

Appendix A

Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee on 06 September 2022 concerning the **Oxford Local Plan 2040 Preferred Options Regulation 18 Consultation Document**. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
1) That the Council inserts a key to the document to ensure that navigation and integration are more accessible.	Yes	We will look to provide a supplementary key (alongside the document) which identifies new policy areas, those where policy options propose strengthening existing policies and those where another document or the NPPF provide the detail (see recommendation 11 below).
2) That the Council gives consideration to how to engage most effectively with residents for whom English is a second or other language during the consultation process, including the provision of drop-in sessions.	Yes	We will work with the communications and consultation colleagues to ensure that we offer a good service in line with the Council's procedures. We will encourage online engagement (including through a QR code) which will allow online translation to users as required.
3) That the Council explores options to produce basic podcasts summarising the document.	Yes	We already intend to produce video content, we will explore the potential for podcasts with communications and consultation colleagues.
4) That the Council seeks to engage specifically with vocational groups (such as trade unions and royal colleges) to ensure that the voice of those who work in Oxford but do not live in the City is heard.	Yes	We will identify local branches of trade unions and royal colleges and other trade/professional bodies and add them to our list of consultees who will be contacted.
5) That the Council seeks to engage specifically with organisations representing those with specific housing needs, such as Crisis and Acorn.	Yes	We will ensure that organisations working with those who have specific housing needs are added to the list of consultees who will be contacted.

6) That the Council clarifies the definition of 'good connectivity' within the document.	Yes	We will add the following in brackets after the 3 instances of this phrase in the development sites chapter: “(e.g. with safe, attractive routes and considering 15 minute city aims)”
7) That the Council explains in the document that the National Model Design Code principles are applied when considering the location of car parking in relation to residential and shared amenity spaces	Yes	We will incorporate the principles set out in the Model Design Code as we draft our policies around parking and design in new development.
8) That the Council explains the distinction between 'areas of focus' and 'site allocation policies' and the interaction between them within the document.	Yes	Propose amendment to Paragraph 8.7: <i>“<u>The Areas of Focus each include a number of specific site allocations.</u> The benefit of identifying <u>the broader</u> Areas of Focus <u>in addition</u> is that as development sites come forward, they can be determined against some key policy principles relevant to that area and thus can be considered in the wider context of the area and the other potential developments.”</i>
9) That the Council makes explicit reference to the importance of access to nature in housing developments within the document.	Yes	Proposed amendment proposed to paragraph 4.8: <i>“Ensuring people have <u>doorstep</u> access to a network of green spaces is key objective for the new Local Plan and it is therefore crucial that we continue to protect these existing spaces in the city. The network can be broken down into a variety of typologies of open space, some of these, such as parks and amenity green spaces serve a wider variety of functions than other more specialised spaces, such as allotments and cemeteries. A potential green infrastructure network for the city like the existing network defined in the Local Plan 2036 has been proposed in the Green Infrastructure Study 2022; this is presented in</i>

		<p>the figure below. It is made up of a variety of open spaces and ecological designations, as well as green belt land.</p> <p><u>Key considerations are the quality and function of spaces, connectivity and ensuring doorstep access to green spaces for people across the city.</u> We will need to undertake further analysis and refinement to finalise the network that is to be subject to protection following the consultation; as such this is not finalised.”</p>
10) That the Council makes explicit reference to the importance of street trees within the document.	Yes	<p>Proposed amendment proposed to paragraph 4.10:</p> <p>“Local Plan policy can have a role in securing a range of new green infrastructure across different scales of development, from lines of <u>street</u> trees and hedges...”</p>
11) That the Council ensures in cases where explicit reference to a topic or area of policy is forbidden by legislation, or that topic or area of policy is covered in a separate document, that this is explained in the document introduction.	Yes	See answer to recommendation 1 above
12) That the Council makes explicit reference to the Paris Agreement within the document and that the language of international frameworks, such as ‘loss and damage’, be reflected in the narrative section.	Yes	We will ensure that the accompanying background paper on climate change which includes much more detail on the context and the international and national framework, includes explicit references as suggested.

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