

# Supplement for

# Council

On **Monday 26 January 2026** At **5.00 pm**

## **Item 11 - Proposed Submission Draft Oxford Local Plan 2045 - Opposition Amendments**

### **Contents**

#### **11. Proposed Submission Draft Oxford Local Plan 2045**

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The Director of Planning and Regulations has submitted a report to approve the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan 2045 for public consultation and, subject to the outcome of the consultation, if no matters are raised that materially impact upon the Plan strategy, to submit the Submission Draft Oxford Local Plan 2045 to the Secretary of State for formal examination.

**Recommendation:** Council resolves to:

1. **Approve** the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan 2045 document for public consultation;
2. **Authorise** all the supporting statutory documentation including the Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulation Assessment, Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP), Policies Map and Equalities Impact Assessment;
3. **Authorise** the Director of Planning and Regulation, after consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member, to make any necessary minor editorial corrections to the Submission Draft Oxford Local Plan 2045, IDP, Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment, Policies Map, and to agree the supporting evidence base prior to going out to consultation.
4. **Authorise**, following publication, the Director of Planning and Regulation, after consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member, to make any minor changes to the document deemed necessary as a result of the consultation.
5. **Authorise** submission of the Oxford Local Plan 2045 to the Secretary of State for examination, following Regulation 19

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*Oxford City Council, Town Hall, St Aldate's Oxford OX1 1BX*

consultation and any minor amendments made according to recommendation 3 or 4 and subject to there being no matters raised in the consultation that are considered to materially impact upon the Plan strategy.

6. **Authorise** the Director of Planning and Regulation, after consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member, to invite the examining inspector(s) to recommend any modifications considered to be necessary in accordance with section 20(7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

The agenda, reports and any additional supplements can be found together with this supplement on the committee meeting webpage.

### Local Plan Debate – Process for submitting amendments

#### **Opposition Group Amendments**

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2. the amendment is taken as read – so the proposer and seconder should only speak briefly
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5. Cabinet Member responds.
6. Proposer sums up.
7. Vote.

**Proposer: Rosie Rawle Seconder: Lois Muddiman**

**What is proposed**

**Chapter 2: Housing**

Amendment 1: Securing more sites for Boat Dwellers

In the Policy Context for H11, add the following new bullet point: “The City Council welcomes opportunities for the establishment of new moorings and will produce further planning guidance for those seeking to deliver new moorings in the City”.

**Chapter 3: Economy**

Amendment 2b: An Oxford Living Wage for apprentices

In Policy E3, at bullet point f), add “although this is encouraged where possible”, after “other than apprentices” so that it reads: “f) Paying all employees (other than apprentices, although this is encouraged) the Oxford Living Wage”.

Amendment 2c: The Oxford Living Wage as a minimum standard

In Policy E3, remove or “other social clauses appropriate to the development” in bullet point g).

**Chapter 4: Blue and Green Infrastructure**

Amendment 3a: Preventing the loss of playground space

In Policy G1, insert after “Planning permission will not be granted for development that results in the loss of “, “playground space or”, so that it reads: “Planning permission will not be granted for development that results in the loss of playground space or other green infrastructure features such as hedges or ponds where this would have a significant adverse impact upon public amenity or ecological interest.

Amendment 3b: Encouraging the provision of a City Centre playground

In the Policy Context for Policy G1, include a new bullet point: “The City Centre has a deficit of high quality, accessible playgrounds and the Council will welcome applications that seek to resolve or contribute to the resolving of, this deficit.”

**Chapter 5: Environment and Net Zero**

Amendment 4: Welcoming community-owned energy projects

In the Policy Context for Policy R1, add the following as a new bullet point: “The development of local renewable energy projects will be especially welcomed where they are community owned or owned by non-profit making organisations.”

**Chapter 7: Communities**

Amendment 5a: Promoting community cohesion, health and wellbeing in our communities

In the Policy Context for Policy C1, “Establishments that promote community cohesion, health and wellbeing are particularly welcomed in the city centre, local, and district centres.”

## Amendment 6: Protecting pubs

In Policy C5, after “Planning permission will not be granted for the loss of existing cultural venues and visitor attractions”, “including pubs”, so that it reads, “Planning permission will not be granted for the loss of existing cultural venues and visitor attractions, including pubs, except in the following circumstances.”

## Reason

### **Chapter 2: Housing**

#### Amendment 1: Securing more sites for Boat Dwellers

The Local Plan already states that there is additional need for residential moorings across Oxfordshire, and the majority of that need arises from Oxford. We are aware that there has been a reduction in moorings on Osney Island. We believe there is therefore a clear need for the council to welcome, encourage and search for further site allocations to meet the current levels of need.

### **Chapter 3: Economy**

#### Amendment 2b: An Oxford Living Wage for apprentices

The minimum wage for an apprentice is £7.55 an hour - just over half the legal minimum wage for someone over 21 [1]. This is not a decent wage and problematically assumes that people undertaking an apprenticeship have another form of income, or are able to sustain themselves through family support, which is not always the case. In 2024, The National Society of Apprentices (NSoA) and National Union of Students (NUS UK) began a joint campaign calling for the minimum wage for apprentices to be raised to the Real Living Wage, describing the existing rate as “poverty pay” [2]. This amendment therefore encourages developers to pay apprentices the Oxford Living Wage, rather than explicitly excluding them from this criterion.

#### Amendment 2c: The Oxford Living Wage as a minimum standard

The final clause of bullet point g) entirely undermines the principle of the Oxford Living Wage. It suggests that a decent liveable wage is something that can be substituted by another social benefit. The Oxford Living Wage defines the minimum rate of pay that allows for a decent standard of living [3]. It cannot be substituted. This is especially important for subcontracted workers where pay tends to be lower and contracts and hours tend to be less secure.

### **Chapter 4: Blue and Green Infrastructure**

#### Amendment 3a: Preventing the net loss of playground space

Public playgrounds are vital community assets, providing a free, safe and secure environment for children to play. Following community campaigns for the protection and expansion of playgrounds across the city – from the campaign to Save Bertie Park [5] to the campaign for a playground in the city centre [6] – it is important that the City Council recognises the demand from residents. This amendment seeks to protect valuable playground space across Oxford in the context of increasing pressures for development.

#### Amendment 3b: Encouraging the provision of a City Centre playground

As has been highlighted by a community campaign, the absence of playgrounds in the city centre means that children do not have a free, safe and secure environment to play, which is a barrier to families spending time in the city centre. Following a petition presented to Full Council on 25 November 2024, members voted in support of the principle of creating a children's playground in Oxford City Centre. This amendment seeks to ensure that this principle is carried into the new Local Plan.

## **Chapter 5: Environment and Net Zero**

### Amendment 4: Welcoming community-owned energy projects

Community owned energy projects allow people and communities to take democratic control over their energy future, by generating, using, owning, and saving energy in their communities. They create community cohesion, based on a shared concern for the local and global environment, and provide a source of long-term income to support community wealth building activities and other local causes. This fundamentally differs to renewable energy projects that deliver profits to private entities.

## **Chapter 7: Communities**

### Amendment 5a: Promoting community cohesion, health and wellbeing in our communities

Our community districts and centres should encourage development that promotes community cohesion, health and wellbeing, rather than only a range of use-classes that may include establishments that deliver less value to communities or even generate harm to community health. This amendment seeks to demonstrate the council's support for and welcoming of applications that work towards providing a liveable city with strong communities.

### Amendment 6: Protecting pubs

The Guardian reported in that 366 pubs had been demolished or converted for other uses in 2025 as cost pressures take toll on the sector [7]. Pubs act as vital social hubs that can foster community cohesion and reduce isolation. These institutions require protection and our local plan should make this explicit. This amendment makes clear that they are included in the category of "cultural venues and visitor attractions", and the grounds of their protection explicit in our policy.

- [1] <https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates>
- [2] <https://www.nus.org.uk/apprentice-wage-gap-day>
- [3] <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/living-wage/oxford-living-wage>
- [4] <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/policies-plans-strategies/strategy/5>
- [5] <https://savebertie.com/>
- [6] <https://www.change.org/p/establish-a-children-s-playground-in-oxford-city-centre>
- [7] <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/dec/31/one-pub-a-day-closed-permanently-in-england-and-wales-in-2025>

# Council

## Local Plan Debate – Process for submitting amendments

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5. Cabinet Member responds.
6. Proposer sums up.
7. Vote.

**Proposer** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cllr Miles** \_\_\_\_\_ **Seconder**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Cllr Fouweather**

**What is proposed**

"Urban Design and Heritage" subheading for the site allocation policy SPN1: Diamond Place and Ewert House:

"Public toilet facilities are currently located on the site. Development proposals should demonstrate how these facilities will be re-provided or justify an alternative approach. "

Officer advice: The subject and framing of this proposed amendment would provide additional clarity to the draft policy. Should Council be minded to support this amendment, it could be added as bullet point L under the Urban Design and Heritage section of the Diamond Place policy (SPN1), with subsequent bullet points renamed.

**Reason**

There is currently no reference to the existing public toilets on this site in the local plan draft text for this site allocation. To ensure these public facilities are retaining in some capacity in any new development it is essential that reference is stated in the document to ensure developers include them.

# Council

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## Amendment to Local Plan – Amendment number

*Proposer*

*Seconder*

### **What is proposed**

Withdraw the policy SPS8: Land at Meadow Lane from the Local Plan, thereby removing the Horse Fields as a designated housing site.

### **Reason**

Officer response: All sites proposed of allocation have been assessed against the overall strategy of the plan. Those sites where development fits within the strategy have been proposed for allocation. This is particularly important because we have unmet housing need and are reliant on neighbouring authorities to help us meet this. In order to progress those conversations, we need to be able to demonstrate that we have assessed and found all available capacity within the city. Removal of this one site is neither consistent with the overall approach, nor will it assist those discussions.

All sites proposed for allocation have been assessed against the overall strategy of the plan. Those sites where development fits within the strategy have been proposed for allocation. This is particularly important where we have a housing crisis, substantial unmet housing need and are reliant on neighbouring authorities to help us meet this. This advice would be the same no matter which site was being proposed for removal at this stage.

Whilst removal of an individual site is unlikely to render the Plan unsound in of itself, its removal would not be consistent with the strategy of the Plan and its approach to all other sites. We need to be able to demonstrate that we have assessed and found all available capacity with the city and this amendment would be contrary to this. Officers recommendation is that this amendment would treat one specific site as an exception to the process used and that this inconsistency could undermine the Plan.