



SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

14 July 2021

Agenda Item Number	Page	Title	Officer Responsible	Reason Not Included with Original Agenda
9.	(Pages 3 - 30)	<p>The Oxfordshire Plan Regulation 18 Part 2 Consultation Document</p> <p>Following publication of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda, some minor amendments have been made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To Annexe 1, the Executive cover report. A new recommendation (1.2), and amended information at paragraphs 3.44 and 3.45 (highlighted yellow for clarity). 2. Page 120 of Appendix 1, the consultation document itself, to amended figures relating to Housing numbers in Oxfordshire (included alongside the original page for comparison). 3. The Statement of Community Involvement has been finalised and published as appendix 2 to the Executive report (previously marked as 'TBC'). 	Assistant Director: Planning and Development	Information was being finalised for publication of the special Executive agenda on 9 July.

If you need any further information about the meeting please contact Emma Faulkner / Lesley Farrell, Democratic and Elections democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk, 01295 221953 / 01295 221591

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Cherwell District Council

Executive

19 July 2021

Updated annexe to
Overview & Scrutiny report

The Oxfordshire Plan Regulation 18 Part 2 Consultation Document

Report of Assistant Director – Planning and Development

This report is public

Purpose of report

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.

When complete the Oxfordshire Plan will provide a high-level spatial planning framework for Oxfordshire up to 2050 and will be a statutory Local Plan. 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.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To approve the Regulation 18 (Part 2) consultation document for public consultation as attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 To adopt an updated Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) as attached at Appendix 2, which will become the formal basis for the forthcoming Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation.
- 1.3 To authorise the Assistant Director to make any necessary editorial corrections and minor amendments to the attached documents, and to agree the final publication style, in liaison with the Lead Member for Planning and subject to agreement with their counterparts in the other four partner Local Planning Authorities.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 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.

- 2.2 A core team was established to co-ordinate the production of the OP2050 working closely with officers at the councils.
- 2.3 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.

3.0 Report Details

Progress to date

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 An extensive evidence base was commissioned, and Sustainability Appraisal scoping & ongoing testing has been undertaken.
- 3.4 The team also undertook a 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.
- 3.5 The relationship was considered with other plans & strategies and strategic influencers such as the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS), Oxfordshire's Infrastructure Strategy (OXIS), Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) and the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS). The nature of 'Good Growth' in Oxfordshire was considered.
- 3.6 Oxfordshire's Strategic Vision was developed by the Growth Board and 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 and approved by the collective leadership of the Oxfordshire Growth Board and has been agreed by all Oxfordshire councils.

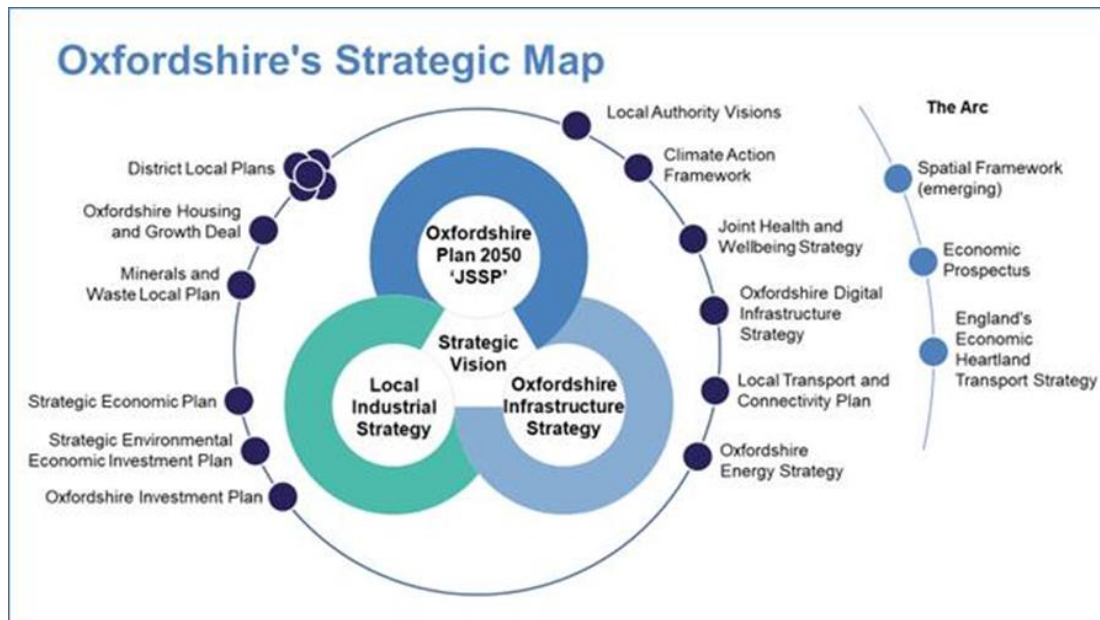


Diagram illustrating the relationship between the Oxfordshire Plan and other plans, strategies and programmes

- 3.7 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, the County Council & the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP), together with authorities adjoining Oxfordshire including Thames Valley, Buckinghamshire and Swindon. It has also included the 'prescribed bodies', such as Natural England, Environment Agency, Historic England and NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups.
- 3.8 Other key supporting documents are appended to this report, including an updated Statement of Community Involvement presented for adoption.

Structure of the Consultation document

- 3.9 The Oxfordshire Plan consultation document comprises:
- Introduction and context
 - Plan Vision and Objectives
 - Plan Themes and Policies
 - Strategic Spatial Options

Developing the Plan

- 3.10 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.
- 3.11 The development of the Oxfordshire Plan follows the Local Plan regulations (Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)).
- 3.12 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.

- 3.13 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.
- 3.14 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 seeks to consult 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.
- 3.15 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

- 3.16 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.
- 3.17 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 and higher quality development as a result of the proposed strategy and associated policies.
- 3.18 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.
- 3.19 Possible policies for the Plan were identified following the Regulation 18 Part 1 consultation, 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.
- 3.20 The proposed policy content covers strategic, Oxfordshire-wide policy options where issues relate 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.

3.21 Policies are in some cases establishing an enabling/framework, others are more detailed. Others will be used in formulation of more detailed Local Plan policies.

3.22 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.

3.23 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.

3.24 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 the update of OXIS. This will complete before the Regulation 19 stage.

3.25 The plan will also have a Monitoring Framework at the Regulation 19 stage that is aligned with the OXIS monitoring framework.

3.26 The options consulted upon at Regulation 18 Part 2 will be turned into final proposals by the Regulation 19 stage.

Strategic Spatial Options

3.27 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.

3.28 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.

3.29 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 and at strategic transport hubs.
- **Option 4:** Focus on strengthening business locations.
- **Option 5:** Focus on supporting rural communities.

- 3.30 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.
- 3.31 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 the 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

- 3.32 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.
- 3.33 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.
- 3.34 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

- 3.35 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.
- 3.36 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
- 3.37 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.

3.38 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.

Regulations and Legal Advice

3.39 Legal support and advice has been received throughout the key stages of the process, as with the preparation of a Local Plan.

3.40 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.

3.41 The development of the consultation document is also informed by a significant evidence base, especially the Sustainability Appraisal.

Accompanying documents

3.42 A number of accompanying documents are being 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

3.43 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)

3.44 Approval of an updated Statement of Community Involvement is sought. 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 and associated temporary changes to regulations and national Planning Policy Guidance (PPG). A further review of the Plan's SCI will take place in due course.

3.45 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 have their own individual SCIs concerned with the production of their individual local plans (and other planning matters).

Consultation Period

- 3.46 The consultation is to commence on 30th July 2021 for ten weeks, up to 8th October 2021.
- 3.47 At the Regulation 18 Part 2 stage we have discretion as to the length of time of the consultation period.
- 3.48 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.
- 3.49 We have planned for the engagement process to be online given the Covid uncertainties.

Availability of Documents

- 3.50 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.
- 3.51 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.
- 3.52 We will also make hard copies of key documents available at the Council's offices and public libraries.

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 19th 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 6th

The future timetable

3.53 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.

3.54 We plan to reach:

Stage	Timeline
Scrutiny Meetings	8th to 15 July 2021
Cabinet/ Executive Meetings	19 to 22 July 2021
<i>Second</i> Regulation 18 Consultation (<i>on options</i>)	30 July - September 2021
Regulation 19 Consultation (<i>draft plan</i>)	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>

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 The Oxfordshire Plan is a joint Local Plan being prepared by the five Oxfordshire Local Planning Authorities in partnership with the County Council. It will provide a high-level spatial planning framework for Oxfordshire up to 2050. 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 and it is recommended that a public consultation takes place to inform the next stage of plan-making.

5.0 Consultation

5.1 Councillor Colin Clarke - Lead Member for Planning.

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: Not to approve the documents at this time and seek changes.
This would put in jeopardy the timetable agreed by the Growth Board with MHCLG.

Option 2: To seek specific changes prior to consultation commencing with delegation to the Assistant Director.
This is dependent on Members' consideration.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 The preparation of the Oxfordshire Plan by the central plan team is being funded through the Oxfordshire Housing & Growth Deal contract with the Government. Oxfordshire County Council is the accountable body. This Council's contributions are resourced through existing service budgets.

Comments checked by:

Karen Dickson, Strategic Finance Business Partner

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Legal Implications

- 7.2 The consultation document has been prepared by the central plan team on behalf of the five Oxfordshire Local Planning Authorities. The Oxfordshire Plan is being prepared as a joint Local Plan under Section 28 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The proposed consultation would take place under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) for 'preparation of a local plan'. Notification and consultation requirements include the invitation of representations which must then be taken into account in preparing the Local Plan. Failure to meet regulatory requirements would place adoption of the plan at risk and invite legal challenge.

Comments checked by:

Matthew Barrett, Planning Solicitor

Tel. 01295 753798, matthew.barrett@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk

Risk Implications

- 7.3 Preparation of the Oxfordshire Plan is an agreed commitment under the terms of the Oxfordshire Housing & Growth Deal 2018. A timetable for completion of the Plan has been agreed by the Oxfordshire Growth Board with MHCLG which includes the proposed consultation. Failure to meet the programme could leave the Oxfordshire Councils in breach of the agreed terms.

Comments checked by:

Louise Tustian, Head of Insight and Corporate Programmes

Background Evidence available at: <https://oxfordshireplan.org/>

Background papers

None

Report Author and contact details

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New page 120

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	2,707 (NW Bicester)
Oxford	2016-2036	10,884	1,948	8,936	-
South	2011-2035	30,056	7,178	22,878	2,815 (Chalgrove: 895 after 2035) (Grenoble Rd: 520 after 2035) (Culham: 1,400 after 2035)
Vale	2011-2031	25,359	9,112	16,247	1,883 (Valley Park, Didcot: 713) (Grove Airfield: 1,042) (NW Valley Park: 128)
West	2011-2031	15,799	4,437	11,362	None
Totals		109,338	33,877 approx.	75,461 approx.	7,405
				<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.

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District	Local Plan period	To illustrate 'Committed growth' using Plan trajectories	2011-2019/20	2020/21 – end of Local Plan	Beyond end of Local Plan
Cherwell	2011-2031	22,840 (pt1) 4,400 (PRev)	11,202	16,038	2,707 (NW Bicester)
Oxford	2016-2036	10,884	1,159	9,725	-
South	2011-2035	30,056	16,360	13,696	2,815 (Chalgrove: 895 after 2035) (Grenoble Rd: 520 after 2035) (Culham: 1,400 after 2035)
Vale	2011-2031	25,359	9,112	16,348	1,883 (Valley Park, Didcot: 713) (Grove Airfield: 1,042) (NW Valley Park: 128)
West	2011-2031	15,799	4,630	11,169	None
Totals		109,338	42,463 approx.	66,875 approx.	7,405
				<i>Illustrative Committed Growth 2020/21 onwards = 74,280</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		<i>Illustrative Residual (OGNA minus Committed Growth). Approximately</i>
Standard Method	101,580	27,300
Business as usual trajectory	123,390	49,110
Transformational trajectory	152,780	78, 500

437. So, the range of new growth we intend to test in the preparation of the Regulation 19 Plan is of the order of 26,000-77,000 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.

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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.

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**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 Document¹.
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

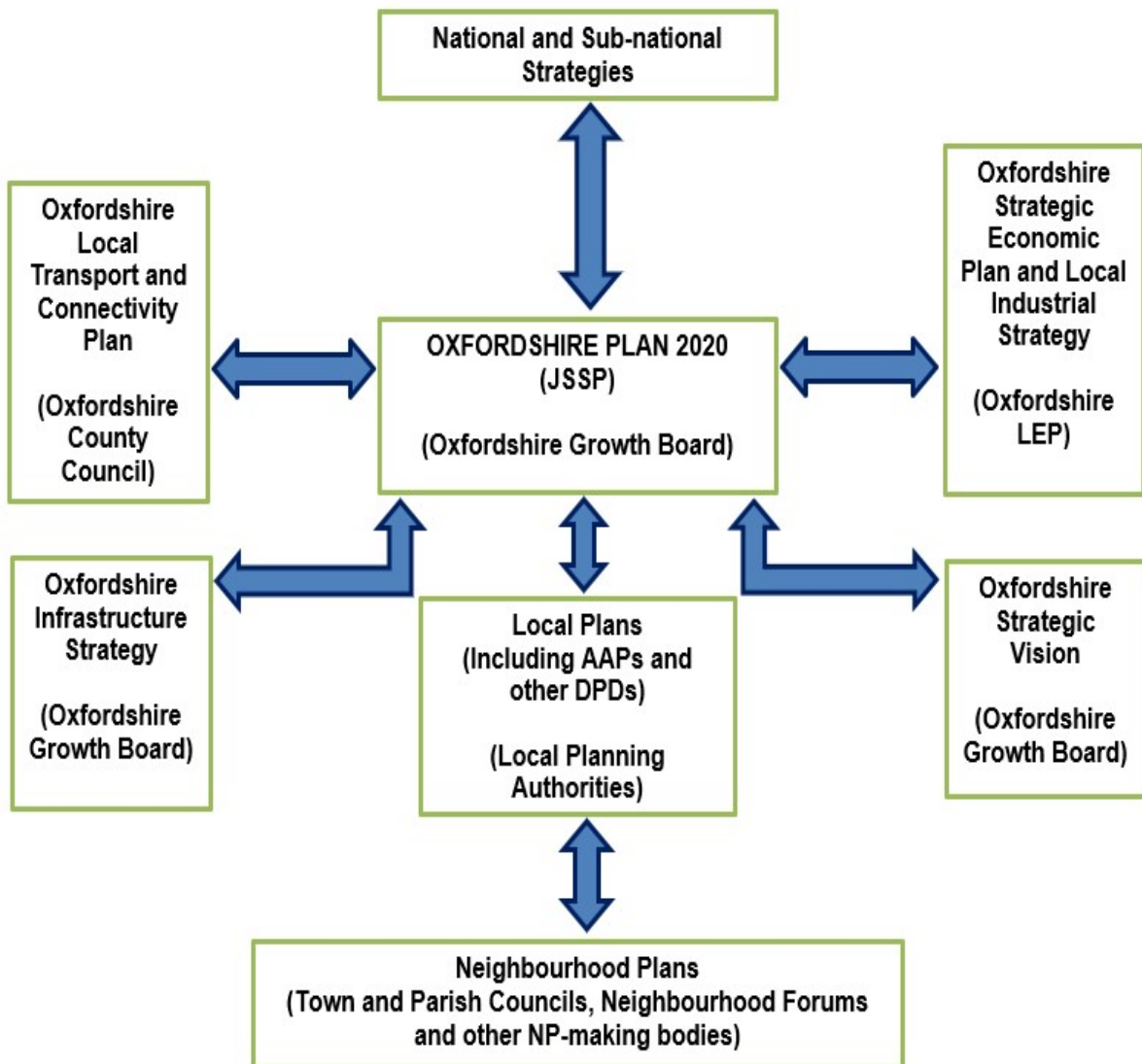
¹ <https://oxfordshireplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/JSSP-Scoping-document-October-2018.pdf>

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 Oxfordshire². 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.

² <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 locations³ 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.

³ 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

Who was/will be involved?	What were we/are we consulting on?	How did we consult, or how are we consulting? (methods are likely to include)
Stakeholder Launch Consultation - (December 2018)		
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"> • Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website • Contact consultees/ organisations by email • Stakeholder meeting/workshop • Press release
Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report – (7th January – 25th March 2019)		
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"> • Email contact • Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website • LPA Websites
Call for Strategic Development Options (to be considered through the plan)		
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"> • Targeted e-mail contact • Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website • LPA websites
Consultation on Vision, Aspirations and Objectives (Reg.18 Part 1) – (11th Feb 2019 – 25th March 2019)		
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"> • Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website • Contacted consultees/ organisations by email • Social media posts • Events/ exhibitions • Press release • Documents available to view in council buildings
Call for Ideas Consultation - (21st February – 12th April 2019)		

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"> • Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website • Contacted consultees/ organisations by email • Events/ exhibitions • Press releases • Documents available to view in council buildings
Oxfordshire Plan Stakeholder Event - (May 2019)		
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"> • Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website • Contact consultees/ organisations by email • Stakeholder meeting/ workshop • Press release
Oxfordshire Open Thought - (1st June – 14th August 2020)		
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"> • Oxfordshire Open Thought website • Contact consultees/ organisations by email • Social media posts • Press releases
Consultation on Preferred Strategy (Reg.18 Part 2) - (July/August/September 2021)		

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"> • Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website • Contact consultees/organisations by email • Virtual events including webinars and workshops • Social media posts • Press Release
Consultation on Submission (Draft) Plan (Reg. 19) – (May/June 2022)		
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"> • Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website • Contact consultees/organisations by email • Virtual events including webinars and workshops • Social media posts • Press release
Examination - (November/December 2022)		
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"> • Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website • Contact consultees/organisations by email • Press release • Social media posts
Consultation on Inspectors main modifications to the draft plan (if any)		
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"> • Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website • Contact consultees/organisations by email • Press release • Social media posts
Receipt and Publication of Inspector's Report - (February/March 2023)		
Notify people/organisations listed in the Regulations and others as appropriate via Programme Officer	Only distributed for information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website • Contact consultees/organisations by email • Press release • Social media posts
Adoption (subject to examination)		
May/June 2023 - No further consultation		

Appendix 1: Consultation Bodies

Specific Consultation Bodies²

- (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 area³
- (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 Bodies⁴

- (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

² As set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

³ 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

⁴ As set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

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