submission.	N/A
<b>Duty to Co-operate Scoping Exercise</b>	May 2019	The Office of Rail and Road did not respond to the duty to co-operate scoping exercise.	N/A
<b>Stakeholder Event</b>	May 2019	The Office of Rail and Road did not attend this event.	N/A
<b>Oxfordshire Open Thought</b>	Jun - Aug 2020	The Office of Rail and Road did not make a submission via Oxfordshire Open Thought.	N/A
<b>Strategic Vision Consultation</b>	Nov 2020 - Jan 2021	The Office of Rail and Road did not comment on the Strategic Vision.	N/A

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## Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Statement of Common Ground

Second Regulation 18 Consultation

July 2021



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## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Statement of Common Ground documents the cross-boundary strategic planning matters being addressed through the production of the Oxfordshire Plan and the progress made in co-operating to address these matters up to the second Regulation 18 (preferred options) consultation.
- 1.2 As co-operation to address cross-boundary strategic planning matters will continue throughout the plan-making process, updates to this Statement of Common Ground will be published at future stages as appropriate (as set out in Section 10).
- 1.3 This Statement of Common Ground has been produced in accordance with Paragraph 27 of the National Planning Policy Framework<sup>1</sup> (NPPF) and the approach set out in the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

## 2 The Oxfordshire Plan 2050

- 2.1 The Oxfordshire Plan is a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP) which is being jointly prepared by the five local planning authorities in Oxfordshire: Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council (referred to throughout this document as 'Oxfordshire's City and District Councils').
- 2.2 Oxfordshire's City and District Councils are working in close partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) throughout the plan-making process.
- 2.3 The Oxfordshire Plan will provide a long term, strategic planning framework for Oxfordshire. It will set out the level of growth to be delivered in Oxfordshire to 2050 and the spatial strategy for the distribution of growth in Oxfordshire to 2050. It will also set out a number of strategic planning policies around five key themes:
  - i. Addressing climate change
  - ii. Improving environmental quality
  - iii. Creating strong and healthy communities
  - iv. Planning for sustainable travel and connectivity
  - v. Creating jobs and providing homes
- 2.4 A core team has been established to co-ordinate the production Oxfordshire Plan, which includes officers seconded from Oxfordshire's City and District Councils and Oxfordshire County Council.
- 2.5 The Oxfordshire Plan is being developed by consensus, with officers and elected members, from all the Oxfordshire authorities and OxLEP, working together at every stage of plan-making process to ensure that individual and collective views are taken

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<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (February 2019) National Planning Policy Framework

into account. Further detail on the joint working arrangements established to deliver the Oxfordshire Plan is provided in the Duty to Co-operate Statement.

- 2.6 At each key stage of the plan-making process, Oxfordshire's City and District Councils will be asked to formally approve the emerging Oxfordshire Plan and its supporting documents (for example at the Regulation 18 and 19 stages).
- 2.7 The Oxfordshire Plan will be adopted by each of Oxfordshire's City and District Councils. It will then form part of each authority's development plan, providing the strategic planning framework for future local plans and decision-making on development proposals.

### **3 Scale of Cross-Boundary Strategic Planning Matters**

- 3.1 In producing the Oxfordshire Plan, there are a range of scales at which cross-boundary strategic planning matters need to be considered. These can be broadly grouped into three categories:

#### **i. Cross-boundary strategic planning matters within Oxfordshire**

As a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan, being produced by five local planning authorities, co-operation to address cross-boundary strategic planning matters within Oxfordshire is the foundation of the Oxfordshire Plan.

Oxfordshire County Council, with an administrative area spanning all five local planning authority areas, is a key partner in the production of the Oxfordshire Plan. Oxfordshire County Council has responsibilities including minerals and waste planning, transport, education, flood risk and public health.

OxLEP also spans all five local planning authority areas and is key partner in the production of the Oxfordshire Plan. OxLEP champions Oxfordshire's economic potential on the national and international stage to attract jobs and investment into the County and ensures that the voices of businesses are heard.

Oxfordshire does not currently have a Local Nature Partnership (LNP). However, progress is being made to establish a LNP for Oxfordshire. Should an LNP be formed during the plan-making process, the LNP would also become a key partner in the production of the Oxfordshire Plan.

Oxfordshire's City and District Councils are engaging constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with each other, Oxfordshire County Council and OxLEP to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan in addressing cross-boundary strategic planning matters in Oxfordshire in accordance with the Duty to Co-operate. Further detail on the joint working arrangements established to deliver the Oxfordshire Plan is provided in the Duty to Co-operate Statement.

## **ii. Cross-boundary strategic planning matters with areas adjoining Oxfordshire**

As functional relationships do not end at Oxfordshire's boundary, cross-boundary strategic planning matters with local authorities, LEPs and LNPs that adjoin Oxfordshire are also being considered throughout the plan-making process.

Oxfordshire's City and District Councils are engaging constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with the local authorities, LEPs and LNPs adjoining Oxfordshire to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan in addressing cross-boundary strategic planning matters in accordance with the Duty to Co-operate. Further detail on the engagement undertaken to date and how this is informing the production of the Oxfordshire Plan is provided in the Duty to Co-operate Statement.

## **iii. Wider cross-boundary strategic planning matters**

Cross-boundary strategic planning matters across other relevant geographies are also being considered throughout the plan-making process as appropriate.

Oxfordshire is a key component of the Oxford-Cambridge (OxCam) Arc - a strategic 'arc' in central England which is home to a unique business, science and technology ecosystem. The OxCam Arc also covers the ceremonial counties of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. The government has committed to producing a Spatial Framework for the OxCam Arc, which will focus on strategic opportunities for growth and environmental improvement that cross administrative boundaries and require more joined up thinking across the area.

Oxfordshire is also part of England's Economic Heartland (EEH) - a strategic collaborative partnership, stretching from Swindon to Cambridgeshire and from Northamptonshire to Hertfordshire, with a shared commitment to realise the region's economic potential while achieving net-zero carbon. EEH is the sub-national transport body for the region, with a transport strategy that establishes a 30 year strategic vision for the region's transport system. EEG also works with delivery partners to identify investment priorities, secure funding and deliver schemes.

Wider cross-boundary strategic planning matters may also relate to other geographies such as river catchments, water resource zones or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Wider cross-boundary strategic planning matters include those identified as being relevant to Prescribed Bodies<sup>2</sup>. This includes the Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England, Civil Aviation Authority, Homes England,

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<sup>2</sup> Prescribed Bodies as defined by The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Part 2. Regulation 4.

Clinical Commissioning Groups, The Office of Rail and Road, Highways England and the Mayor of London.

Oxfordshire's City and District Councils are engaging constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with relevant Prescribed Bodies to maximise the effectiveness of the Oxfordshire Plan in addressing cross-boundary strategic planning matters in accordance with the Duty to Co-operate. Further detail on the engagement undertaken to date and how this is informing the production of the Oxfordshire Plan is provided in the Duty to Co-operate Statement.

## 4 Geographical Area

4.1 The geographical area covered by this Statement of Common Ground is the county of Oxfordshire (Figure 1).

4.2 This Statement of Common Ground focuses on the geographical area of Oxfordshire for the following reasons:

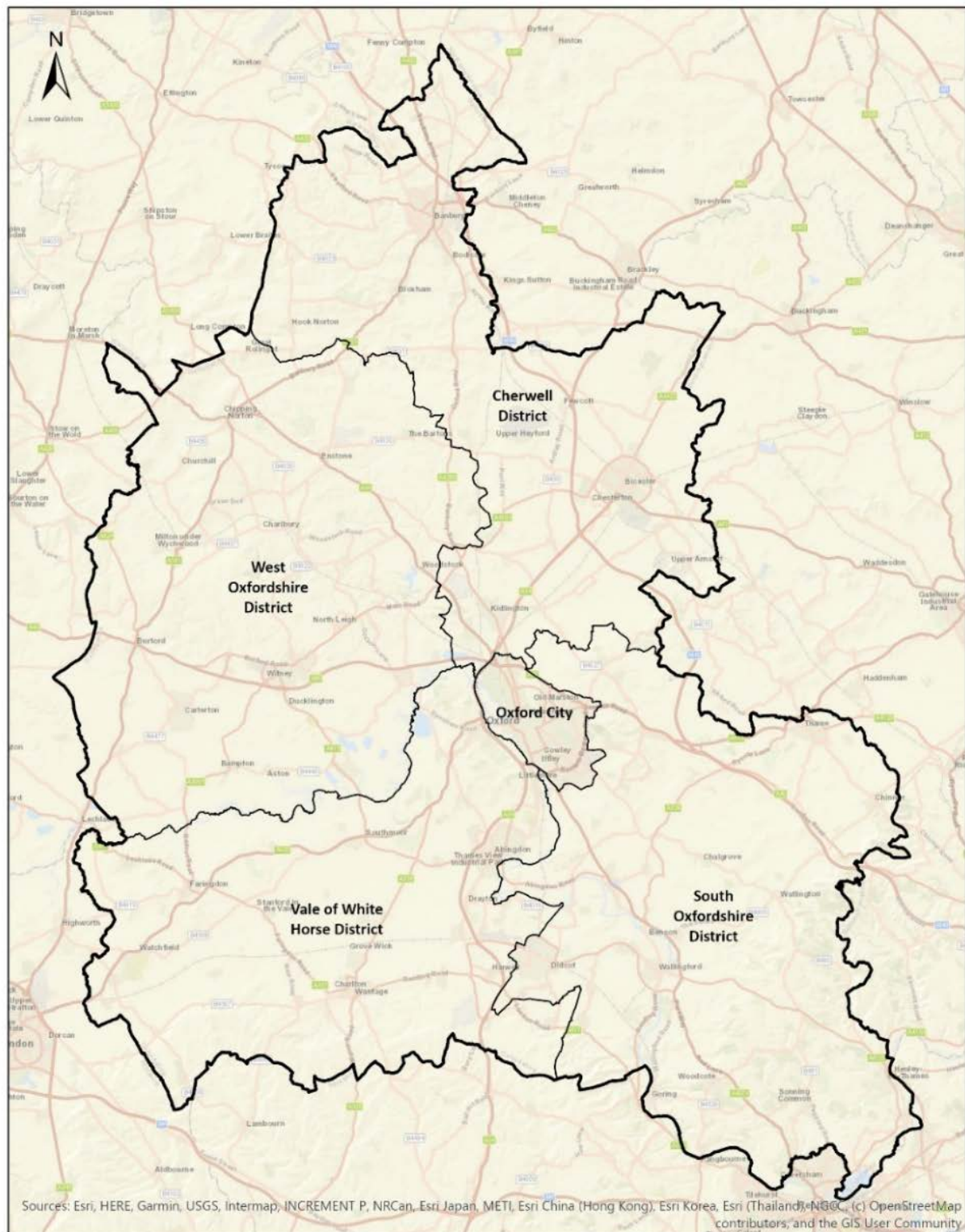
- i. It is the geographical area covered by the Oxfordshire Plan;
- ii. It reflects the Oxfordshire housing market area;
- iii. It reflects the Oxfordshire functional economic market area, the area covered by OxLEP and the area covered by the Strategic Economic Plan and the Local Industrial Strategy, as well as related strategies on energy, skills and Covid-19 economic recovery;
- iv. It reflects the administrative area of Oxfordshire County Council providing consistency in relation to county matters such as transport (including consistency with the adopted Local Transport Plan<sup>3</sup> and the emerging Local Transport and Connectivity Plan), education and public health;
- v. There is a long history of co-operation and joint working in Oxfordshire in relation to cross-boundary strategic planning matters, including the production of shared evidence such as the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) (2014) and the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS) (2017);
- vi. There are established governance and joint working arrangements, including the Oxfordshire Growth Board - a joint committee with the leaders of all six Oxfordshire authorities as the core voting members. The Oxfordshire Growth Board also includes associate members from the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Universities, Oxfordshire Skills Board, Environment Agency, Homes England, Network Rail and Highways England;
- vii. It is consistent with the area covered by the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal, which was signed with the UK Government in 2018; and
- viii. No cross-boundary strategic planning matters with authorities adjoining Oxfordshire, Prescribed Bodies or other geographical areas have been

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<sup>3</sup> Oxfordshire County Council (September 201) Connecting Oxfordshire: Local Transport Plan 2015 - 2031

identified that require a statement of common ground at this stage. In particular, there are no known issues of unmet housing need arising in neighbouring housing market areas that Oxfordshire's City and District Councils are being asked to accommodate.

**Figure 1: Administrative and geographical areas covered by this Statement of Common Ground**



- 4.3 Further detail on the background to joint working in Oxfordshire, established governance and joint working arrangements and the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal is provided in the Duty to Co-operate Statement<sup>4</sup>.
- 4.4 The need for a statement of common ground, or additional statements of common ground, covering alternative geographical scales will be considered as work on the Oxfordshire Plan progresses.

## 5 Parties Involved

- 5.1 The plan-making authorities responsible for the joint working detailed in this Statement of Common Ground are:
- Cherwell District Council
  - Oxford City Council
  - South Oxfordshire District Council
  - Vale of White Horse District Council
  - West Oxfordshire District Council
- 5.2 The additional signatories to this Statement of Common Ground, who have a role in the strategic matters identified and with whom Oxfordshire's City and District Councils need to co-operate with in order to plan for these matters, are:
- Oxfordshire County Council
  - Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
- 5.3 The need for additional signatories, such as authorities adjoining Oxfordshire, Prescribed Bodies and/or infrastructure providers will be considered as work on the Oxfordshire Plan progresses.

## 6 Strategic Matters

- 6.1 The cross-boundary strategic planning matters that are addressed in this Statement of Common Ground and the parties that are signatories to those matters are set out in Table 1.
- 6.2 The cross-boundary strategic planning matters to be addressed by the Oxfordshire Plan were originally identified through the Oxfordshire Plan Scoping Document (October 2018), which was jointly produced by Oxfordshire's City and District Councils at the commencement of the project. However, the strategic planning matters to be addressed by the Oxfordshire Plan have evolved over time in response to the outcomes of joint working, engagement (including the first Regulation 18 consultation and engagement under the Duty to Co-operate) and emerging evidence.
- 6.3 The cross-boundary strategic planning matters to be addressed by the Oxfordshire Plan may continue to evolve as the plan-making process progresses.

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<sup>4</sup> Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Duty to Co-operate Statement Second Regulation 18 Consultation (July 2021)

**TABLE 1: Strategic Matters covered by this Statement of Common Ground and Relevant Signatories**

	Signatories						
	Cherwell	Oxford City	South Oxon	Vale of White Horse	West Oxon	Oxon County Council	OxLEP
Cross Boundary Strategic Planning Matters	Theme One: Addressing Climate Change						
	Climate Change (including mitigation and adaption)	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
	Water Resources / Water Quality	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
	Flood Risk	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
	Theme Two: Improving Environmental Quality						
	Natural Environment / Green Infrastructure	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
	Landscape Quality and Character	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
	Contaminated Land	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
	Theme Three: Creating Strong and Healthy Communities						
	Healthy Place-Shaping	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
	Community Facilities (inc. health and education)	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
	Heritage and Historic Environment	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
	Theme Four: Planning for Sustainable Travel and Connectivity						
	Transport	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
	Other Infrastructure (including water supply)	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
	Theme Five: Creating Jobs and Providing Homes						
	Economy and Employment	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
	Retail/Leisure/Other Commercial Development	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
	Housing Requirements	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
	Housing Supply	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
	Gypsies, Travellers, Caravan Dwellers, Travelling Showpeople	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
	Boat Dwellers	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
	Green Belt	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	

## **7 Record of Agreement: Oxfordshire's City and District Councils**

- 7.1 This is a record of progress made by Oxfordshire's City and District Councils in co-operating to address cross-boundary strategic planning matters through the production of the Oxfordshire Plan up to the second Regulation 18 (preferred options) consultation.

### **Governance and Joint Working**

- 7.2 As a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan, being produced by five local planning authorities, co-operation and joint working to address cross-boundary strategic planning matters is the basis of the Oxfordshire Plan.
- 7.3 Officers (at all levels) and elected members from Oxfordshire's City and District Councils have worked together to identify and agree the policy and spatial options set out in the second Regulation 18 (preferred options) consultation document.
- 7.4 Each council will formally approve the documentation for publication and consultation at the second Regulation 18 stage, following appropriate scrutiny arrangements.
- 7.5 Established joint working arrangements will continue throughout the plan-making process. Further detail on these arrangements is provided in the Duty to Co-operate Statement<sup>5</sup>.

### **Oxfordshire Plan Scope**

- 7.6 Oxfordshire's City and District Councils agree that the Oxfordshire Plan will:
- relate to cross-boundary strategic planning matters of relevance to the whole of Oxfordshire, with detailed and more locally specific policies to be provided by local and neighbourhood plans as appropriate;
  - seek to address the cross-boundary strategic planning matters identified in Table 1, recognising that this list of strategic matters may continue to evolve during the plan-making process;
  - establish the housing requirement for Oxfordshire from 2020-2050 and seek to meet that requirement within the Oxfordshire Housing Market Area;
  - establish the strategy for the distribution of development in Oxfordshire to 2050, including the identification of broad locations for growth (with detailed allocations to come forward through future local plans), based upon an understanding and appreciation of both the environmental quality and natural capital of Oxfordshire;
  - outline the strategic infrastructure required to support development in Oxfordshire to 2050;

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<sup>5</sup> Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Duty to Co-operate Statement Second Regulation 18 Consultation (July 2021)

- seek to deliver ‘good growth’ as defined by the Oxfordshire Growth Board’s ‘Strategic Vision for Long-Term Sustainable Development to 2050’ (known as the ‘Strategic Vision’);
- seek to realise transformational opportunities associated with producing a joint strategic plan to 2050, whilst also responding appropriately to the uncertainty associated with planning for the longer-term; and
- seek to add value, as an additional layer sitting between national and local planning policy and guidance.

7.7 At this stage, how the Oxfordshire Plan will meet the scope set out in paragraph 7.6 is being explored through a range of policy and spatial options.

### Policy Options

7.8 Oxfordshire’s City and District Councils have worked together to identify and agree a range of policy options based on the cross-boundary strategic planning matters identified in Table 1. This includes the identification and agreement of preferred policy options. Identified policy options will be tested through the plan-making process, including through the second Regulation 18 consultation.

### Spatial Options

7.9 Oxfordshire’s City and District Councils have worked together to identify and agree five spatial options:

*Option 1:* Focus on opportunities at larger settlements and planned growth locations

*Option 2:* Focus on Oxford-led growth

*Option 3:* Focus on opportunities in sustainable transport corridors and at sustainable transport hubs

*Option 4:* Focus on strengthening business locations

*Option 5:* Focus on supporting rural communities

7.10 It is agreed that the Oxfordshire Plan’s spatial strategy may comprise components from more than one of the spatial options.

7.11 The shared principles underpinning the spatial options are:

- All options should help deliver the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision and the Oxfordshire Plan's Vision and Objectives. They seek to align environmental, social and economic objectives - though each option does this in different ways and to varying degrees because each is based on a different key driver for transformation.
- Options should make effective use of land by planning positively for re-use of previously developed or brownfield land, including under-utilised land and buildings as urban regeneration schemes.
- All options should prioritise the environment as a common thread that flows from the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision. This includes climate change, nature recovery,

natural capital and enhanced resilience. This means there is no separate environment-led option.

- All options support the City of Oxford as the key driver for good growth within Oxfordshire.
- All options give priority to national policies that protect areas or assets that are of particular intrinsic importance and are likely to endure over the whole Plan period and are likely to impact on the distribution of development at the strategic scale.
- All options will seek to influence and shape the priorities within the emerging Spatial Framework for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.
- All options recognise that in the short-term, adopted local plans will be particularly important in shaping Oxfordshire's spatial strategy, but that over the longer-term – the 30-year time-span of the Oxfordshire Plan – there is greater scope to effect change, but also greater uncertainty.

7.12 It is agreed that the Oxfordshire Plan's spatial strategy and broad locations for growth will be identified through a joint assessment process as set out in the 'Next Steps: Proceeding from Regulation 18 to Regulation 19' section of the second Regulation 18 consultation document.

### Evidence

7.13 Oxfordshire's City and District Councils agree that the Oxfordshire Plan will be founded on a robust and proportionate countywide evidence base.

7.14 Oxfordshire's City and District Councils have jointly commissioned a range of evidence to inform the Oxfordshire Plan. This includes:

- Habitats Regulations Assessment (early risk assessment)
- Health Impact Assessment
- Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment
- Oxfordshire Gypsy, Traveller, Travelling Showpeople and Boat Dwellers Accommodation Assessment
- Oxfordshire Strategic Water Cycle Study
- Sustainability Appraisal
- Transport Evidence

7.15 Much of this evidence will continue to be developed to inform the production of the Regulation 19 draft plan.

7.16 Further evidence will also be jointly commissioned prior to Regulation 19. This includes a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Heritage Impact Assessment, Air Quality Impact Assessment and Viability Assessment.

7.17 In addition, the Oxfordshire Plan will also be informed by a range of other countywide evidence, which has been developed with other partners, including:

- Local Energy Oxfordshire (Project LEO)
- Natural Capital Evidence

- Oxfordshire Energy Strategy
- Oxfordshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project
- Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS)
- Oxfordshire Nature Recovery Network
- Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study (OWLS)

## **8 Record of Agreement: Oxfordshire County Council and Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership**

- 8.1 This is a record of progress made by Oxfordshire's City and District Councils in co-operating with Oxfordshire County Council and OxLEP to address cross-boundary strategic planning matters through the production of the Oxfordshire Plan up to the second Regulation 18 (preferred options) consultation.

### **Governance and Joint Working Arrangements**

- 8.2 Oxfordshire's City and District Councils are working in close partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and OxLEP throughout the plan-making process. Details of established joint working arrangements are provided in the Duty to Co-operate Statement<sup>6</sup>. These joint working arrangements will continue throughout the plan-making process

### **Oxfordshire Plan Scope**

- 8.3 Oxfordshire County Council and OxLEP support the scope of the Oxfordshire Plan as set out in paragraph 7.6.

### **Policy and Spatial Options**

- 8.4 Oxfordshire County Council and OxLEP have been involved in the process of identifying the policy and spatial options set out in the second Regulation 18 (preferred options) consultation document. Co-operation has taken place where cross-boundary strategic planning matters identified as being relevant to Oxfordshire County Council and OxLEP are being addressed (Table 1).
- 8.5 Oxfordshire County Council and OxLEP agree that the policy and spatial options identified, including preferred policy options, are appropriate for testing through the plan-making process, including through the Regulation 18 consultation.

### **Evidence**

- 8.6 It is agreed that the Oxfordshire Plan will be informed by relevant evidence and align with relevant strategies produced by Oxfordshire County Council and OxLEP.
- 8.7 Relevant evidence and strategies produced by Oxfordshire County Council include the emerging Local Transport and Connectivity Plan, the Minerals and Waste Local Plan, public health data, historic environment records and education provision.

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<sup>6</sup> Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Duty to Co-operate Statement Second Regulation 18 Consultation (July 2021)

- 8.8 Relevant evidence and strategies produced by OxLEP include the Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan and the Local Industrial Strategy, as well as related strategies on energy, skills and Covid-19 economic recovery.

## **9 Governance Arrangements**

- 9.1 The Statement of Common Ground for the Oxfordshire Plan will be maintained by the Oxfordshire Plan core team in their role as coordinators of the production of the Oxfordshire Plan on behalf of Oxfordshire's City and District Councils.
- 9.2 The Statement of Common Ground for the Oxfordshire Plan will be signed by a senior member or senior responsible officer from Oxfordshire City and District Councils, Oxfordshire County Council and OxLEP.

## **10 Timetable for Review**

- 10.1 Co-operation between Oxfordshire's City and District Councils, in close partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and OxLEP, is integral to the production of the Oxfordshire Plan as a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan for Oxfordshire. Engagement between the partners is embedded at every stage of the plan-making process.
- 10.2 The Statement of Common Ground for the Oxfordshire Plan will be reviewed and updated throughout the plan-making process.
- 10.3 As a minimum, the Statement of Common Ground will next be updated and published at the Regulation 19 consultation stage, when the content of the proposed submission plan has been agreed.
- 10.4 Additional updates to the Statement of Common Ground may be required in the following circumstances:
- i. If additional formal stages of consultation are added to the Oxfordshire Plan timetable; and/or
  - ii. If there is any other significant change in circumstance or position where a revision to the Statement of Common Ground is considered necessary, appropriate and proportionate.
- 10.5 The need for a Statement of Common Ground, or additional Statements of Common Ground covering alternative geographical areas or with additional signatories, will be considered as work on the Oxfordshire Plan progresses, informed by relevant evidence and engagement.

## 11 Signatures

### **Cherwell District Council**

Signature: 

Name: David Peckford

Position: Assistant Director – Planning and Development

Date: 01/07/21

### **Oxford City Council**

Signature:




Name: Adrian Arnold

Position: Head of Planning

Date: 01/07/2021

### **South Oxfordshire District Council**

Signature: 

Signature:

Name: Adrian Duffield

Position: Head of Planning

Date: 01/07/21

### **Vale of White Horse District Council**

Signature: 

Signature:

Name: Adrian Duffield

Position: Head of Planning

Date: 01/07/21

**West Oxfordshire District Council**



Signature:

Name: Giles Hughes

Position: Chief Executive

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**Oxfordshire County Council**



Signature:

Name: Rachel Wileman

Position: Assistant Director Strategic Infrastructure and Planning

Date: 01/07/21

**Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership**



Signature:

Name: Nigel Tipple

Position: Chief Executive

Date: 29/06/21



**Oxfordshire Joint  
Statutory Spatial Plan**

# **Equalities Impact Assessment**

**July 2021**

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) reviews the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 preferred strategy (Reg 18 part 2) consultation document. The assessment includes the policy options contained within the five thematic sections set out in the consultation document, as well as the five spatial options.
- 1.2. The purpose of the EqIA is ensure that equality is placed at the centre of policy development and identifies the likely impacts of the preferred strategy on our city and district's existing and future communities. The EqIA can anticipate and recommend ways to avoid any discriminatory or negative consequences for a particular group. To do so, it will consider the impact of the policy and spatial options might have on the relevant 'protected characteristics' as defined in the Equalities Act 2010. These are:
  - Age
  - Disability
  - Gender reassignment
  - Marriage and civil partnership
  - Pregnancy and maternity
  - Sexual orientation
  - Race
  - Religion or belief
  - Sex
- 1.3. The EqIA will be updated as the plan-making process moves forward. It will sit alongside other key documents that support the Oxfordshire Plan, including the Sustainability Appraisal (SA), Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) and the evidence base.

## 2. Oxfordshire Baseline

### Population

2.1. Oxfordshire has a population of 691,700 people (ONS 2019). The split by each local authority district/city is as follows:

- Cherwell: 150,500
- Oxford: 152,500
- South Oxfordshire: 142,100
- Vale of White Horse: 136,000
- West Oxfordshire: 110,600

### Young People

2.2. Oxfordshire has a similar proportion of people aged 0 to 15 (19%) compared with the national average (19.01%) (ONS 2019). Oxford has the lowest proportion of people aged 0 to 15 in the county; however, it also has one of the lowest median age figures in the country at 28.9. The split by each local authority of people aged 0 to 15 was:

- Cherwell: 20.1%
- Oxford: 17.8%
- South Oxfordshire: 19.2%
- Vale of White Horse: 19.3%
- West Oxfordshire: 18.5%

### Older People

2.3. The proportion of people in Oxfordshire 70+ is 13.9%, which is lowered significantly by Oxford whose proportion of older people (70+) is 9.1%, compared to the rest of the districts who average 15.3% (ONS 2019). Rural areas typically have older populations than cities, so this is expected. The split by each local authority of people aged 70+ was:

- Cherwell: 13.4%
- Oxford: 9.1%
- South Oxfordshire: 15.9%
- Vale of White Horse: 15%
- West Oxfordshire: 16.2%

### People from ethnic minority backgrounds

2.4. As of the 2011 Census<sup>1</sup>, 16.4% of Oxfordshire's residents were from an ethnic minority background (non-white British). The percentage of those from ethnic minority backgrounds in Oxfordshire remains below the England average, which is 20%. The split by each local authority of residents from an ethnic minority background at the time of the 2011 census were:

- Cherwell: 13.7%
- Oxford: 36.4%
- South Oxfordshire: 9.07%

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<sup>1</sup> The 2011 Census is the latest whole population dataset for ethnicity. The next update will be from Census 2021 a release date for this is not yet available.

- Vale of White Horse: 10.24%
- West Oxfordshire: 7.43%

## **Religion**

- 2.5. As of the 2011 Census, the largest religious group in Oxfordshire is Christian, with 60.2% of Oxfordshire's residents stating Christianity as their religion. This is similar to the England average, where 59.4% of the country state they are Christian. The next largest group are those that state they have no religion at 27.9% of Oxfordshire residents. This is above the England average where 24.7% of people state they have no religion. As the question on religion was voluntary in the 2011 Census, 7.5% of people in Oxfordshire did not answer.

## **Gypsy and Traveller Population**

In the 2011 Census, 0.1% of people in Oxfordshire stated their ethnicity as Gypsy or Irish Traveller which is reflective of the England and Wales average (0.1%). West Oxfordshire has the highest number of gypsies and travelers with 182 living within the district. At the time of the 2011 Census, 51.5% lived in rural parts of Oxfordshire compared to 24% nationally. Oxfordshire County Council operates six permanent council-owned Traveller sites, which provide a total of 89 pitches. There are also 21 privately run sites across the county.

## **Marital and Civil Partnership Status**

- 2.6. In the 2011 Census Oxfordshire had 48.8% of married residents, this is lower than the average in England and Wales which is 50.5%. 0.3% of residents in a registered same-sex civil partnership and 34.7% of residents were single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership).

## **Health Statistics**

- 2.7. According to the Oxfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2021<sup>2</sup>, Oxfordshire's population is relatively healthy. It does better or similar to the national average on most Public Health indicators. Life expectancy in Oxfordshire is significantly higher than national and regional average for both male and females. Men have an average life expectancy of 81.7 years and women have a life expectancy of 85.0 years compared to 79.4 years for males and 83.1 years for females nationally. However, according to the JSNA, mental health rates of diagnosis and referrals are continuing to increase.
- 2.8. COVID-19 has also had a great impact on health and wellbeing in Oxfordshire. In 2020 there were 18,200 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in people living in Oxfordshire, equivalent to a rate of 2,776 cases per 100,000 population. The majority of these cases were in the working age population. The JSNA noted that national data has shown COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on ethnic minority communities, with people from Black ethnic groups were most likely to be diagnosed. According to ONS data there were also approximately 700 deaths with COVID-19 on the death certificate in Oxfordshire in 2020. Deaths were relatively evenly spread across Oxfordshire's districts, however the rate was lower in Oxford than in the districts. The national and local lockdowns implemented due to

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<sup>2</sup> Oxfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2021: <https://insight.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/jsna-2021-full-report>

COVID-19 have also had an impact on wellbeing. The JSNA also reported that there has been a deterioration in mental health of young people with existing mental health needs in lockdown, which is largely linked to increased loneliness and anxiety.

### **Multiple Deprivation**

- 2.9. Oxfordshire has been ranked the 10<sup>th</sup> least deprived of 151 upper-tier local authorities in England in 2019. The number of people living in Oxfordshire in the most deprived 20% of areas of England by Indices of Deprivation were 4.1%, significantly lower than the national average of 20%. Oxfordshire has one area within the 10% most deprived areas nationally, which is within the Northfield Brook ward, south east Oxford. 16 areas are among the 20% most deprived nationally, compared to 13 in 2015. These are mostly contained within 10 wards, 1 in Abingdon, 3 in Banbury and 6 in Oxford.

### **People providing unpaid care**

- 2.10. The 2011 Census showed that 9.4% of people in Oxfordshire provided some level of unpaid care to another person. This is proportionately fewer than the estimate for England (10.2%) and the South East Region (9.8%). The Vale of White Horse is estimated to have the highest proportion of unpaid carers (10.3%) whilst Oxford is estimated to contain the lowest (7.7%).

### **Housing and Living Arrangements**

- 2.11. In 2011, there were 258,855 households recorded in Oxfordshire. 65.5% of these homes were owned either outright or with a mortgage/loan, 1.1% were shared ownership (part owned, and part rented) and 14.2% were social rented. The remaining 19.2% were either rented privately or lived rent free. The percentage of those who own their home is above the national average of 63%, whilst the percentage of those living in social housing is below the national average of 17%. The average household size in Oxfordshire was 2.4 people, which is consistent with the national average.

### **Lone Parent families**

- 2.12. Lone parent families with dependent children in Oxfordshire at the time of the 2011 Census was 18.8%. This is lower than the England average which is 24.5%. 43% of children in relative low-income families are in lone parent households. This is higher than the national average of 40.8%.

### **Economic activity**

- 2.13. In Oxfordshire, 82.3% of residents aged 16-64 were economically active in 2020 (including full and part time employees, self-employed and unemployed people). This is above the national rate of 79% and South East Region rate of 82%.

### **Unemployment**

- 2.14. Unemployment claimant count data by the Department of Work and Pensions shows that the number of people claiming unemployment-related benefits in February

2021 was 17,255. By area, in February 2021 the rate of unemployment claimants (as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16-64) was highest in Oxford followed by Cherwell. Of the economically active population in Oxfordshire, 5.1% of residents were unemployed compared with 5.1% in February 2020. This does not include people on the Coronavirus Job Retention scheme which is due to end in September 2021. As of 31 December 2020, there were 37,300 furloughed employees in Oxfordshire, a take-up of 11% compared with 13% take-up across England.

### Qualifications

- 2.15. People in Oxfordshire are relatively well qualified. 35.7% of residents in Oxfordshire had a degree or equivalent qualification according to the 2011 Census. This is well above the national average of 27.4%. Of those surveyed, 16.7% of residents had no qualifications. Cherwell had the greatest percentage of people with no qualifications at 19.7%. Oxford had the greatest percentage of people with a degree or equivalent qualification at 42.6%.

### Occupation

- 2.16. The largest employment sector in Oxfordshire is retail, with 14% of people in employment working within this sector. The second largest employment sector following closely is education also at 14%. The third largest employment sector is health and social work, with 11% of people in employment working within this sector. 48.3% of people in employment worked in a managerial, professional or associate professional occupation, which is higher than the regional average of 44.8% and national average of 41.1%. 9.7% of those in employment worked in elementary occupations, which is consistent with the regional average but lower than the national average which is 11.1%.

### 3. Who are the Oxfordshire Plan and its policies designed to support / help / serve?

- 3.1. The Oxfordshire Plan is a strategic plan, which will collectively consider the needs of the whole county. The Plan will help deliver greatly needed new homes – including affordable and social housing, and infrastructure to the county while helping to tackle climate change. The Oxfordshire Plan builds on the foundations set by the current and emerging Local Plans and looks beyond them, at the strategic planning issues for the period up to 2050. It will give the district and city councils a framework for future planning policies and help determine planning applications where appropriate.
- 3.2. The Plan will not allocate sites for housing or employment. Instead, it will identify key areas for sustainable growth with associated housing / employment numbers, while considering how to help tackle climate change, improve water efficiency and mitigate flood risk. Districts will then use this to produce future Local Plans which will provide a detailed view of how housing and infrastructure will be delivered, and how they will address the climate emergency.
- 3.3. The Oxfordshire baseline as detailed above is a reflection of census data from 2011, as well as more recent data from ONS. Once implemented, it is expected that the policies that will ultimately form the Oxfordshire Plan (in combination with those set out in adopted Local Plans) will positively influence the quality of life for people in Oxfordshire, and the Oxfordshire baseline will improve.
- 3.4. There are a number of ways in which the Oxfordshire Plan will help to improve the quality of life for Oxfordshire's residents and address inequalities across the county:
  - It will help to deliver more homes – the Plan will support our communities by planning for energy efficient homes sufficient in number and of the right tenures, types and sizes to meet the needs of Oxfordshire's residents – current and future – in well-designed communities with accessible, high quality and accessible services and public spaces and in ways that support communities' health, social and cultural well-being
  - It will help to create more jobs - The creation of a variety of jobs across the county will help to create prosperous communities that sustain the economic and social wellbeing of Oxfordshire's residents. The Oxfordshire Plan seeks to ensure we are levelling up and that all citizens have an opportunity to access new local jobs as well as advanced skills and education.
  - It will help to support the delivery of strategic infrastructure. The delivery of strategic infrastructure will help to connect communities across Oxfordshire, particularly those in isolated rural areas, and will help to encourage a shift towards more sustainable travel.
  - It will help to address climate change - By helping to tackle climate change and improving environmental quality, we will help to create more sustainable places, with housing that is cheaper to run and is accessible to those with specialist needs.
  - It will help to create healthy places - By ensuring that healthy placeshaping principles are imbedded into new development across Oxfordshire strong and healthy communities will be created, where residents lead more active lives, and health inequalities are lessened.

Cumulatively, the impact of the Oxfordshire Plan's policies alongside those found in the adopted Local Plans should help to reduce inequalities across the county as well as broaden opportunities available for residents – particularly those in the defined equality groups.

## 4. What is being assessed through the EqlA?

- 4.1. The assessment will cover the policy options within five thematic sections and the five spatial options. These are as follows:

### Theme One: Addressing climate change

This theme covers policies on sustainable design and construction, energy, water efficiency and flood risk. The overarching principles for this theme are to reduce carbon emissions, encourage a shift to sustainable energy, ensure the county is prepared for future weather events (i.e. flooding), and ensure an efficient use of energy and water across development in Oxfordshire.

### Theme Two: Improving environmental quality

This theme covers policies on the protection and enhancement of landscape characters and the historic environment, as well as policies on nature recovery, biodiversity gain, natural capital and ecosystem services, the green belt, air quality and water quality. The overarching principles for this theme are to plan for green and blue infrastructure benefits across the county, provide for nature recovery in Oxfordshire, achieve biodiversity net gain, respect the landscape, historic and built environment quality notable to Oxfordshire.

### Theme Three: Creating strong and healthy communities

This theme covers policies on design for new developments, Garden Town standards, healthy place shaping, health impact assessments, and leisure, recreation, community and open space facilities. The overarching principles of this theme are to ensure major new development is well designed and built to a high standard, to plan for a healthy future in Oxfordshire, address inequalities and broaden access to opportunities in the county, plan for a range of facilities and services that lead to enhanced quality of life, and importantly help build strong, rooted, inclusive communities in Oxfordshire.

### Theme Four: Planning for sustainable travel and connectivity

This theme covers policies on a net-zero carbon transport network, sustainable transport, sustainable freight management, digital infrastructure and strategic infrastructure priorities. The overarching principles of this theme are: to plan for reducing the need to travel in future, to prioritise active travel then public transport use, to support a move towards a net-zero transport network, to support improved connectivity and access to public services, to future proof where possible to allow easy adoption of future technologies, to provide best quality digital connectivity across the county, to plan for uptake of more sustainable freight management and take opportunities to link development planning with delivery of transport infrastructure improvements such as East West Rail, bus routes upgrades and active travel networks.

## **Theme Five: Creating jobs and providing homes**

This theme covers policies on homes (including affordable homes), jobs, town centre renewal, urban renewal, economic assets, culture and arts, the visitor economy, skills and education needs, specialist housing needs, and gypsies, travellers, and travelling showpeople. The overarching principles of this theme are to provide homes to meet Oxfordshire's needs, to support Oxfordshire's economy, to provide better access to jobs and affordable housing, and plan for a range of homes and jobs to support a variety of needs and a strong future for the county.

### **Spatial Options**

- **Option 1: Focused on opportunities in and around larger settlements & planned growth locations**

The focus of this option would be to distribute the bulk of growth to 2050 to those locations that have accommodated the majority of five Local Plan allocations in the first phase of the Plan up to the mid-2030s, at the edges of the towns, the City and former MoD sites. It would represent an extension of the existing plans and strategies, following the pattern of existing and planned infrastructure investment.

- **Option 2: Focus on Oxford-led growth**

This option covers urban intensification within the City of Oxford, new or extended urban extensions on the edge of the City. It includes consideration of growth proposals that are well-connected to the city or are potential extensions to planned growth sites on city edge related to growth in the current adopted Local Plans and employment sites on the edge of the city that form an Oxford-focused cluster.

- **Option 3: Focus on opportunities in sustainable transport corridors & at strategic transport hubs**

This option covers new growth based in the most sustainable transport corridors, where frequent bus services operate & rail stations act as transport hubs. This includes new rail stations being planned through strategies such as the Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study. This option aligns with the emerging Local Transport Connectivity Plan, being prepared by Oxfordshire County Council.

- **Option 4: Focus on strengthening business locations**

This option centres on the network of business parks that covers Oxfordshire and particularly those identified as priority economic assets in the OXLEP LIS key locations within Oxfordshire's 'innovation ecosystem'.

- **Option 5: Focus on supporting rural communities**

The scope for this option is to consider growth in rural settings away from the main service centres and top tier settlements that will accommodate the current Local Plan led growth up to the mid-2030s and a redirection of development to more rural parts

of the county that are currently isolated from the public transport network and key services and facilities.

## 5. The Assessment Methodology

- 5.1. The EqIA will assess whether any of the spatial options or policy options within the five thematic sections have the potential to cause a negative impact or discriminate against those considered to have protected characteristics as listed in paragraph 1.2. We will also be including an additional measure which is 'Rural'. This has been added due to the rural nature of our districts (with the exclusion of the city of Oxford) and in recognition of the barriers rural groups may face specifically in relation to access to services.
- 5.2. The assessment is presented in a tabular format. The table lists each equality group and assesses any potential impacts (positive, negative, or neutral) that could potentially arise as result of the policy or spatial option. This is then followed by a summary of any impacts identified, and lists any actions to take forward as a result of the assessment.

5.3. The following symbols are used in the assessment:

- Positive outcome for the protected characteristic group: ✓
- Neutral impact in relation to the protected characteristic group: -
- Negative outcome in relation to the protected characteristic group: ✗

- 5.4. A positive outcome means that the policy or spatial option will remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics, and takes steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people. A neutral impact means that neither a positive or negative impact will result from the implementation of the policy or spatial option. A negative outcome means that the policy or spatial option could result in a negative impact or discriminate against those in that specific protected characteristic group. If a negative outcome is identified and cannot be justified, mitigating action must be taken as set out in the 'action' column. It is acknowledged that many policy/spatial options will have indirect impacts to all equality groups. However, the assessment will focus on the direct impacts the policy/spatial options will have on the equality groups to derive the most significant impacts of the Plan options presented.
- 5.5. It is important to note that this assessment has been carried on the Oxfordshire Plan policy options and spatial options in order that it can properly inform the process of developing the Plan, the draft and final versions of the Oxfordshire Plan may differ to those in this assessment. This EqIA will be updated to reflect the final policies and spatial options at the Regulation 19 stage.

## 6. Equality Impact Assessment

The following table assess the Oxfordshire Plan policy and spatial options against the equality groups (gender reassignment, disability, age, race, sexual orientation, sex, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, rural). People in Oxfordshire may face barriers because of these characteristics.

### Key:



Theme One: Addressing Climate Change



Theme Two: Improving environmental quality



Theme Three: Creating strong and healthy communities



Theme Four: Planning for sustainable travel and connectivity



Theme Five: Creating jobs and providing homes



Draft Spatial Strategy

Oxfordshire Plan Policy Option	Gender Reassignment	Disability	Age	Race	Sexual Orientation	Sex	Religion or Belief	Pregnancy and Maternity	Marriage and Civil P.	Rural	Summary of Impact	Action
<b>Policy 01 - Sustainable Design &amp; Construction</b>	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	The preferred policy option would require new development to achieve net zero operational carbon. Net zero carbon homes are significantly cheaper to run and are therefore likely to reduce energy bills which will help to address issues of fuel poverty. A high proportion of those affected by fuel poverty are older people who are particularly vulnerable to the cold.	None
<b>Policy 02 – Energy</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact to equality groups identified	None
<b>Policy 03 – Water efficiency</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact to equality groups identified	None
<b>Policy 04 – Flood Risk</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact to equality groups identified	None
<b>Policy 05 – Protection and Enhancement of Landscape Characters</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact to equality groups identified	None
<b>Policy 06 – Protection and</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact to equality groups identified	None

Oxfordshire Plan Policy Option	Gender Reassignment	Disability	Age	Race	Sexual Orientation	Sex	Religion or Belief	Pregnancy and Maternity	Marriage and Civil P.	Rural	Summary of Impact	Action
Enhancement of Historic Environment												
Policy 07 - Nature Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact to equality groups identified	None
Policy 08 - Biodiversity Gain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact to equality groups identified	None
Policy 09 - Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	The policy options will help to ensure that through development, stocks of natural capital are maintained in good condition so they can deliver a sustainable flow of 'ecosystem services' which ultimately underpin human health and wellbeing. As a result, these policy options will potentially have a positive impact on all equality groups in terms of reducing health and wellbeing inequalities.	None
Policy 10 - Green Belt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact to equality groups identified	None
Policy 11 - Water Quality	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact to equality groups identified	None
											Ensuring air quality assessments are undertaken for new development across Oxfordshire will potentially	None

Oxfordshire Plan Policy Option	Gender Reassignment	Disability	Age	Race	Sexual Orientation	Sex	Religion or Belief	Pregnancy and Maternity	Marriage and Civil P.	Rural	Summary of Impact	Action
<b>Policy 12 - Air Quality</b>	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	have a positive impact on the health of all equality groups, however it will be directly beneficial for groups who are younger, older, disabled and pregnant, as these groups are often more vulnerable to the negative impacts poor air quality has on health.	
<b>Policy 13 - Healthy Place Shaping and Impact Assessments</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<p>The inclusion of a Healthy Place Shaping policy that includes healthy place shaping principles committed to reducing health inequalities will have a positive impact on all equality groups.</p> <p>Additionally, the Health Impact Assessment element of this policy option proposes to require all major developments in Oxfordshire to be accompanied by a HIA. This will have a positive impact on all equality groups as it will help to tackle health inequalities and improve health and wellbeing through new major developments in Oxfordshire.</p>	None
<b>Policy 14 – Health Infrastructure</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<p>This policy option proposes to provide a land use planning framework for Oxfordshire within which future health estate reviews might be considered. It will aim to ensure that health infrastructure is of high quality and in the right locations, with good access available by public transport and active travel methods. This policy option will have a positive impact on all equality groups as it will ensure that new health infrastructure is functional and easily accessible for all, which could have a direct impact</p>	None

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											on the physical and mental health of those with protected characteristics.	
<b>Policy 15 – High Quality Design for New Development and Garden Town Standards for New Settlements</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	<p>A fundamental part of what makes design high quality is ensuring that it promotes healthy living. Urban design can help promote good mental health, help prevent mental illness, and help support people with mental health problems.</p> <p>The guiding principles of Garden Towns are inclusive and help to tackle inequalities particularly in relation to health and wellbeing. The implementation of Garden Town Standards for new settlements will have a positive impact on equality groups, however as this is predominately an urban policy the impact on rural groups is neutral. However, it is acknowledged that the influence of Garden Town standards have a wider reach than within the red line boundary of new settlements.</p>	None
<b>Policy 16 - Leisure, recreation, community and open space facilities</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<p>Supporting new strategic leisure and recreation facilities within the county has the potential to have a positive impact on all equality groups, as access to these facilities is beneficial to human health. However, it will have the most significant direct positive impact on those with disabilities and the young and elderly who often rely on leisure and recreation facilities for fitness and health.</p> <p>Additionally, supporting new community facilities will</p>	None

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											have a positive impact on all equality groups. Access to services such as schools, libraries and emergency services is important for the health and wellbeing for all equality groups.	
<b>Policy 17 - Towards a Net-Zero Carbon Transport Network</b>	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	A movement to a net-zero carbon transport network across Oxfordshire would help to improve air quality and encourage active travel improvements, both of which would benefit the health of equality groups. However, those that would be most directly positively impacted are those that are disabled, the young and elderly, and those who are pregnant. This is because these groups are often more susceptible to the negative impacts of poor air quality and thus would benefit from a movement to a net-zero carbon transport network across the county.	None
<b>Policy 18 - Sustainable Transport in New Development</b>	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	The preferred policy option would help to ensure that new developments in Oxfordshire support sustainable transport options such as walking, cycling and public transport. This would potentially benefit the health of all equality groups but would have the most direct positive impact on those who are less likely to travel by car, such as those with mobility issues and the elderly. It will also have a particularly positive impact on those in rural areas that don't have access to sustainable means of travel.	None
<b>Policy 19 -</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact to equality groups identified	None

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Supporting sustainable freight management												
Policy 20 - Digital infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	The preferred policy option supports the expansion of electronic communications networks, including next generational mobile technology and full-fibre broadband connections. This is beneficial to all equality groups but would have the most positive direct impact on the county's rural communities where access to good quality internet and mobile phone signal is often limited.	None
Policy 21 - Strategic Infrastructure Priorities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	All equality groups could potentially be positively impacted by the implementation of strategic infrastructure. For example, strategic transport infrastructure (particularly that which connects rural communities) would be beneficial to equality groups and can additionally help to regenerate areas. It should be noted that transport is not the only type of strategic infrastructure. Strategic infrastructure also includes health and adult social care, education, emergency services infrastructure and more.	None
Policy 22 - Supporting the	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	The creation of a variety of jobs across the county helps to create prosperous communities that sustains the economic and social wellbeing of the	None

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Creation of Jobs											community. Provided that diverse full and part-time employment opportunities are created this policy should have a positive impact on all equality groups and help to tackle unemployment.	
Policy 23 - Protection of Economic Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact to equality groups identified.	None
Policy 24 - Town Centre Renewal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	The renewal of the county's city and town centres could result in regenerative benefits to local communities, particularly those with levels of deprivation. This policy would potentially positively impact all equality groups through the delivery of new facilities and jobs created through town centre renewal. However, as this is predominately an urban policy, it will have neutral impact on rural communities.	None
Policy 25 - Visitor Economy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact to equality groups identified though it is recognised this could indirectly benefit all equality groups.	None
Policy 26 - Culture and Arts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact to equality groups identified though it is recognised this could indirectly benefit all equality groups.	None
Policy 27 – Meeting Skills and	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	This policy option aims to support the provision of modern and up to date facilities to support education and training. Education and training facilities play an	None

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Education Needs											important role in teaching and upskilling young people and adults, which is particularly beneficial to those with protected characteristics who are more likely to be marginalised or disadvantaged in a work or education setting. This policy option aims to ensure these facilities meet the needs of all of the community and are located in accessible and sustainable locations. In reflection of the above, direct benefits to all groups are anticipated.	
Policy 28 - Homes: How Many? Commitments and Locations	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	<p>The delivery of a mix of good quality, affordable and specialist housing that meets the needs of Oxfordshire's residents will have a positive impact on all, but particularly those in certain equalities groups who are more statistically likely to be in need of affordable and specialist housing, including ethnic minorities, children and young adults, women (including those who are pregnant) and disabled people.</p> <p>Additionally, the spatial distribution of homes will have an indirect impact on equality groups, as ensuring they are in the right places is important to addressing inequalities regarding access to housing. However, it has the strongest positive impact on those equality groups listed in the paragraph above.</p>	None
Policy 29 – Urban Renewal											The implementation of urban renewal schemes across the county could result in regenerative benefits to local communities, particularly those with	None

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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	levels of deprivation. This policy would potentially positively impact all equality groups through its regenerative impact. However, as this is predominately an urban policy, it will have neutral impact on rural communities.	
<b>Policy 30 - Affordable Homes</b>	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	Affordable homes are considered to provide positive benefits to all in the community, particularly those on lower incomes which are more statistically likely to be those in certain equalities groups, including ethnic minorities, children and young adults, women and disabled people. However, this is ultimately dependent on their access to the housing register.	None
<b>Policy 31 - Specialist housing needs</b>	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	This policy option is specific in its intention to directly benefit older people, particularly those with disabilities or ill health by providing specialist housing that will allow them to live independently. One of the policy options is to provide specialist key worker housing. Key workers are statistically more likely to be those in ethnic minority groups, women or disabled. Therefore, the delivery of specialist key worker housing would positively benefit these groups.	None
<b>Policy 32 - Gypsies, Travellers, Travelling Showpeople</b>	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	Setting out a high-level narrative on suitable locations for meeting needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople would have a positive impact on this group.	None

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<b>Strategic Environmental Allocations</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact to equality groups identified	None
<b>Spatial Option 1 –</b> Focus on opportunities at larger settlements and planned growth locations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact to equality groups identified	None
<b>Spatial Option 2 –</b> Focus on Oxford-led growth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact to equality groups identified	None
<b>Spatial Option 3 –</b> Focus on opportunities in sustainable transport	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	This spatial option would have the potential to improve links from rural parts of Oxfordshire with the city, towns and key employment locations, which would have a positive impact on rural communities. Improved public transport provision will also benefit those less likely to travel by car, including the disabled and the elderly.	None

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corridors and at strategic transport hubs												
<b>Spatial Option 4 -</b> Focus on strengthening business locations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact to equality groups identified	None
<b>Spatial Option 5 –</b> Focus on supporting rural communities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	This spatial option considers growth in rural settings. This option would help to address issues of rural isolation and deprivation by redirecting growth away from main settlements to where it could best address inequalities.	None