

Committee: Executive

Date: Monday 23 May 2011

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA

Membership: To be confirmed at Annual Council, 18 May 2011

Distribution: All Members

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest that they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

3. **Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting**

The Chairman to report on any requests to submit petitions or to address the meeting.

4. **Urgent Business**

The Chairman to advise whether they have agreed to any item of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.

5. **Minutes** (Pages 1 - 6)

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2011.

Strategy and Policy

Service Delivery and Innovation

6. Commissioning of Advice, Volunteering and Voluntary Car Driving Schemes in Cherwell (Pages 7 - 22) 6.35 pm

Report of Head of Housing Services

Summary

To consider a commissioning exercise to deliver a consistent and equitable approach to the funding of advice, volunteering and volunteer driving services in Cherwell and to consider the implications for a potential countywide Dial-a-Ride service.

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To cease existing funding arrangements for organisations funded through the Council's Voluntary Sector (Community Development) Grants Programme and Community Transport Grants Programme as from 31 March 2012.
- (2) To commence a commissioning process to fund strategically relevant Advice, Volunteering and Volunteer Car Driving services across three geographical areas within Cherwell.
- (3) To note ongoing officer discussions with Oxfordshire County Council regarding County Council proposals to develop a countywide Dial-a-Ride Service and how this might serve District residents most in need of this service.
- (4) To receive a further report on the outcome of this exercise as part of the 2012/13 Service and Financial Planning process in the Autumn.

**7. Planning Obligations Draft Supplementary Planning Document 6.50 pm
(Pages 23 - 28)**

**** Please note that due to the size of the Planning Obligations Draft Supplementary Planning Document, appendix 1 will be published separately to the main agenda pack. A hard copy is available on deposit in the Members' room. Hard copies will be circulated to Executive members following confirmation of committee membership at Annual Council on 19 May 2011 ****

Report of Strategic Director, Planning, Housing and Economy

Summary

To report back on the progress of the Planning Obligations Draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and to approve the use of the draft SPD as informal guidance with immediate effect.

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To approve the use of the draft Supplementary Planning Document as informal guidance with immediate effect.

8. Local Development Framework (LDF) - Next Steps (Pages 29 - 138) 7.05 pm

Report of Head of Planning Policy and Economic Development

Summary

To agree to undertake an informal consultation on locally generated population and household growth projections, a responding development strategy and other revisions to the Draft LDF Core Strategy.

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To agree a revised development strategy as set out in Paragraph 1.18 of the report and to include the PPS Eco-Town Standards as a new policy element of the Core Strategy.
- (2) To agree to progress an informal public consultation on a Revised Draft Core Strategy which incorporates locally generated population and household growth projections and a revised development strategy set out in this report and:
- (3) To delegate the preparation of the detailed wording of the Revised Draft Core Strategy and any consultation material to the Head of Planning Policy & Economic Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing.

9. Use of Natural Resources Project (Pages 139 - 178) 7.20 pm

Report of Head of Environmental Services

Summary

This report considers the progress of the Use of Natural Resources Delivery Group and the overall progress of the Council in responding to climate change and energy efficiency within its own operations.

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To note the achievements of the Use of Natural Resources project.

- (2) To support Cherwell's Carbon Management Plan (Appendix 1) reducing 22% of the Council's carbon emissions by 2014/15 through improving the energy efficiency of its own operations.
- (3) To approve the Energy Policy (Appendix 2) which sets out the how the Council will use energy efficiently.

10. Bicester Multi-Sport Village (Pages 179 - 186)

7.30 pm

Report of Strategic Director Environment and Community

Summary

To provide an update on the development of the Bicester Multi-Sports Village project, to award the contract for the construction of Phase 1 (construction of grass pitches and landscaping) and to consider the revenue implications of the project when it becomes operational in 2014.

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To award a contract for the construction of Phase 1 of the Sports Village, subject to planning consent for the outstanding reserved matters, to Agripower Ltd.
- (2) To request Bicester Town Council to consider funding for the revenue implications from 2014/15.
- (3) To progress with the design of Phase 2 and investigate funding opportunities to deliver the full scheme.

11. Brighter Futures in Banbury Programme (Pages 187 - 218)

7.40 pm

Report of Strategic Director Environment and Community

Summary

To consider a review of the first year of the Brighter Futures Programme in Banbury and the proposed emphasis in the second and subsequent years.

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To note the very good progress made in the first year of the Brighter Futures Programme.
- (2) To support the areas of emphasis and proposed activity in 2011/12.
- (3) To receive further reports as appropriate on progress.

Value for Money and Performance

12. Review of Reserves (Pages 219 - 228)

7.50 pm

Report of Head of Finance

Summary

To seek endorsement from the Executive, following a review by the Head of Finance – in association with the Portfolio Holder for Resources – of the Councils revenue reserves, to determine whether they are set an appropriate level with regard to purpose, anticipated timing of need, degree of risk and level of potential expenditure.

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To consider and endorse the contents of this report.
- (2) To approve the transfers between earmarked reserves and the creation of 1 new reserve detailed in Appendix 1.
- (3) To approve that authority is delegated to the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources, to transfer sufficient funds from earmarked reserves to general fund balances as part of the closedown processes for 2010-11 to avoid general fund balances falling below the minimum amount stated in the medium term financial strategy.

Urgent Business

13. Urgent Business

Any other items which the Chairman has decided is urgent.

14. Exclusion of the Press and Public

The following reports contain exempt information as defined in the following paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of Local Government Act 1972.

3– Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Members are reminded that whilst the following items have been marked as exempt, it is for the meeting to decide whether or not to consider each of them in private or in public. In making the decision, members should balance the interests of individuals or the Council itself in having access to the information. In considering their discretion members should also be mindful of the advice of Council Officers.

Should Members decide not to make a decision in public, they are recommended to pass the following recommendation:

“That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act.”

15. Community Led and Self-Build Housing (Pages 229 - 240) 8.00 pm

Report of Head of Housing Services

Summary

The purpose of this report is to update the Executive on work on community led and self build housing development opportunities following the approach agreed in a report to January Executive on “Housing in Cherwell and the Current Economic Climate”.

16. Bicester Multi-Sport Village - Exempt Appendix 2 (Pages 241 - 244) 8.10 pm

(Meeting scheduled to close at 8.15pm)

Councillors are requested to collect any post from their pigeon hole in the Members Room at the end of the meeting.

Information about this Meeting

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence should be notified to democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or (01295) 221587 prior to the start of the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item. The definition of personal and prejudicial interests is set out in the constitution. The Democratic Support Officer will have a copy available for inspection at all meetings.

Personal Interest: Members must declare the interest but may stay in the room, debate and vote on the issue.

Prejudicial Interest: Member must withdraw from the meeting room and should inform the Chairman accordingly.

With the exception of the some very specific circumstances, a Member with a personal interest also has a prejudicial interest if it is one which a Member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member’s judgement of the public interest.

Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare the fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

Evacuation Procedure

When the continuous alarm sounds you must evacuate the building by the nearest available fire exit. Members and visitors should proceed to the car park as directed by Democratic Services staff and await further instructions.

Access to Meetings

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named below, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting.

Mobile Phones

Please ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off.

Queries Regarding this Agenda

Please contact James Doble, Legal and Democratic Services james.doble@cherwell-dc.gov.uk (01295) 221587

Ian Davies
Interim Chief Executive

Published on Friday 13 May 2011

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Agenda Item 5

Cherwell District Council

Executive

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 4 April 2011 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Barry Wood (Chairman)
Councillor G A Reynolds (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Ken Atack
Councillor Norman Bolster
Councillor Colin Clarke
Councillor Michael Gibbard
Councillor James Macnamara
Councillor Nigel Morris
Councillor D M Pickford
Councillor Nicholas Turner

Officers: Ian Davies, Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service
Karen Curtin, Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer
Chris Rothwell, Head of Safer Communities, Urban & Rural Services
Richard Hawtin, Team Leader Property & Contracts
Natasha Clark, Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer

132 **Declarations of Interest**

Members declared interests in the following agenda item:

10. Landscape Maintenance Contract Negotiations.

Councillor Nicholas Turner, Personal, as a member of Banbury Town Council which may be affected by the contract negotiations.

133 **Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting**

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

134 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

135 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

136 **Corporate Debt Recovery Policy 2011/12**

The Head of Finance submitted a report which presented to the Executive for discussion and onward approval to full Council, the draft Corporate Debt Policy. The policy set out the Council's framework for providing a consistent 'fair but firm' approach to collecting debt, ensuring that the Council continued to maximise collection performance.

Resolved

- (1) That the Corporate Debt Policy as set out in the annex to these minutes (as set out in the minute book) be recommended to Full Council for approval.

Reasons

It was recognised that that an updated corporate debt policy is required each year in order to document how we manage debt within the Council.

Options

Option One To agree the recommendation as set out in the report.

Option Two To amend the recommendation.

137 **Corporate Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2011/12**

The Head of Finance submitted a report which brought forward for Executive consideration, the refreshed Corporate Procurement Strategy and Action Plan for 2011/12 for the Council. The primary objective of the Corporate Procurement Strategy is to procure services that are affordable, fit for the purpose, meet the needs of local people and service users and provide value for money.

Resolved

- (1) That the Corporate Procurement Strategy and Action Plan for 2011/12 as set out in the annex to these minutes (as set out in the minute book) be approved.

Reasons

The refreshed procurement strategy has a fundamental role in helping the Council reduce its services budget from £18.5 to £15.9 million in 2011/12.

138 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that they could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

139 **Landscape Maintenance Contract Negotiations**

The Head of Safer Communities, Urban and Rural Services submitted a report which advised the Executive on the position with regard to the landscape maintenance contract negotiations.

Resolved

That the recommendations as set out in the exempt report be approved.

The meeting ended at 6.50 pm

Chairman:

Date:

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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Executive

Commissioning of Advice, Volunteering and Voluntary Car Driving Schemes in Cherwell

23 May 2011

Report of Head of Housing Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider a commissioning exercise to deliver a consistent and equitable approach to the funding of advice, volunteering and volunteer driving services in Cherwell and to consider the implications for a potential countywide Dial-a-Ride service.

This report is public

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To cease existing funding arrangements for organisations funded through the Council's Voluntary Sector (Community Development) Grants Programme and Community Transport Grants Programme as from 31 March 2012.
- (2) To commence a commissioning process to fund strategically relevant Advice, Volunteering and Volunteer Car Driving services across three geographical areas within Cherwell.
- (3) To note ongoing officer discussions with Oxfordshire County Council regarding County Council proposals to develop a countywide Dial-a-Ride Service and how this might serve District residents most in need of this service.
- (4) To receive a further report on the outcome of this exercise as part of the 2012/13 Service and Financial Planning process in the Autumn.

Executive Summary

Introduction

- 1.1 This report highlights the reasons why a new approach to the funding of voluntary sector advice, volunteering and volunteer driving schemes is necessary from April 2012. This report recommends a move from grant funding organisations to commissioning strategically relevant services.

- 1.2 This report proposes the commissioning of advice, volunteering and volunteer driving services located across three urban centres serving the district as a whole.

Proposals

- 1.3 To cease existing funding arrangements for organisations funded through the Council's Voluntary Sector (Community Development) Grants Programme and Community Transport Grants Programme as from 31 March 2012. This funding is listed in Appendix One.
- 1.4 To seek to reduce the Council's overall spend in this sector in line with the reduction in central government funding.
- 1.5 To commission a district wide advice, volunteering and volunteer driving service located in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington serving the towns and surrounding villages.
- 1.6 To commission a three year contract (1st April 2012 to 31st March 2015) with an option to extend for a further two years to 31st March 2017, with reference to 1.5 above.
- 1.7 To engage with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to investigate the possibilities of how a county wide Dial-a-Ride Service would help to protect Cherwell's most vulnerable residents as a result of the proposed grant withdrawal which in turn would result in the closure of the Cherwell Dial-a-Ride Service
- 1.8 To undertake a procurement exercise to aim to achieve value for money, with reference to 1.5 above.
- 1.9 Please note this proposal does not include all the Council's grant aid activity, some of which was already reduced this year but is restricted to those listed in Appendix 1.

Conclusion

- 2.0 This proposal marks a shift from grant funding organisations to commissioning strategically relevant services. We are in a time when it is important that the Council funds services which target those most in need, are delivered on an equitable basis and support the Council to deliver its statutory responsibilities. This proposal sets out to do this in the context of a national agenda of Localism and Big Society.

Background Information and proposal

- 2.1 The business case for voluntary sector agencies to deliver advice, volunteering and community transport is very strong:
- Members of the public are more likely to ask an organisation who they know and trust for advice than a statutory service
 - Voluntary agencies are able to attract additional funding through charitable trusts, fundraising etc to enhance a service
 - Trained volunteers working alongside paid staff enhance service provision and add value ~ often the value of volunteer hours over a year can equate to thousands of pounds 'in kind'.
 - Specifically for advice, The 'Case For Advice' (Advice Services Alliance) details the huge savings in relation to community cohesion, health and wellbeing, economic benefits and social inclusion and improving public services
- 2.2 There are many organisations in Cherwell which provide support, advice, transport and information to local residents. Most of these groups function without financial support from the Council and exist through the support of volunteers and fundraising.
- 2.3 In addition to organisations referred to in section 2.2, there are a number of organisations who collectively receive a significant level of in grant from the Council Please see Appendix One which summarises the funding awarded.
- 2.4 Though, for many years these organisations have delivered important and well respected services for residents of Cherwell there are some important reasons why a new approach to funding is proposed. These can be summarized as follows:
- 2.4.1 **Significant Changes to Community Transport across Oxfordshire.** As reported to Executive earlier this year, the responsibility for concessionary fares is now with the County Council. The national move towards personal budgets for people with physical disabilities and other special needs may mean that 'block purchasing' of transport services may not be viable in the future.
- The delivery of community transport is not a statutory function of the District Council and therefore brings into question the high level of funding for community transport in times of reduced public spending. Cherwell's funding for community transport is currently awarded to Banbury Community Transport Association, with a smaller contribution to ORCC. A recent review of community transport found that Cherwell provides a considerably higher (over 60% higher) level of grant funding for community transport than other districts in Oxfordshire. Whilst the Council *could* withdraw completely from community transport, this paper proposes a continued involvement through commissioning volunteer car driving schemes, working in close partnership with parish councils to ensure rural communities are well served. There is also potential for contributing (at a much lower level) towards a jointly commissioned countywide Dial-a-Ride Service, which other District Councils are currently considering for their most vulnerable residents. Officers are currently working with the County's Integrated Transport Unit in taking forward this proposal which is intended go live by April 2012.
- 2.4.2 **Low take up of advice service by certain groups within the District.** Anecdotal evidence suggests that young people and particularly people

whose English is not their first language are less likely to access local advice services funded by the Council. There are some services which target specific groups and localities such as Oxfordshire Chinese Community Advice and Banbury Samaritans, but this does raise the question of the Council financially supporting one group over another and a fair distribution of funding across the District as a whole.

2.4.3 Consideration of population and levels of deprivation across the District. For service provision funded by the Council to be equitable, we need to consider the population across the District and also consider areas of deprivation. The following table supported by the map at Appendix Two shows data on population and Housing Benefit claims (to give an indication of need) split over three geographical areas aligned with the three towns of Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington. This is a useful exercise in that it considers population and housing benefit take up in rural areas as well as urban areas.

| District | Population | Percentage of Total District Population | Housing Benefit Claimants | Percentage of Total District Housing Benefit Claimants | Average of combined percentages & proposed proportion of funding |
|-----------------------------------|------------|---|---------------------------|--|--|
| Banbury & surrounding villages | 63223 | 43% | 4563 | 64% | 54% |
| Bicester & surrounding villages | 44692 | 31% | 1807 | 25% | 28% |
| Kidlington & surrounding villages | 37290 | 26% | 760 | 11% | 18% |
| Total | 145205 | 100% | 7130 | 100% | 100% |

2.4.4 Consideration of Legal Services Commission funded services. The Legal Service Commission funds a number of Community Legal Service (CLS) contracts in Cherwell and the surrounding areas. Such contracts include Family Law and Employment Law. These contracts are delivered by solicitors and certain voluntary sector groups including Banbury CAB who deliver a CLS Debt and Welfare Benefits Contract. In addition the Legal Services Commission funds a national helpline which includes access to advice on debt, employment, family law and welfare benefits. The helpline does not include immigration, which is delivered through a National Immigration and Asylum Team. It is important to note that this is the current provision, however there are potential changes in the future, depending on the outcome of Legal Aid reforms that are being proposed by the Ministry of Justice.

2.4.5 Consideration of consistency in procurement. The Council's grant process is open and transparent. However, in considering reduced funding and the growing importance of equitable service delivery, it is important that the Council commissions services which prioritise its statutory responsibilities, commissions services which are outcome focused and

wherever possible serve the district equitably as a whole.

2.4.6 Concern with regards to viability or organisations that rely heavily on council funding. Though the Council has a policy of funding no more than 75% of an organisation's overall income, some organisations have struggled to secure additional funding. The impact of this is that should Council funding be withdrawn or reduced these particular services will be unviable. Therefore an important role for the Council should this proposal be approved will be to work with service providers to identify additional funding streams to increase capacity and resilience. It will be important, in future commissioning to build in a target for services to secure 100% match funding thereby the Council only funding 50% of total income.

2.4.7 Changes at a county level to funding of infrastructure organisations. Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA) are currently funded at a county level to provide infrastructure support to the voluntary sector. Cherwell is the only district in the County to have a separate infrastructure organisation in Cherwell CVS and there is therefore potential for duplication in services.

Please note, there is a parallel piece of corporate work being undertaken by officers looking at community development activity across the district. This includes voluntary sector capacity building such as training and higher level infrastructure activities some of which are delivered on a county basis by different organisations. Such activities, though related are not within the scope of this report.

Proposals

2.5 The proposed model is for the Council to commission an advice, information, volunteering and voluntary car scheme operating out of three Community Advice Centres. The rationale for commissioning these services together is two-fold. Firstly there is the common factor of volunteering and there may be opportunities for volunteers to give their time to more than one element of the services e.g. advice and volunteer driving. Secondly, it reduces the stigma of people accessing advice services ~ people could, for example be accessing the Community Advice Centre to explore volunteering so it would not be obvious to the public why someone is entering the building. The service will operate out of each of the three towns, serving that particular town and surrounding villages, as per the map in Appendix Two. The specification for each centre will include the following:

2.6 Information and support for people seeking volunteering opportunities. Each Community Advice Centre will be commissioned to promote volunteering opportunities in the locality. It is likely therefore that each centre will be linked into the Do-It Web resource, which in turn will be promoted amongst all local voluntary organisations to place volunteering opportunities on. By having in a sense a 'mini volunteer bureau' in each Community Advice Centre there will be the dual benefit of local knowledge about voluntary groups in the surrounding area and a greater opportunity to recruit volunteers into the advice centres themselves. The minimum requirement will be for each centre to provide access to a computer, printer and telephone for members of the public wishing to access this information.

Service providers may add value to this by providing:

- Trained staff or volunteers to assist members of the public in using the computer, explaining information and making contact with organisations.

- Providing mentoring and training on interview techniques, communication skills, timekeeping etc
- Working collaboratively with local voluntary organisations to promote volunteering

2.7 Development of volunteer car driving schemes. Each Community Advice Centre will be commissioned to develop volunteer driving schemes within the town and villages in its service area.

It is likely that the most effective way for each Community Advice Centre to do this will be for them to work in partnership with the parish councils and other community groups to identify needs and opportunities and target priority areas or priority groups as identified by communities. This may be through building capacity through providing training and information packs and support to local community groups wishing to set up volunteer car driving schemes. It is estimated that it costs approximately £200 to set up a local volunteer car driving scheme (publicity, insurance etc) which will be built into the budgets for each Community Advice Centre. This model of delivery will provide transport for vulnerable people living in rural area needing face to face advice at the Community Advice Centres and other local services. This will hopefully deliver a 'double win' in that the link between the volunteer car driving schemes and the Community Advice Centres will increase opportunities for vulnerable people in rural areas to access transport when they need to receive face to face advice. This in turn will reduce the need for paid advice staff to undertake home visits, which can prove expensive and take up considerable time.

2.8 Advice on debt, money management and welfare rights. Current Council grant funding for Bicester CAB, Banbury CAB and KADIC is for a range of subject areas. Taking into consideration the services that are funded by the Legal Services Commission and taking into consideration that certain subjects are not a statutory duty of the council (e.g. Consumer Advice) it is recommended that the Council commissions advice services which increase financial capability, and prevent homelessness. One of the biggest causes of homelessness and most significant block to housing options for people living in Cherwell is housing related debt. Therefore, in line with our statutory responsibility to prevent homelessness it is proposed that the Council commissions advice on debt, money management and welfare rights. Service providers will provide this advice through:

- A triage service available through drop-in, telephone, letter and email
- Appointments for follow up case work for issues which cannot be dealt with through triage
- Resources for people to 'self help' through access to computers, information leaflets etc
- Undertaking targeted publicity to engage people who are currently under represented in accessing advice services. This includes young people and people from ethnic minority groups
- Collaborative work with other advice services including the Council's Housing Options Team and the Customer Services Team

Service providers may add value through:

- Running a rolling training programme for people to attend on money management
- Providing training to other community organisations to build capacity for other groups to provide advice, information and training on money management
- Establishing systems (possibly in partnership with another organisation) for people to save money and pay debts

Please note that as part of the evaluation of applications for funding there will be a requirement for services to evidence experience in delivering free advice to a recognised quality mark.

2.9 **Information and signposting to other advice, information and support services.** This may include:

- Providing Information on local and national services including telephone and web based services.
- Signposting advice over the telephone, face to face or email from paid or volunteer
- Providing a stock of updated information leaflets for people to take away
- Making computers available for people to access web based resources.

Services may add value through providing training to other community organisations to build capacity for other groups to provide advice, information and training on money management

2.10 **Duty Court Desk in Banbury.** This requires trained and experienced staff being available to give advice and representation to people in the court system due to risk of repossession or eviction. Please note that Court desk representation at Oxford Court is funded through the Legal Services Commission 'Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme', to provide emergency advice and advocacy to anyone facing possession proceedings.

Commissioning

2.11 The proposals for commissioning include the following.

2.12 That the advice, volunteering and voluntary driving service is commissioned through a competitive tender process. As this is considered to be a 'Part B' Service it is not subject to a full EU Tender.

2.13 That the anticipated level of funding available is made known to organisations wishing to tender. This would allow organisations to make informed bids. It also means that one of the ways organisation's bids can be scored is through demonstrating how they can add value through volunteer hours, securing additional funding etc.

2.14 That the tender is divided into three geographical 'lots': Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington. Though people may access any of the three services (especially by telephone or email) the geographical split is taking a common sense view of where people may travel to for face to face advice. It also means that the services will be responsible for networking with other voluntary organisations in their 'area' for the purposes of the volunteer bureau function and for the purposes of developing volunteer driving schemes. Hopefully it will also mean a strong sense of local identify.

2.15 That organisations are able to bid for one or more of the geographical lots. It should be noted that bidding for more than one geographical areas is expected to deliver improved value for money (due to shared 'back office' functions such as HR, communications etc) and improved business continuity. It should also be noted that there is the risk that some existing providers may not be successful and that there is a significant risk of closure for organisations who receive more than 75% of their funding from the Council (please see Appendix One). However, Housing Services

are undertaking a programme of work during 2011/12 to build capacity into local organisations to respond to Big Society agenda in the context of reduced public funding. This includes a 'Voluntary Sector Health Check' (which includes an offer of one-to-one advice), a series of training events on funding and governance (at different locations across the district) and an increased focus on capacity building in the Voluntary Sector Forums.

- 2.16 That a proportion of funding for each lot (possibly between 5 and 10%) is held back for 'payment on results', whereby services exceed expectations/targets.
- 2.17 That contracts are awarded for an initial period of three years with an option to extend for a further two years.
- 2.18 That the Council stays in close communication with the County Council and neighbouring authorities throughout the procurement process. This is particularly relevant to advice services and community transport. The County Council is planning two separate and relevant reviews ~ a review of voluntary infrastructure support services and a review of community transport. There is an option to hold back from this commissioning exercise to wait for the outcome of these county reviews, however this delay will prevent the District from realising the savings projected and delay commissioning strategically relevant and sustainable service provision. What is crucial is to continue the dialogue to ensure that the services commissioned by the District Council are in a strong position to bid for County funding should this become available at a later date.
- 2.19 That parallel to this commissioning exercise, the Council explores potential building options for these services. It may well be that should existing service providers be successful in the procurement process then they will chose to remain in their current buildings. However, there are issues with some of the current buildings in relation cost, condition and location. If a key outcome is to deliver efficiency savings and improve accessibility, then there is a gain to the Council negotiating cheaper and improved premises and these options are being explored. Associated with this is the opportunity which the new civic building in Bicester will offer which will be factored into the process.
- 2.20 That contract monitoring will form an important part of this commissioning exercise. This will not just be about 'checking on performance' but to work constructively with service providers to seek opportunities to develop services, secure funding from other sources and work collaboratively. This capacity building role from the Council will also include publicity and communications to ensure the service take up is representative of local people in Cherwell, including people regardless of age, gender, nationality and sexuality. The service providers will be required to have a computerised system to monitor and quantify the agreed targets. The Council will monitor performance of the service through quarterly electronic returns and a six monthly monitoring visit. These are the standard arrangements, but extra visits or requests for monitoring data may be requested by The Council, subject to need.

Quarterly monitoring data request will consist of the following information:

- Number of advice sessions delivered and the method of delivery
- Number of new clients
- Number of repeat clients
- Number of debt/money cases closed
- Number of debts
- Value of debt
- Benefit realisation

- Homeless prevention cases

Additional annual monitoring will consist of the following information:

- Information on other funding sources and progress in securing 100% match funding to the council's funding
- At least 95% client satisfaction with the service they have received
- Evidence of what outcomes have been delivered through providing the services
- Profile of clients by ethnicity, gender, age, disability
- Profile of referrals to and from the organisation (where applicable)
- Updated service development plan

Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

3.1 The following options have been identified. The approach in the recommendations (Option Three) is believed to be the best way forward

Option One **Continue current arrangements.** This would not deliver the 24% savings nor provide an opportunity to target funding at services which support the Council's statutory responsibilities and improve cost effectiveness and a more equitable distribution of resources.

Option Two **Delay the proposed commissioning arrangements until the County Reviews for both Community Transport and Advice Services are complete.** It should be noted though that the risk of entering into a county procurement exercise are a) further delays, b) significant officer time, c) potential compromise between county and district priorities.

Option Three

- To cease existing funding arrangements for organisations funded through the Council's Voluntary Sector (Community Development) Grants Programme and Community Transport Grants Programme as from 31 March 2012 – as listed in Appendix One
- To commence a competitive commissioning process to fund a strategically relevant Advice, Volunteering and Volunteer Car Driving Service across three Community Advice Centres in Cherwell.
- Through undertaking the above achieve an efficiency saving.

Consultations

4.1 These proposals have been devised with ongoing discussions with partners. All the relevant agencies have been given the opportunity to meet with Council Officers to discuss the proposal. Most of the key agencies have already met with Council Officers on at least one occasion to discuss the context and rationale for this proposal. This includes KADIC, C CVS, ORCC, BCTA, Banbury CAB and Bicester CAB. Though all agencies are understandably concerned about their own financial well being, there is a

good understanding within the voluntary sector about the financial pressures for the council in the current climate.

- 4.2 Council Officers have also met with Elected Members who are the member representative on outside bodies for the agencies relevant to this proposal.
- 4.3 In addition Council Officers have consulted with relevant officers in Oxfordshire County Council to ensure a co-ordinated approach to engagement and support for the voluntary sector.

Implications

Financial: The proposals contained in this report are consistent with the Council's MTFS and are intended to provide a better and more cost effective service to local people particularly this in greatest need of support.

Comments checked by Karen Curtin, Head of Finance
01295 221551

Legal: The procurement process proposed is in accordance with the Council's procurement policy and procedures.

Comments checked by Richard Hawtin, Team Leader –
Contracts and Property, 01295 221695

Risk Management: There are risks associated with the recommendations in this report. As highlighted above, this could result in a very different voluntary sector make up in the District and in some cases will have a significant affect on those organisations listed in Appendix 1.

Comments checked by Gillian Greaves, Head of Housing
Services, 01295 221654

Equalities An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken in respect of this proposal. The need to develop equality of access to services for Cherwell's most vulnerable customers has been of paramount importance.

Comments checked by Claire Taylor, Corporate and
Community Planning Manager, 01295 221563

Wards Affected

All

Corporate Plan Themes

Cherwell, a District of Opportunity
Cherwell, an Accessible Value for Money Council

Executive Portfolio

Councillor Michael Gibbard, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning
Councillor Barry Wood, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Policy,
Community Planning and Community Development

Document Information

| Appendix No | Title |
|----------------------------|---|
| Appendix One | Voluntary Sector (Community Development) Grants and Community Transport Grants in 2010/11 |
| Appendix Two | Map showing area divisions to inform proposed distribution of service centres |
| Report Author | Helen Town, Strategic Housing Officer |
| Contact Information | 01295 227991 helen.town@Cherwell-dc.gov.uk |

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Appendix One: 2011/12 Grants for Voluntary Sector (Community Development) and Community Transport

| Grants for Voluntary Sector (Community Development) | | | | |
|--|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Agency | 2010/11 Grant | Total income | % of organisation's total income from CDC grant (for grants over £3000) | 2011/12 Grant |
| Cherwell Council for Voluntary Services (CCVS) Core Grant | £17,000 | £18,599 | 91% | £17,000 |
| Banbury CAB: Core Grant Housing Grant | £106,968 £49,260 | £358,000 | 44% | £106,228 £49,260 |
| Bicester CAB: Core Grant | £86,263 | £117,050 | 74% | £86,263 |
| KADIC: Core Grant | £7,700 | £16,920 | 45% | £7,700 |
| Banbury Carers Centre | £9,700 | £441,739 | 2% | Ceased operation – grant returned |
| Relate | £5,000 | £253,428 | 2% | £5,000 |
| Banbury and District Samaritans | £3,500 | £33,461 | 10% | £3,000 |
| Oxfordshire Chinese Community Advice | £3,030 | | | £2,000 |
| Oxfordshire Association for the Blind | £3,000 | | | Did not apply |
| Cruse Bereavement | £850 | | | Did not apply |
| Banbury Talking Newspapers | £750 | | | Did not apply |
| Grants for Community Transport | | | | |
| Banbury Community Transport (Cherwell Dial-a-Ride Service) | £187,000 | £212,500 plus bus fare income | 88% | £187,000 |
| ORCC (Rural Community Transport) | £11,500 | | | £11,500 |
| Current total spend | £491,521 | | | £474,951 |

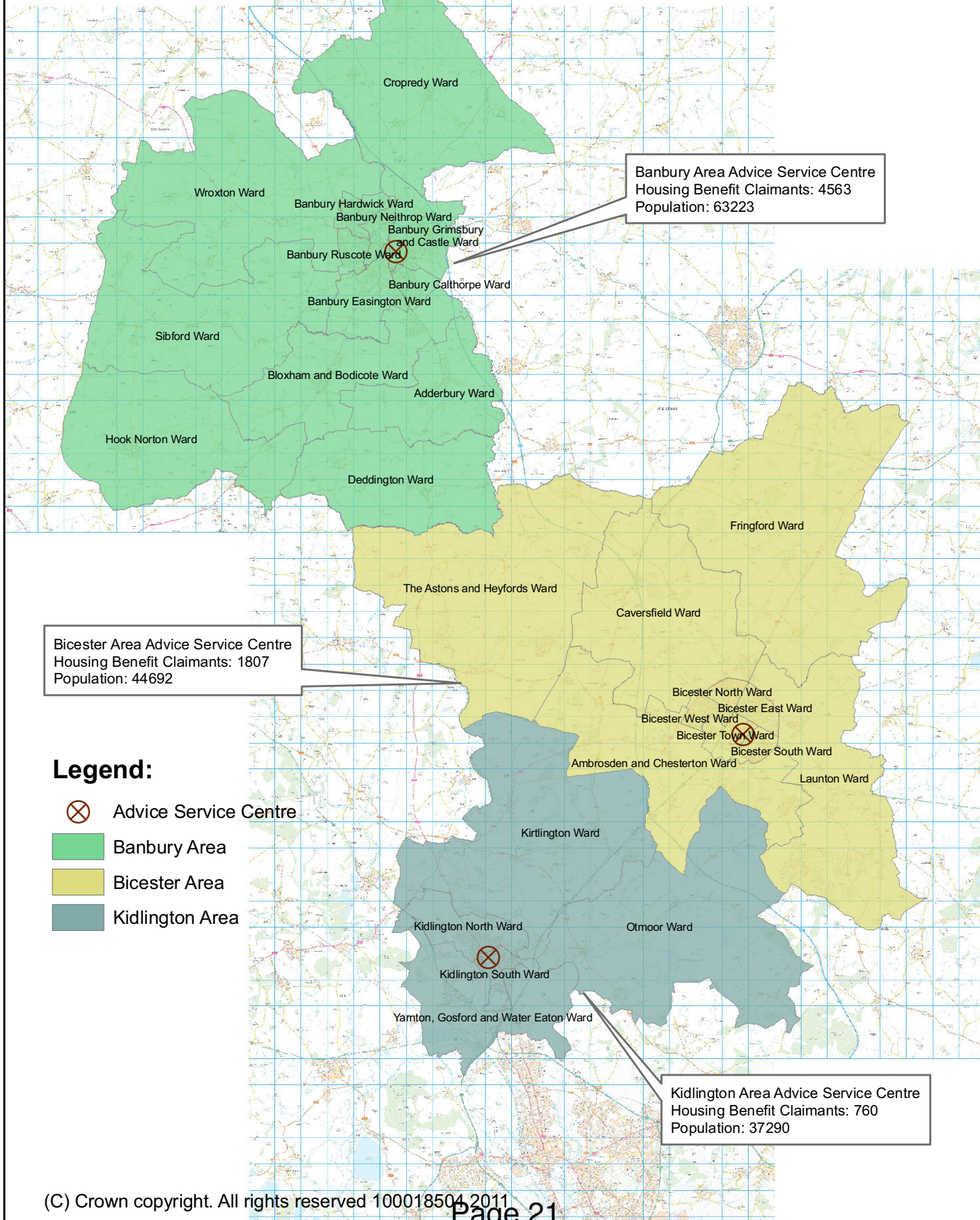
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Advice service centre areas





N



0 2,500 5,000 10,000 Meters



Legend:

-  Advice Service Centre
-  Banbury Area
-  Bicester Area
-  Kidlington Area

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Executive

Planning Obligations Draft Supplementary Planning Document

23 May 2011

Report of Strategic Director, Planning, Housing and Economy

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report back on the progress of the Planning Obligations Draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and to approve the use of the draft SPD as informal guidance with immediate effect.

This report is public

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To approve the use of the draft Supplementary Planning Document as informal guidance with immediate effect.

Executive Summary

Introduction

- 1.1 Members considered a report to Executive on 10 January 2011 seeking:
 - a) the endorsement of the Planning Obligations Draft Supplementary Planning Document for public consultation;
 - b) approval to use the document as informal guidance; and
 - c) the authorisation for the Strategic Director, Planning Housing and Economy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, Planning and Housing, to make any further minor non-substantive changes as necessary to the draft Supplementary Planning Document prior to the publication for public consultation.
- 1.2 The recommendation however was amended by officers at the meeting and approval was not sought for the use of the document as interim guidance with immediate effect as it had not been possible to complete parts of the document due to outstanding information. During the course of the debate members made a number of detailed comments and observations, in light of which it was agreed, would be considered prior to public consultation.

- 1.3 Members therefore resolved:
- a) That the Planning Obligations Draft Supplementary Planning Document be noted and subject to the consideration of observation raised at the meeting endorsed for public consultation, the timing of which to be at the discretion of the Portfolio holder.
 - b) That the Strategic Director, Planning, Housing and Economy, be authorised in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Planning and Housing, to make any further minor non-substantive changes as are necessary to the draft Supplementary Planning Document prior to the publication for public consultation.

Proposals

- 1.4 The full Draft SPD (Appendix 1) has been placed on deposit in the Member Room. Full copies are available on request to the report author.

The Executive is now being asked to note that full public consultation on the draft SPD will now take place with the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy, but to agree the use of the draft SPD as informal guidance with immediate effect.

Conclusion

- 1.5 Following the completion of the document, and the consideration of the comments and observations made by Members, the draft SPD is now ready for public consultation. This consultation will be carried out at the same time as the consultation for the LDF Core Strategy (See report and recommendations elsewhere on the agenda). After the consultation period has ended the representations made will be brought back to the Executive to consider and Members will be asked to approve the SPD for formal use in development control. At this point the document will have some weight, but will still depend for full effect on the final adoption process for the Core strategy.
- 1.6 The Executive is now asked to approve the draft SPD as informal guidance with immediate effect. There is an urgent need to replace the now outdated current guidance 'Planning Obligations – Interim Planning Guidance 2007'. The draft SPD can be used as a practical and up to date basis for development control negotiations whilst the document is finalised and formalised through the LDF process.
- 1.7 The draft SPD replaces and supersedes all previous documents relating to planning obligations including the Affordable Housing Code of Practice Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) 2004 (with addendum 2007) and the Residential and Amenity Open Space Provision SPG (2004 and revised adoption procedures 2006)

Background Information

- 2.1 This report is a companion to the report on the Local Development Framework elsewhere on the agenda. The SPD has been prepared in the context of the agreed LDF strategy and is to form part of the LDF. The SPD offers more detailed guidance to supplement the policies in the Core Strategy on how the Council as LPA will decide what new infrastructure and facilities need to be provided as a consequence of development and assess requirements for 'in-kind' provision and/or financial contributions towards provision.
- 2.2 Whilst it is recommended that the draft SPD is used as interim guidance with immediate effect it will only be an informal tool in negotiations on planning obligations. It will not carry the full weight of an SPD until it has undergone public consultation and is adopted by the Council. Given that the SPD supports the policies in the Core Strategy it is considered that the public consultation should take place at the same time as that for the Core Strategy. This is likely to be later this year.
- 2.3 The County Council raised concerns regarding the document in response to the report considered at January's meeting. The concerns were noted at the Committee at the meeting (OCC letter circulated). The County Council's concerns were closely related to issues of how local authorities should prepare for the introduction of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in 2014, a matter that the SPD specifically tries to address. The main points raised were as follows:
 - a) Proposal not to seek contributions from affordable housing – such development creates additional pressure on services provided by the County Council
 - b) Cherwell District Council to normally be the only local authority party to future legal agreements.
 - c) Timing of consultation prior to that on the Core Strategy
- 2.4 In response to these concerns:
 - a) CIL specifically excludes affordable housing provision from making general financial contributions and this draft SPD has to prepare the way for CIL. On major sites the overall scale of housing proposed, including affordable, will still be a relevant consideration in making direct, on site, infrastructure provision
 - b) The draft SPD is clear that with planning agreements where the County Council needs to make a formal legal commitment to an implementation project they will be a party to the agreement. The Local Planning Authority's decisions will still deal with important County infrastructure considerations, but a simpler / speedier method of securing straightforward financial contributions via unilateral undertaking and standard CDC planning agreements is needed to handle routine cases effectively and prepare for CIL.
 - c) It is recommended that the timing of the public consultation is now to

coincide with that of the Core Strategy

- 2.5 This report is also is to update Members of the progress on the document since January's Executive. There has been time for further technical work and consultation including with the County Council. One of the main areas of work that was outstanding was the section on 'General Transport and Access Impacts'. This work has now been completed following further information being provided by the County Council.
- 2.6 At January's Executive Members requested a seminar to cover the planning obligations and affordable housing and to allow a number of detailed matters raised by members of the Committee to be addressed. This took place on 29 March and also included an update on the progress of the LDF and how planning obligations and CIL tie in with the LDF.
- 2.7 In the run up to public consultation it is intended to carry out further technical consultation and checks with the many public agencies that have contributed to the document. This is to ensure that all information within the SPD is as correct and up-to-date as it can be. The delegation agreed at the previous meeting will allow any necessary changes to be made before the LDF Core Strategy consultation.

Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

- 3.1 The main issue for consideration is whether to approve the use of the draft SPD as informal guidance for Development Control purposes with immediate effect.
- 3.2 If approved as informal guidance for development control purposes the SPD will be used to assist in officer negotiations and the determination of planning applications, which means that planning applications that do not comply with the draft SPD may be recommended for refusal. It should however be recognised that the draft SPD will not have been through any public consultation and will not carry full statutory weight until it has been through public consultation and is formally adopted in the context of progress on the LDF Core Strategy.

The following options have been identified. The approach in the recommendations is believed to be the best way forward

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Option One | To approve the use of the draft SPD as informal guidance for development control purposes with immediate effect. |
| Option Two | To approve the use of the draft SPD as informal guidance for Development Control purposes following amendment. |
| Option Three | Not to approve the use of the draft SPD as informal guidance for Development Control purposes. |

Consultations

Public sector
Stakeholder
discussions and
consultation

All public sector stakeholders have provided information and evidence to enable the compilation of the document.

Implications

Financial:

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, the contents of the SPD will influence the level of contribution received towards infrastructure and community facilities.

Comments checked by Joanne Kaye, Service Accountant 01295 221545

Legal:

It should be noted that, even after public consultations have been completed and when the SPD has been approved for development control purposes, it will remain an informal document only, until formally adopted and this is unlikely to occur before adoption of the Core Strategy.

Comments checked by Nigel Bell, Team Leader – Planning & Litigation, 01295 221687

Risk Management:

There are no significant direct risk management implications arising from this report.

Comments checked by Claire Taylor, Community and Corporate Planning Manager 01295 221563

Equalities

There are no equality issues arising from this report

Comments checked by Caroline French, Equalities and Diversity Officer 01295 221586

Wards Affected

All

Corporate Plan Themes

All

Executive Portfolio

Councillor Michael Gibbard
Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing

Document Information

| Appendix No | Title |
|-------------|--|
| Appendix 1 | Planning Obligations Draft Supplementary Planning Document – The full Draft SPD has been placed on deposit in the Member Room. |

| | |
|--|---|
| Background Papers | |
| Handouts from Member Training/Briefing held on 29/3/11 and list of points raised by Members at the session | |
| Report Author | Shona King, Planning Officer |
| Contact Information | 01295 221643 shona.king@Cherwell-dc.gov.uk |

Executive

Local Development Framework (LDF) – Next Steps

23 May 2011

Report of Head of Planning Policy & Economic Development

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To agree to undertake an informal consultation on locally generated population and household growth projections, a responding development strategy and other revisions to the Draft LDF Core Strategy.

This report is public

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To agree a revised development strategy as set out in Para 1.18 below and to include the PPS Eco-Town Standards as a new policy element of the Core Strategy.
- (2) To agree to progress an informal public consultation on a Revised Draft Core Strategy which incorporates locally generated population and household growth projections and a revised development strategy set out in this report and:
- (3) To delegate the preparation of the detailed wording of the Revised Draft Core Strategy and any consultation material to the Head of Planning Policy & Economic Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing.

Executive Summary

Introduction

- 1.1 The Executive considered a report on 07 March 2011 which outlined updated population and household projections for the district and implications for a revised development strategy. It was agreed by the Executive that officers would progress further work on population and household projections for the sub-areas of Banbury, Bicester, Kidlington and the Rural Areas on the basis of the Council's preferred district wide scenario and also prepare a revised development strategy and other revisions to the Draft Core Strategy. The Council's preferred scenario was decided as being the Net Nil Migration scenario, which indicated household growth of 12,751 households over the

plan period 2006 – 2026.

Population and household projections for sub areas of Banbury, Bicester, Kidlington and the Rural Areas.

- 1.2 Most of the development that is already planned for or permitted for housing development as of September 2010 is taken into account in the projections as it is assumed that it will be built by 2016.
- 1.3 Based on a district wide level of growth of 12,751 households during the plan period, information for the sub areas is presented in Table 1 (Appendix 1). The household projections during the plan period are:

Banbury 5,553

Bicester 3,815

Kidlington 504

Rural Areas 2,874

District 12,751
- 1.4 When adjusted for the 7,169 homes (approx) which are already planned for and which are expected to be built after 2016, or which have already been completed or approved between 2006 – 2010, the remaining number of homes which would still need to be planned for within the Core Strategy or permitted is:

Banbury 2,932

Bicester 1,496

Kidlington 308

Rural Areas 841

District 5,582
- 1.5 For comparison, the Draft Core Strategy seeks to allocate strategic sites to deliver 6,130 homes.
- 1.6 For Banbury and Bicester, the projections indicate a combined remaining figure of 4,428 homes which would need to be planned for or permitted within the plan period. The Draft Core Strategy, for comparison, proposes 5,000 new homes in Banbury and Bicester combined within the plan period. The level of development currently proposed in the combined areas of Banbury and Bicester is higher than the projected growth and balanced toward Bicester rather than Banbury.
- 1.7 The projected household growth for Kidlington is notably higher than the level of development that is proposed within the Draft Core Strategy. The Green Belt policy restrictions which surround Kidlington are not factored into these projections. The population of Kidlington is also projected to decline up to 2016. Despite a projected increase in population after 2016, and again not factoring for policy constraints, the projections still indicate a net

population decline by 2026.

- 1.8 These projections may suggest that a slightly higher level of development in Kidlington could be considered in order to offset the projected population decline. However, if the Green Belt is considered to be an overriding constraint then higher growth from Kidlington could be focused toward either Banbury or Bicester. This is similar to the strategy currently proposed in the Draft Core Strategy, where a proportion of growth from the rural areas is proposed to be delivered in Bicester.
- 1.9 Within the Rural Areas (excl. Kidlington), population loss in some areas is offset by higher levels of projected growth in other areas. Within those areas that have been experiencing declining population, the level of growth projected under this scenario is not enough to completely offset that decline, although it does reduce the rate of population decline in those areas over the plan period. If some of the projected household growth in the Rural Areas is re-directed towards Banbury and Bicester, this may further compound this projected population decline within the Rural Areas.
- 1.10 Overall, the population in the Rural Areas (excl. Kidlington) under the Net Nil Migration scenario is projected to increase by 2,486 between 2006 – 2026, leading to a projected growth of 2,874 households. Within the plan period, the projections indicate that homes to accommodate approx. 841 of these households would still need to be planned for or permitted within the plan period.

Implications for Development Strategy based on Draft Core Strategy

- 1.11 On 07 March 2011 the Executive considered a range of illustrative growth scenarios for the period 2006 - 2026. The highest level of growth was based on the South East Plan employment figures and indicated a growth of 18,720 households. The projections indicate that this would be likely to significantly increase both the resident labour force and the population and household growth in the district. These would be likely to have significant impacts on the landscape and infrastructure of the district and this level of growth is therefore considered at this stage to be unrealistic.
- 1.12 The lowest level of growth was based on a Natural Change scenario and indicated a growth level of 11,089 households. Significantly, the projections indicate that this scenario would not meet the housing demand generated from within the district and de-population and/or increased homelessness would be likely to result, as well as a decreasing resident labour force. This level of growth is also therefore considered to be unrealistic.
- 1.13 The remaining scenarios illustrate levels of growth varying between 12,751 and 14,705 households between 2006 – 2026. The highest of these is based on a projected trend of expected development over a 5 year period (2012 – 2016). The volume of development that is expected to be delivered during these years is unusually high due to a concurrent supply of new homes at several large development sites in the District including land at Bankside (Banbury), at South West Bicester and Gavray Drive (Bicester) and at the Former RAF Upper Heyford Airbase.
- 1.14 Of the remaining scenarios, the level of growth based on a 10 year trend is similar to that illustrated in Net Nil Migration and indicates a similar level of

labour force growth.

- 1.15 Based on the demographic evidence, the lowest level of growth that might reasonably be appropriate for the district's internally generated housing demand would be 12,751 homes.
- 1.16 Based on the proposals in the Draft Core Strategy, there are various spatial options for amending the development strategy to reflect this level of growth, some of which are outlined below.
- 1.17 All are based upon delivering a level of growth of 12,751 homes (Net Nil Migration demographic scenario) and therefore a requirement that would still need to be planned for or permitted within the plan period of 5,582 homes, unless otherwise stated. Furthermore, all take as their starting point the indicative spatial distribution options in the Draft Core Strategy.

| Projected household demand (Net Nil Migration demographic scenario) | Approx. requirement that would still need to be planned for or permitted within the plan period (Local Adjustment) | Indicative spatial distribution options based on Draft Core Strategy |
|---|--|---|
| District projection 12,751 | 5,582 | <p>Maintaining proposed strategic sites</p> <p>Canalside 1,200dw</p> <p>Bankside Phase 2 400dw</p> <p>W. of Bretch Hill 400 dw</p> <p>NW Bicester 3,000 dw</p> <p>Rural Areas / other sites 582 dw</p> |
| <p>District projection 12,751</p> <p>(Banbury and Bicester combined projection 2016-2026 4,590)</p> <p>(Rural Areas projection 2016-2026 1,352)</p> | 5,582 | <p>Decreasing growth in towns (A)</p> <p>Delete W. of Bretch Hill allocation. Remaining allocations are:-</p> <p>Canalside 1,200dw</p> <p>Bankside Phase 2 400dw</p> <p>NW Bicester 3,000 dw</p> <p>Rural Areas / other sites 982 dw</p> |
| District projection 12,751 | | <p>Decreasing growth in towns (B)</p> <p>Retain Bretch Hill and</p> |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| | | reduce capacity of Canalside site and/or delete Bankside phase 2 |
| District projection 12,751 | | <p>Decreasing growth in towns (C)</p> <p>Retain all Banbury sites and consider reducing capacity or rate of delivery at North West Bicester.</p> |
| District projection 12,751 | | <p>Rebalance growth between towns</p> <p>Note existing commitment to growth at Bicester but is there opportunity to refine level of growth at Bicester and bring forward a reserve site?</p> |
| District projection 12,751 | | <p>Increase growth at Kidlington</p> <p>This could be balanced by:-</p> <p>Reducing/deleting an allocation in Banbury or Bicester or</p> <p>Reducing the allocation to the Rural Areas or</p> <p>Increasing the figure for the district as a whole</p> |
| District projection 12,751 Plus (say) 500 in Rural Areas | | <p>Rebalance for growth in Rural Areas</p> <p>Increase the allocation to Rural Areas by (say) 500 dwellings to provide better match between household projections and strategy.</p> <p>The Rural Areas total would increase to 1,082 and the District total to 13,251.</p> |

- 1.18 The Executive is asked, without prejudice to further work to be undertaken, to agree to progress the revisions to the Draft Core Strategy and public consultation on the basis of the first option outlined above including further work be undertaken regarding revisions to Policy RA2 (Distribution of Housing in the Rural Areas) in the Draft Core Strategy. This option incorporates all of the proposed strategic sites in the Draft Core Strategy:

Eco-Town NW Bicester 3000 dwellings - during plan period

Canalside Banbury 1200 dwellings

Bankside Phase 2 Banbury 400 dwellings

Bretch Hill Banbury 400 dwellings

This gives a total development programme on identified sites of 5000 dwellings to set against projections which show a potential need of approximately 5600. The balance (c600) would be met within the rural areas and Kidlington.

Neighbourhood planning initiatives will be encouraged in rural locations. This, combined with the expectation of acceptable planning application proposals, will deliver sufficient new village housing and ensure that there is some scope for continued rural development.

No further strategic employment land allocations are proposed other than land included in the Eco-Town proposal.

PPS Eco-Town Standards

- 1.19 Since the publication of the Draft Core Strategy the position with the Eco Town plans for N W Bicester has progressed. The Council's decision to support this development is reflected in the inclusion of NW Bicester as a location with the potential to be an Eco-Town in the PPS1 Eco Towns supplement to PPS1. The new Government has however advised that under its "localism" policy its intent is to move away from top down national planning policy. It is suggesting that all councils will need to do more to develop, justify and adopt their own policies locally. It is proposed that the Eco-Town Standards be incorporated into the LDF Core Strategy. The groundwork for this has already been laid through approval of the informal policy document that includes the Standards - "Eco Bicester – One Shared Vision" - by the Council and Oxfordshire County Council and Bicester Town Council.

Neighbourhood Planning

- 1.20 The Government is proposing to introduce a new type of Plan to be included in the statutory Development Plans system. This is the Neighbourhood Plan. It will take some while for these new plans to be introduced formally, but the Council has agreed to pilot the concept on a site in Banbury and Wroxton (under a Government scheme known as Neighbourhood Plan Front runners). The purpose of the new type of Plan is to allow Town and Parish Councils or community groups to promote development proposals for their area from the bottom up.
- 1.21 More details of the Neighbourhood Planning system proposals are available

on the Communities and Local Government web site (see reference in Background Documents below).

Public Consultation on the Draft Core Strategy

- 1.22 In February 2010 the Council undertook a major public consultation on the Draft Core Strategy. The results of that consultation have been assessed and taken into account in the approach set out in this report. However in many respects the consultation was overtaken by the Localism proposals from the new Government, particularly in that new options were opened up in respect of regional housing targets and development strategy. This means that the detailed comments received are best considered following the new consultation proposed in this report.
- 1.23 A summary Report on Consultation has been prepared and a draft is attached for reference and a copy has been placed in the Member's Room for reference. At this stage the 'Officer's Response' sections have not been completed but it is proposed that these be completed as work on the Revised Draft Core Strategy progresses and that that the finalised document be made available alongside the consultation on the Revised Draft Core Strategy.

Proposed Informal Public Consultation on Draft Core Strategy Revisions

- 1.24 If it accepts the principles of the revisions to the Draft Core Strategy outlined above, the Executive is asked to agree to an informal public consultation on a revised Draft Core Strategy which will include the changes set out above. A delegation to officers in consultation with the Portfolio Holder will be required to complete the detailed documents needed. This will take some time, but it is intended to commence the consultation before the main summer holiday period. The consultation will be an economical postal and web based consultation building on the previous wider public consultation. This is because most of the issues subject to consultation have not changed and previous public views remain relevant. Where changes have been made they go some way to meeting expressed general public concerns about the original Draft Strategy. The main interested parties for this consultation are landowning and development interests. They must be given a reasonable opportunity to respond to the changes proposed as they are directly affected.
- 1.25 This informal consultation is essential before a Draft Core Strategy can progress to the next stage of the statutory process (Submission draft that will be subject to independent public examination) because of the significant changes proposed in response to the Council's responses to Government "localism" initiatives and the proposed abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies. Particularly important in this respect is the need to undertake consultation on the revised strategy with our locally generated figure of population and household growth and projection evidence available for scrutiny.

Draft Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document

- 1.26 This document was approved by Executive at its January meeting. A linked report on this agenda explains the relationship of this document to, and its importance for LDF progress. It will be advantageous to undertake consultation on this document alongside the LDF Core Strategy revision.

Proposals

- 1.27 As described above, the next step on preparation of the LDF Core Strategy is to undertake informal public consultation on the emerging local level of growth for the district, the Development strategy outlined in response, and a number of other changes to the previous Draft Core Strategy.
- 1.28 This consultation would be combined with consultation on the previously approved Draft Planning Obligations SPD.

Conclusion

- 1.29 The preparation of the Local Development Framework is a statutory requirement. However, the Government has proposed that changes to the statutory procedures for the preparation of Local Development Frameworks will be introduced in April 2012. These changes are expected to include greater responsibility for local planning authorities in assessing their local housing needs.
- 1.30 The population and household projections set out in this report, together with the proposal to undertake public consultation on the revised development strategy as set out in a Revised Draft Core Strategy, will provide a basis for the Council to progress the Draft Core Strategy to a Proposed Submission document taking into account any changes to the plan preparation procedures.

Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

- 3.1 To agree to progress an informal public consultation on the emerging local level of growth for the district and to delegate the preparation of a Revised Draft Core Strategy and consultation material to the Head of Planning Policy & Economic Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning & Housing..

The following options have been identified. The approach in the recommendation is believed to be the best way forward.

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Option One | To agree the recommendations as set out in the report. |
| Option Two | To amend the recommendations |
| Option Three | Not to agree the recommendations. |

Consultations

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Councillor Michael | Continuous informal briefing / steer and work via LDF |
|---------------------------|---|

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Gibbard | Panel |
| LDF Advisory Panel | Briefings in November and December 2010 and May 2011. |

Implications

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Financial: | <p>Budget provision has already been made to undertake public consultation on the Draft Core Strategy. There is wider ongoing budgetary provision for the work on the LDF within the Council's wider budget planning</p> <p>Comments checked by Joanne Kaye, Service Accountant, 01295 221545</p> |
| Legal: | <p>The preparation of this Revised Draft Core Strategy and subsequent public consultation is part of the ongoing public participation (regulation 25) stage of preparing the Core Strategy as a Development Plan Document under current statutory procedures. There are no direct legal implications arising from this. It should be recognised that the development strategy proposed in this report is based upon a level of housing growth that may not be in general conformity with the present Regional Spatial Strategy.</p> <p>Comments checked by Nigel Bell, Team Leader – Planning and Litigation, 01295 221687</p> |
| Risk Management: | <p>As noted above, the preparation of, and public consultation on, this Draft Core Strategy is part of the ongoing public participation (regulation 25) stage of preparing the Core Strategy. It is important that public consultation under regulation 25 is properly carried out, in addition to other requirements, in order that the Council can demonstrate that the Core Strategy is “sound” in this respect. Failure to do so would risk the possibility of the Core Strategy being found “unsound” by an Inspector at an Examination. This would mean wasted work and resources and an inevitable significant delay in adopting the Core Strategy.</p> <p>Comments checked by Philip Clarke, Head of Planning Policy and Economic Development, 01295 221840</p> |
| Equalities | <p>The Core Strategy will assist in delivering a number of matters in relation to equalities. The Equality Impact Assessment of the planning service highlighted the need for Development Plan Documents to consider issues of race and in particular the needs of gypsies and travellers. The Core Strategy will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment prior to submission. The details of the Localism Bill are currently emerging and there remains some uncertainty regarding details of any final legislative changes.</p> <p>Comments checked by Claire Taylor, Community & Corporate Planning Manager, 01295 221563</p> |

Wards Affected

All

Corporate Plan Themes

A District of Opportunity
A Cleaner Greener Cherwell
A Safe and healthy Cherwell
An Accessible Value for Money Council

Executive Portfolio

Councillor Michael Gibbard
Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing

Document Information

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| Background Papers | |
| Report to Executive 07 March 2011 'Population and Household Projections for Cherwell and Key Implications for the Local Development Framework'. | |
| http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/neighbourhoodplanningvanguards/ | |
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Appendix 1: Table 1: Sub-Area Projections based on Net Nil Migration scenario

Households

| | 2006 | 2011 | 2016 | 2021 | 2026 | 2006-2016 | 2016-2026 | 2006-2026 | Cherwell planning permissions and commitments to March 2010 | Local Adjustment - Household figure (2006-2026) minus Cherwell planning permissions and commitments to March 2010 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|---|
| Cherwell | 55,979 | 58,263 | 62,404 | 65,567 | 68,730 | 6,425 | 6,326 | 12,751 | 7,169 | 5,582 |
| Banbury | 18,678 | 19,893 | 21,508 | 22,894 | 24,231 | 2,830 | 2,723 | 5,553 | 2,621 | 2,932 |
| Bicester | 12,586 | 12,744 | 14,535 | 15,500 | 16,401 | 1,949 | 1,867 | 3,815 | 2,319 | 1,496 |
| Kidlington | 5,610 | 5,714 | 5,734 | 5,937 | 6,115 | 124 | 380 | 504 | 196 | 308 |
| Rural Areas (not including Kidlington) | 19,117 | 19,922 | 20,637 | 21,245 | 21,991 | 1,522 | 1,352 | 2,874 | 2,033 | 841 |

Population

| | 2006 | 2011 | 2016 | 2021 | 2026 | 2006-2016 | 2016-2026 | 2006-2026 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Cherwell | 132,320 | 134,171 | 139,865 | 143,605 | 147,518 | 7,545 | 7,653 | 15,198 |
| Banbury | 43,585 | 44,948 | 47,422 | 49,264 | 51,070 | 3,836 | 3,649 | 7,485 |
| Bicester | 30,076 | 29,829 | 32,800 | 34,149 | 35,384 | 2,724 | 2,584 | 5,308 |
| Kidlington | 13,410 | 13,314 | 13,016 | 13,201 | 13,330 | -394 | 314 | -80 |
| Rural Areas (not including Kidlington) | 45,247 | 46,080 | 46,627 | 46,990 | 47,733 | 1,379 | 1,107 | 2,486 |

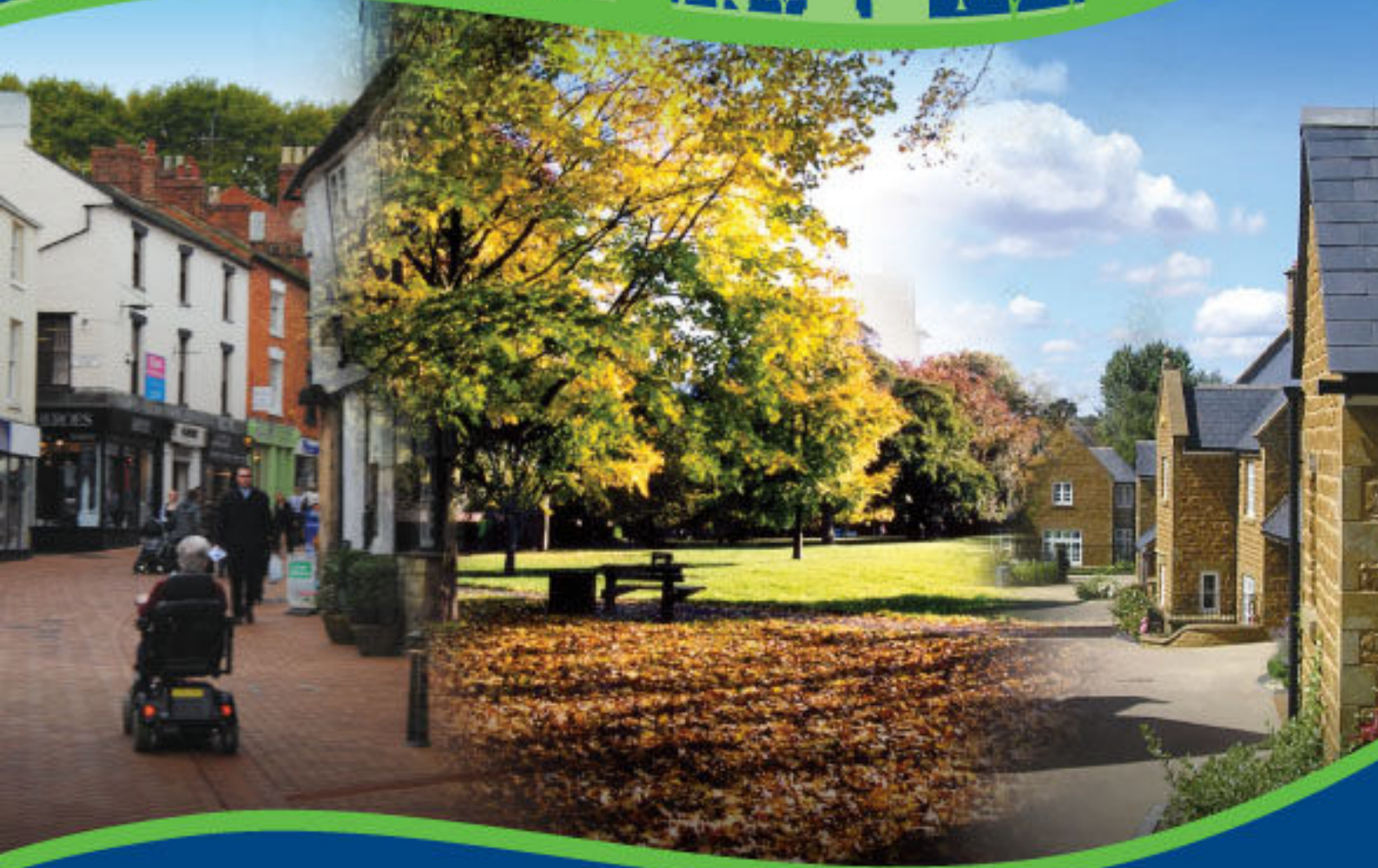
Average Household Size

| | 2006 | 2011 | 2016 | 2021 | 2026 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| Cherwell | 2.32 | 2.26 | 2.20 | 2.15 | 2.10 |
| Banbury | 2.33 | 2.27 | 2.21 | 2.16 | 2.11 |
| Bicester | 2.38 | 2.33 | 2.28 | 2.22 | 2.18 |
| Kidlington | 2.34 | 2.28 | 2.22 | 2.17 | 2.13 |
| Rural Areas (not including Kidlington) | 2.27 | 2.21 | 2.16 | 2.11 | 2.07 |

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Cherwell Local Development Framework

• your space •
• your say •



Draft core strategy

Report on Consultation

Draft Report
(Page numbers to be finalised)

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1 Draft Core Strategy

In early 2010 Cherwell District Council consulted on their draft core strategy as part of the preparation of the Cherwell Local Development Framework.

The Core Strategy, upon adoption, will guide development and growth across the District until 2026.

As part of its preparation, the draft core strategy set out and sought opinion on:

- How the district will grow
- Where this growth will be, including strategic sites for new housing and employment
- How the growth will be delivered

1.1 How did we consult?

The consultation ran for 8 weeks from 22nd February to 19th April 2010.

A number of documents were prepared as part of the consultation:

- Draft Core Strategy
- Draft Sustainability Appraisal
- Executive Summary
- Leaflet
- Questionnaire

1.1.1 Distribution

All of the consultation documents were available to view and comment online for the duration of the consultation, at www.cherwell.gov.uk/localdevelopmentframework

They were also available to view at the following locations:

- Cherwell District Council Office, Bodicote House
- The Bicester, Banbury and Kidlington Link Points
- All District libraries including mobile libraries

Leaflets and questionnaires were available at these locations for people to take away.

Hard copies of the draft core strategy, draft sustainability appraisal, a number of leaflets and questionnaires were sent to all Town and Parish Councils within the District.

Parishes Councils were also sent further copies of the leaflets and/or questionnaires upon request. For example Bodicote Parish Council requested 1000 leaflets and 1200 questionnaires. These were then distributed by the Parish with their village newsletter.

All District Councillors received a hard copy of the documents.

Cherwell Local Strategic Partnership Project Board and the Management Group members all received a hard copy of the documents.

Hard copies were also sent to a number of organisations, including Environment Agency, Highways Agency, and Natural England (See Appendix 2.1 for full list).

1.1.2 Press Coverage

A press briefing was given on the 25th January 2010 by the Council following approval of the draft core strategy by Executive. This provided the press with the opportunity to discuss the draft core strategy and forthcoming consultation with planning policy officers. They also received various documentation including images of the maps.

Notices of the consultation were placed in the Banbury Guardian, Banbury Cake, Bicester Advertiser and the Oxford Times for two consecutive weeks, week commencing 15th and 22nd February 2010.

A full page advert highlighting the consultation was published in the Banbury Cake and the Bicester Advertiser during the consultation period.

The Council published a page highlighting the consultation in the Cherwell Link. This is the free Council publication which is delivered to every household in the District.

Various articles were published in the local press and on the local radio discussing the draft core strategy during the consultation period.

Hard copies of the press articles are available to view on request.

1.1.3 Exhibitions

Five exhibitions were held across the District during the consultation. This involved display boards and pull up display boards showing summaries of the information contained within the core strategy. They provided the opportunity for people to come and ask officers questions about the consultation and to takeaway leaflets and questionnaires.

| Date | Venue |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 5 th March 2010 | Crown Walk, Bicester |
| 6 th March 2010 | Crown Walk, Bicester |
| 13 th March 2010 | Castle Quay, Banbury |
| 25 th March 2010 | Bodicote House, Bodicote |
| 30 th March 2010 | Sunshine Centre, Bretch Hill, Banbury |

1.1.4 Workshops

Two workshops were held for Town and Parish Councils during the consultation period:

- 8th March 2010 at Weston on the Green Village Hall
- 17th March 2010 at Bodicote House, Bodicote

Prior to the workshops we asked the Parish Councils if they would like to discuss the following policy areas during the sessions:

- Strategic Sites
- Village Allocations
- Other Policy areas

The majority of attendees requested a village allocations focus, so it was decided, with the Parish Councils' agreement, to run the workshops in an open discussion format. An officer gave a presentation on the draft core strategy and there were then questions and answers as a whole group.

These sessions were not minuted as they were to provide an opportunity for Parish Councils to find out more about the consultation which would then inform their representations to the draft core strategy.

1.1.5 Meetings

A number of other meetings were also held across the district during the consultation. Some organised by the Planning Policy team and some by other departments of the Council as part of their work. All provided an opportunity to raise awareness on the draft core strategy consultation and for the community to ask questions.

| Date | Group | Officers |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 22 nd February 2010 | Rural Affordable Housing Workshop, Islip | Officers presented the consultation as part of the full day event and answered questions |
| 23 rd February 2010 | Mollington Conservation Area | Officers attended the meeting and answered questions |
| 25 th February 2010 | Cherwell Local Strategic Partnership Event | Officers presented as part of the event and answered questions |
| 2 nd March 2010 | Wardington Conservation Area | Officers attended the meeting and answered questions |
| 3 rd March 2010 | Banbury Youth Forum | A briefing note and consultation material were provided to CDC officers who distributed and discussed at this group meeting |
| 12 th March 2010 | Banbury Rotary Club | Officer presentation and Q& A session |
| 15 th March 2010 | Kirtlington Conservation Area | Officers attended the meeting and answered questions |
| 18 th March 2010 | Kidlington Parish Council | Officer presentation and Q& A session |
| 22 nd March 2010 | Bicester Youth Forum | A briefing note and consultation material was provided to CDC officers who |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| | | distributed and discussed at this group meeting |
| 23 rd March 2010 | Bicester Vision AGM | Officers presented the consultation as part of the AGM and answered questions |
| 23 rd March 2010 | Bicester Town Council | Officer presentation and Q& A session |
| 24 th March 2010 | Cherwell Equality and Diversity Panel | Officer presentation and Q& A session |
| 25 th March 2010 | Wroxton and Balscote Parish Council | Officer and Parish Councillor discussion |
| 25 th March 2010 | Kidlington Parish Council | Officer presentation and Q& A session |
| 26 th March 2010 | Banbury School | Officer presentation about Eco Town and Q & A session and then practical exercise on an eco home. |
| 30 th March 2010 | Registered Social Landlords Development Group | Officer attended and talked through the document followed by a discussion. |
| 30 th March 2010 | Hanwell and Drayton Parish Council | Officer presentation and Q& A session |
| 31 st March 2010 | Banbury Town Council | Officer presentation and Q& A session |
| 1 st April 2010 | CHIP meeting | Officer presentation and Q& A session |

1.2 Responses

All responses made during the consultation period are available to view online at <http://consult.cherwell.gov.uk/portal/ldf/cs/>

Where respondents have not specified question numbers, responses have been considered under the most appropriate question number following officer consideration. This may mean that the same comments are placed under a number of questions.

1.2.1 Breakdown of responses

We received a total of 592 responses to the draft core strategy consultation.

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Web | 75 |
| Emails | 83 |
| Questionnaires | 321 |
| Letters | 113 |

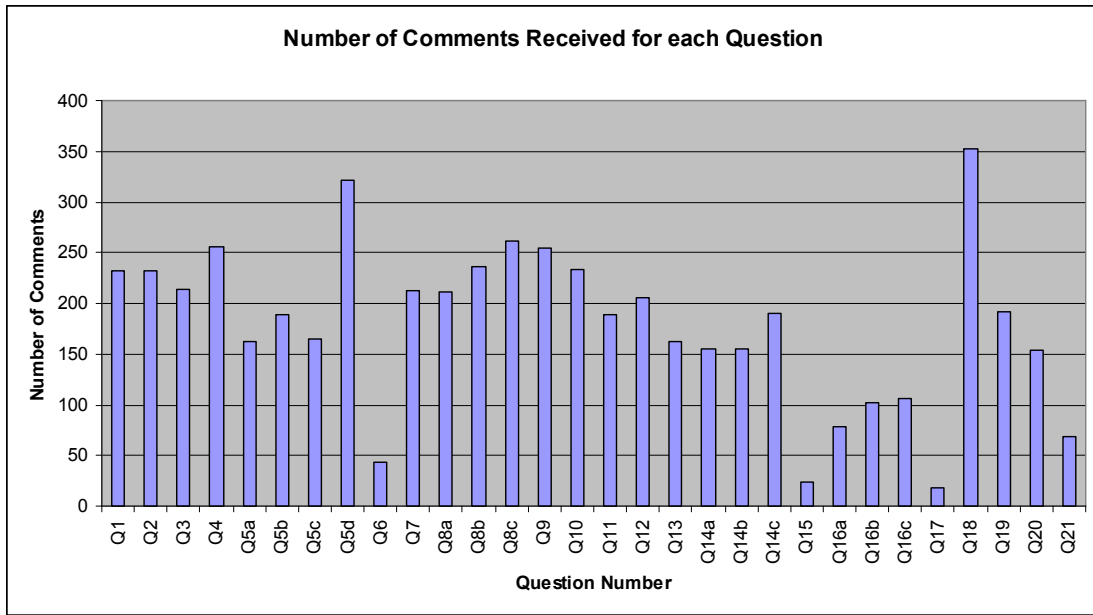
Some of the letters and emails do not state to which question/s the respondent's comment relates to and therefore the officers take a decision as to which question/s the comment is most applicable to. Where necessary this may mean that the same comments are placed under a number of questions.

Not all responses received contained a comment to every question and therefore the majority of questions in the report do not have a total of five hundred and ninety two in there total

In total 4342 comments were made.

We have received a number of representations without contact details on them. **SAY HOW MANY** where this is the case they have not been considered a formal representation and they have not been included within the responses made available online or within the figures above. However officers have been made aware of these responses and where received they have been separately noted in the question summary.

1.2.2 Summary of response rates to questions



This table shows that the questions that received the most comments were Question 18 and 5

Question 18 asked “Do you support the site allocated for the relocation of Banbury United Football club”

Question 5 asked “Do you support the allocations proposed for strategic housing allocations” and specifically Banbury – Land at Bankside (Phase 2).

These two questions will be discussed in more detail later in this report.

1.3 Summary of responses

Below are the summaries of the main points made to each question. They are to act as a guide only and full responses to all the questions can be viewed at <http://consult.cherwell.gov.uk/portal/ldf/cs>.

All officers use the full responses as they prepare the next stage of the Core Strategy.

The summaries below often contain many more comments that object to an area of the Core Strategy, than comments in support, even though the question will have higher overall support than objections. . We can summarise that this is because when people object to a question they usually add why they object and/or propose an alternative option.

1.4 Question 1: Do you support the vision for Cherwell District?

| | Yes | No | Total |
|-----------------|-----|----|-------|
| No of Responses | 163 | 69 | 232 |

1.4.1 Summary of Responses

70% of all respondents support the vision for Cherwell District. Many of the comments were made in relation to the following issues:

- Transport
- Infrastructure
- Level of growth
- Employment
- Rural Settlements

2.1.1.1 Reasons for supporting the vision:

- Supports a sustainable rural economy that is not entirely reliant on agriculture
- Includes a desire to maintain and improve the vitality and viability of urban centres
- Retains the local distinctiveness of Banbury as a historic market town
- Well thought out

2.1.1.2 Reasons for not supporting the vision:

- Does not include improvements to IT infrastructure for rural communities
- Overall proposals are unfeasible without a complete rethink of a new ring road for Banbury
- It should place greater emphasis on importance of rural settlements and communities
- No appropriate plan for traffic
- No flood alleviation scheme for Central Bicester
- Objections to the level of housing provision for the district

- Failure to plan for the cost and implementation of necessary infrastructure prior to developments coming forward

2.1.1.3 Other specific comments

One respondent suggested the Vision does not take sufficient account of existing communities; with policy being governed by centralised government ideology disconnected from the people it serves.

One comments said the Vision should make specific reference to supporting the development of employment sites for B1, B2 and B8 development in order to ensure that economic development matches the rate of growth in the residential sector, as this will provide a more sustainable pattern of development.

One respondent commented that it is difficult to fault the Vision as such, because it is fully scoped. However, it lacks detail, especially with regard to the role that Cherwell's unique and valuable assets might play, how progress is going to be made, and how Cherwell Council will know that its efforts are progressing towards the Vision, step by step. There is, in particular, a lack of detail on the necessary requirements for a robust policy framework on the knowledge economy. And the Vision needs to be founded on an up to date economic evidence base.

One respondent argues that the vision is not substantiated as it states “Cherwell will maintain its rural character”, but this does not appear to apply to Bodicote due to the large amount of housing being built of green fields and being called an urban extension to Banbury.

One comment related specifically to growth in villages; offering support for the proposal to direct growth at most sustainable villages.

One respondent suggests that without a complete rethink on a new ring road around Banbury, the proposals are not feasible.

Hanwell PC support the Vision in general terms. Further comments say they would like to see some reference to the importance of the underlying "sustainability" of the Vision and some recognition that Cherwell - like many other parts of the South East - has environmental limits to continued growth and development.

One respondent focused specially on the area around Hook Norton and The Sibfords. The comments suggest the statement of vision fails to recognise the distinctive needs of the Hook Norton - Sibfords area as contrasted with the M40 corridor. These comments are based on concerns relating to sustainability, the inability to reduce car use, the sensitivity of the surrounding landscape and the distinctiveness of the rural economy in the area. It is suggested that the distinctive contribution of this area should be explicitly recognised, not covered by policies appropriate to other Cherwell areas.

One respondent suggested the Vision should include the ‘non-coalescence’ of villages to help retain their identities and to achieve the point in section A.18 which states "the need to protect and enhance the identity of Cherwell's towns and villages".

Network Rail commented that there is little reference to transportation issues and the future aims/vision of which the Council may have to improve the transport infrastructure and opportunities for transportation.

One respondent suggests the vision should place greater emphasis on the importance of the rural settlements within Cherwell and the need to provide additional housing to ensure the retention of rural services and facilities.

One respondent comments that the 'vision' for Cherwell District appears myopic. On a superficial level its aims are an attempt to be seen to be dancing to central government's tune, as dictated by a quango based in Guildford. On a practical level, there is a total failure to plan for, cost, and implement the essential infrastructure measures necessary, prior to successfully undertaking the bulk of its proposals.

Banbury Town Council supports the vision and feels it is important to retain the local distinctiveness of Banbury as an historic market town.

Officers Response

Many comments made in not supporting the vision are in relation to the lack of inclusion of “specific” issues such as Banbury Ring Road, IT, types of development and flood alleviation in Central Bicester.

(These sections to be added)

1.5 Question 2: Do you support the spatial strategy for Cherwell District?

| | Yes | No | Total |
|-----------------|-----|----|-------|
| No of Responses | 142 | 90 | 232 |

1.5.1 Summary of Responses

61% of respondents support the Spatial Strategy for Cherwell District.

2.2.1.1 Reasons for supporting the spatial strategy:

- The growth is directed at the major towns which protects rural areas
- The objectives promote sustainable development
- Support for the suggestion that Banbury should grow at a slower pace than Bicester
- It aims to protect the Green Belt from development

2.2.1.2 Reasons for not supporting the spatial strategy:

- Certain aspects of the strategy are not compatible with the vision
- Too much focus of development on Bicester
- Too many large, dense housing sites
- Does not maintain the rural character of Cherwell
- The Spatial Strategy is not holistic or realistic and does not deliver in the proposed developments
- The district can not sustain growth on the scale proposed without a decrease in quality of life for existing residents
- The distribution of housing in rural areas is inappropriate

2.2.1.3 Other Comments

With regards to the issue of growth, one respondent argues that whilst the strategy states that growth (outside the main urban areas) will be directed towards the larger and more sustainable villages, it would actually be better to spread some of this development to the less sustainable villages to make them more sustainable.

One respondent suggested that the aims of the 'spatial' strategy are contradictory and illogical. The aim to 'Strictly control development in open countryside' is at total odds with existing and future planning proposals. At the same time severely restricting the potential of the redevelopment of the Upper Heyford base; a site where most of the government targets for housing numbers could be met without further intrusion and blight on the life of the majority of villages of Oxfordshire.

One respondent comments that the amount of housing planned for Bicester is too high.

One developer supports the aspect of the spatial strategy which seeks to direct most of the growth in the district to locations within or immediately adjoining the main towns of Banbury and Bicester. However whilst Bicester is

recognised in the spatial strategy as the main location for development within the Central Oxfordshire sub-region (in line with the South East Plan), it is important that sufficient growth is directed to Banbury in order to support its role as the 'Primary Regional Centre'.

One respondent comments that while they agree that development in the Green Belt and AONB must be controlled more strictly than elsewhere, it is important to remember that farmers and growers manage this landscape on a day-to-day basis as part of their agricultural operations. If they are to remain on the land to perform this service, their businesses must be profitable and competitive. This means that they must be able to keep up with modern production methods, hygiene standards and environmental regulation requirements, with associated planning applications. For these reasons, a degree of reasonable agricultural development should be permitted even in these designated areas.

One respondent supports the need for the plan, but questions the need for this amount of new housing in the country.

Officers Response

1.6 Question 3: Do you support the fourteen strategic objectives?

| | Yes | No | Total |
|-----------------|-----|----|-------|
| No of Responses | 147 | 67 | 214 |

1.6.1 Summary of Responses

68% of respondents support the fourteen strategic objectives.

2.3.1.1 Reasons for supporting the strategic objectives

- Supports diversification in the rural economy and provision of affordable housing to cater for employees of rural businesses
- Promotes vitality, viability and distinctiveness of urban centres

2.3.1.2 Reasons for not supporting the strategic objective

- Lack of proposed infrastructure to accompany and support housing development
- Where is the economic growth going to come from?
- The objectives are not locally distinctive
- Not practical
- Trying to cut car use, but CDC has no control over this
- Not enough regeneration of existing areas
- Remain unconvinced by the evidence to support additional housing

2.3.1.3 Other Comments

One respondent suggested that many of the objectives rely on commitment from outside bodies to achieve them and questions if this is a realistic approach.

Another respondent suggests that including "employment opportunities and services" after "housing" in objective SO.8 would better indicate the Council's intention to develop sustainable rural communities. The provision of housing alone will not achieve this aim.

One developer suggests that the strategic objectives fail to provide the link between the high level vision and the detailed strategy, as required by paragraph 4.3 of PPS12. Instead, the strategic objectives, whether they be in respect of economic, community or environmental issues, are of a generic nature which could be applied to any district within the country. Consequently, they cannot be said to "expand the Vision" into key specific issues for the area.

The Government Office for the South East commented on the need to look again at the strategic objectives in the light of paragraphs 4.1 to 4.5 of PPS12 to focus them on the key spatial issues to be addressed, such as (for example) delivery of an eco-town, regeneration of a run-down area, boosting town centre performance etc. The objectives, as currently written, could apply to most areas of the country and do not seem to grasp the key local delivery

issues the plan is seeking to address. They may be better placed within the sustainability appraisal as sustainability objectives rather than strategic plan objectives. In order to show clear arrangements for managing and monitoring delivery of the strategy, the monitoring indicators and critical success factors should be linked to strategic objectives so that the Council can identify whether or not it is meeting the strategic objectives through implementing the strategy and report its findings and proposed actions in the AMR.

The Highways Authority is supportive of the 14 strategic objectives, particularly objective SO 12 which aims to reduce the dependency on the private car as a mode of travel.

NEED TO ADD IN ENGLISH HERITAGES COMMENTS ON SO

Officers Response

1.7 Question 4: Do you support the proposed overall distribution of development across the District (development strategy)?

| No of Responses | Yes | No | Total |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-------|
| | 129 | 127 | 256 |

1.7.1 Summary of Responses

In relation to the distribution of development across the District, the respondents were split with 50% supporting the overall distribution of development.

2.4.1.1 Reasons for supporting the distribution of development:

- Overall support for the emphasis of growth
- Approve of North West Bicester allocation reducing the housing target in rural areas
- Support for the distribution of new housing development to the rural areas of the district in order that the vitality of such settlements can be maintained. However, it is important that development is focused in the most sustainable locations which comprise the Category A settlements
- There is a need for further homes in Banbury, especially affordable housing for local people

2.4.1.2 Reasons for not supporting the distribution of development:

- Concerns over proposed eco-town and forcing Bicester to have more houses than is required
- Virtually all North Cherwell houses could be built at Upper Heyford
- Too much housing in Bicester
- Bodicote is losing its physical identity and becoming a suburb of Banbury
- Councils should renovate all unoccupied houses/flats before building more homes, and stop people buying second homes
- 600 units allocated to Bicester should be returned to the villages
- 90% of housing distribution should be in the two major towns. The villages should be left as they are with only infill taking place and not major development
- Canalside development is in the floodplain
- Infrastructure has not been thought through fully
- There will not be enough jobs and facilities for the number of houses proposed
- Smaller villages should not be excluded from development

2.4.1.3 Other Comments

One respondent suggests that the overall pattern of distribution seems sensible given the demands of Cherwell, but they question whether Cherwell needs to continue to accommodate this overall level of growth for the next 20 years.

Another respondent would support any development providing good thought is given to flooding and transport.

Whilst Bicester is recognised in the spatial strategy as the main location for development within the Central Oxfordshire sub-region (in line with the South East Plan), it is important that sufficient growth is directed to Banbury in order to support its role as the 'Primary Regional Centre'. Bicester is neither a Primary Regional Centre nor Secondary Regional Centre in the South East Plan and its growth should be considered in this light. The Core Strategy should ensure that sufficient growth is directed to Banbury (and its catchment) to sustain its role as a 'Primary Regional Centre' and support appropriate growth and development.

The Homes and Communities Agency commented that as the Core Strategy develops further, they would expect to see a programme/ timeline for the delivery of each Strategic Site identified within the Core Strategy. A contingency plan should also be identified which would be triggered if there are slippages in the programme beyond the plan period.

Kidlington Parish Council does not support the proposed distribution of development. They suggest the distribution does not reflect identified local need, and has been arrived at using completely unsound methods. It delivers only the housing targets set out within the SE Plan (H1) as minimum targets, and makes no contribution towards the regeneration agenda that should be in place to meet the special needs of Kidlington. They do not accept the argument that housing in eco-town will be more sustainable than other developments, as the Code for Sustainable Housing standards will apply to all housing developments.

Officers Response

1.8 Question 5: Do you support the allocations proposed for strategic housing allocations?

| Site Locations | Yes | No | Total |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| North West Bicester (Eco Development) | 118 | 44 | 162 |
| Banbury Canalside | 133 | 56 | 189 |
| Banbury Land West of Bretch Hill | 117 | 48 | 165 |
| Banbury Land at Bankside (phase 2) | 97 | 225 | 322 |

1.8.1 Summary of responses to North West Bicester (Eco Development)

62% of respondents support the strategic housing allocation at North West Bicester.

2.5.1.1 Reasons for supporting North West Bicester (Eco Development):

- The proposal for NW Bicester is a sensible response to the eco-town issue and to the long term regeneration and growth of Bicester
- Bicester, unlike Banbury, has fewer physical constraints to its further expansion

2.5.1.2 Reasons for not supporting North West Bicester (Eco Development):

- N W Bicester is not viable because there is insufficient consideration to the reality of sustainability
- Traffic generation will cause gridlock on already overcrowded roads
- The scale of development will result in the loss of green space
- Allocation is a response to the threat of Weston Otmoor and not a sound planning decision
- Brownfield sites in the area should be given first priority
- Too many farms are being destroyed and laid to tarmac
- Insufficient infrastructure to cope with growth
- NW Bicester does not contain innovative and exemplary proposals that can deliver a step-change in peoples' transport habits or a step-change in the fortunes of the town

2.5.1.3 Other Comments

One respondent has significant concerns that the development will add to the problem of Ambrosden being used as an alternative route to Oxford.

One respondent argues that the North West Bicester site probably has the least impact on the surrounding villages than development elsewhere in Bicester.

Another respondent is concerned that the NW Bicester Eco-town is undeliverable - not least in terms of jobs, an essential component of the sustainability mix.

One respondent questioned the ability to deliver one new job for each new household as the pace of development seems to be faster than the growth of employment related to the development.

Several respondents suggest that NW Bicester will give rise to additional need for investment in highways and other infrastructure provision within the town centre.

One respondent suggests that the LDF must make it clear that developers must take a holistic approach by showing how the new extensions to Bicester will be integrated with the present town to create cohesive, robust, sustainable and interdependent communities.

One local landowner argues that they own 250 acres of the 845 acre site for NW Bicester and have been trying to remove their land from the allocation for over 18 months.

One developer raised concerns about the timing of delivery. They question the eco-towns central position within the Core Strategy given its inability to deliver significant housing numbers in the early part of the Plan period.

SEEDA considers that the proposed eco-extension of North West Bicester represents a significant opportunity for the Council to become an exemplar Local Authority in the delivery of sustainable economic development and has the potential to be a real opportunity for the borough more widely through tourism stemming from the eco-town.

SEEDA also considers that the cross cutting policies of the Core Strategy do not make adequate cross-reference to the eco-extension. In particular, the Policies for Developing a Sustainable Local Economy need to make much more of the eco-town concept.

One respondent argues there is no economic viability assessment or residual land value calculation that can be relied upon and therefore no evidence to suggest that the NW Bicester scheme is viable.

Another respondent comments that the Core Strategy should address the relationship between the NW Bicester Eco Town designation and the flow of benefits and opportunities to the existing town which can be maximised by taking a joint strategic 'whole of Bicester' approach.

One developer suggests that Policy NWB1 fails to identify the level and form of retail provision within the eco-development. This introduces a level of uncertainty which may impact on delivery of homes and jobs given that retail provision as part of community and other appropriate facilities is likely to be essential to achieve a sustainable development.

Officers Response

1.8.2 Summary of responses to Banbury - Canalside

70% of respondents support the strategic housing allocation at Banbury: Canalside.

2.5.2.1 Reasons for supporting Banbury - Canalside:

- The site is highly sustainable and in need of regeneration
- It is close to the railway station allowing travel by train
- Allows for walking and cycling and less reliance on the private car
- Canalside will contribute to the vision for Banbury town centre
- New housing will create demand for shops, helping the town centre
- The site already has amenities and infrastructure near by
- Developing Canalside will prevent loss of valuable landscape and greenfield sites
- Developing brownfield sites is more environmentally friendly
- The site reflects the findings of the BANITLUS
- It will allow for the creation of a linear park through the town
- Areas on the site are under occupied and in disrepair
- Urban location allows for a high density of residential development
- There is an opportunity to redevelop the canal

2.5.2.2 Reasons for not supporting Banbury - Canalside:

- There should be no extension of Banbury Town Centre to the east as this will undermine the viability of the existing town centre
- The amount of commercial development within Canalside is too high
- There will be a loss of ecology
- Contamination will need to be remediated
- The site is in the floodplain and should not be developed
- The Sequential and Exceptions tests have not been completed
- No flood alleviation scheme is 100% safe
- It is unclear whether flood risk has been taken into account
- Flooding may reduce the capacity of the site
- Too many new homes are proposed
- Due to constraints the number of dwellings should be reduced
- There will be noise concerns from trains
- A Master Plan should guide incremental development and funding arrangements
- There will not be enough money for improving the canal/towpath
- Not enough parking is being proposed at Canalside
- Shared use of the parking by residents and rail users is unworkable
- There should be a substantial linear park between the Canal and river
- The two access points from tramway and station approach will not be sufficient
- Development would lead to traffic in Grimsbury and on the inner relief road
- Development as proposed would negatively affect railway operations.
- Windsor Street should be calmed

- The Banitlus study highlighted how sustainable Canalside was but also how every arterial road in Banbury was at capacity and therefore a south east relief road is necessary
- The site is not deliverable
- The scheme is too ambitious
- The proposals are unviable
- A comprehensive redevelopment is not possible
- It cannot be delivered within the timescales set out in the Core Strategy
- There may be difficulties/delays in relocating the football club
- Setting out undeliverable proposals on this site will cause blight
- A requirement for 30% affordable housing will affect viability
- CDC should put in place a robust S.106 regime
- The capacity of the site should be guided by the consultation responses received by landowners
- Difficult plots (say due to contamination) will require gap funding.
- Securing a bridge over the railway will be difficult and would require agreement with Network Rail
- The densities proposed mean the provision of significant amounts of flatted accommodation. The demand for such units is virtually non-existent from both the private and social housing sectors
- Any scheme will need to include a budget for relocation costs and compensation and this appears not to have been addressed
- The policy must be redrafted to set out a framework that allows individual landowners to make separate planning applications on a site-by-site basis so long as they are in broad compliance with the SPD
- Delays in the redevelopment of the Cattle Market demonstrate how difficult it is to redevelop land in several ownerships
- Under the current proposals the Council will have to use CPO
- Development would lead to the loss of businesses and employment land
- Older industries may not be able to relocate to other locations
- Some areas on the site continue to attract employment investment.
- There should be early provision of employment land and premises at Banbury to cater for the loss of employment land at Canalside
- Policy should seek to support retention of existing businesses where they remain commercially viable both financially and operational
- Businesses at Canalside offer lower skilled or manual employment
- None of the issues raised in objections to the SPD have been addressed in the Core Strategy
- Refusal of planning permission for other uses that do not comply with the Core Strategy will stifle investment
- Any evidence base which considers the viability and deliverability of the site should be made publicly available
- The Council has not met legal/policy requirements, including those set out in PPS12, the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and 'Sustainability Appraisal'
- There has been a lack of consultation with Stakeholders/landowners

- Development should be phased so car parking can be maintained all the way through any re-development proposals
- BANITLUS should assess a reduced number of dwellings at Canalside
- There is insufficient evidence to support the scheme

2.5.2.3 Other Comments

Banbury United state that the proposals offer an excellent opportunity to realise its aims, and it will be able to meet the needs of all of its members and deliver aims of offering leisure/sporting benefits to the community in general.

CEMEX would like land on the eastern side of the railway line allocated for mixed use development, which they believe could form part of a wider regeneration area with Canalside.

Given the proposed development of the Banbury United Football Club site within the Canalside allocation Sport England highlight their statutory consultee status regarding planning applications affecting playing field land.

The Environment Agency state that a sequential and exception tests are being undertaken for Banbury Canalside and that they acknowledge that the Council will be completing these before pre-submission. They express concern that consultation on a Spatial Strategy has been completed before the Sequential test and Exception test is complete. They also advise that there should be a clear audit trail of evidence showing how key decisions have been taken. A Level 2 SFRA should be completed. Development should also be phased to allow effective clean up of contamination sources and pathways. Development should enhance the riverside environment and provide open space mainly focused in the areas of highest flood risk. Some clarification may be helpful about the carbon rating being required in this policy. It is not clear why Canalside has been allocated in preference to other sites.

Stage Coach support redevelopment of Banbury Canalside in the longer term. However they state that as occupiers of the site, who provide an invaluable service to the District, the impact of proposals on their operation should not be overlooked. They need to be relocated to a site within the urban area of Banbury which is not in close proximity to residents.

Officers Response

1.8.3 Summary of responses to Banbury - Land west of Bretch Hill

71% of respondents support the strategic housing allocation on land west of Bretch Hill Banbury.

2.5.3.1 Reasons for supporting Banbury – Land west of Bretch Hill:

- General recognition of the need for further homes and especially affordable homes for local people
- The existing farm track provides a natural physical boundary (Banbury Town Council)
- Development could revitalise the estate, provide additional open space and improve the urban fringe (Banbury Town Council)
- Traffic could be dissipated by using Stratford Road, Warwick Road, Dukes Meadow Road or roads through the estate. (Banbury Town Council)
- Development could help improve the physical and social infrastructure of the adjacent area

2.5.3.2 Reasons for not supporting Banbury – Land west of Bretch Hill:

- Development should be located in built up areas which have better transport links and local amenities
- Considerable distance to employment sites and the town centre
- Impact on local services, amenities and employment which are limited
- Several well used public rights of way which cross the site would be adversely affected, including the Banbury Fringe Circular Walk
- The site is unsuitable for development due to its landscape sensitivity (as indicated in the District Council's Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment), being open, elevated and prominent in views from the west, and due to its proximity to Grade II* Wroxton Abbey Park, Drayton Conservation Area and listed Withycombe Farm
- Development and lighting would be visible on the skyline, having an urbanising affect in unspoilt areas and could not be screened with planting due to the potential adverse impact on the open landscape character and on Wroxton Abbey parkland
- In view of the landscape constraints there would need to be strong and compelling reasons for the site to be developed and these are not clearly identified
- Displacement and disruption to local wildlife including badgers
- Loss of high quality farmland
- Loss of Drayton's village identity (Drayton Parish Council and others).
- Increase in traffic around the existing schools threatening the safety of children
- Lack of capacity in existing schools (includes Drayton Parish Council).
- Adding 400 houses to the area will only compound problems of deprivation, not address them
- Development of this size could not make a meaningful contribution to the urban fabric and social community of the adjacent area due to regulations on developer contributions, and opportunities to secure

funding would be reduced by the need to negotiate with third parties to secure access rights

- Increased volume of traffic on A422, Ruscote Avenue, Warwick Road and within Bretch Hill with limited scope to address these issues as recognised in BANITLUS (includes Drayton Parish Council)

2.5.3.3 Other Comments

One respondent living adjacent to the site asks what compensation will be given to those whose houses will be devalued by the proposed development.

One respondent questioned the need for affordable housing in this area and queries what research has been done on other ways to address the issue.

One respondent queries the impact on local infrastructure including traffic, noise, pollution, water, electricity, gas, together with the environmental impact.

One respondent considers it insulting for the Council to suggest development will be a cure for social problems in the area.

Oxfordshire County Council considers some parts of the site are located too far away from the existing Bretch Hill Premium bus route and indicates that the possibility of extending/re-routing bus services needs to be explored further.

Officers Response

1.8.4 Summary of responses to Banbury - Land at Bankside (phase 2)

70% of respondents do not support the strategic housing allocation at Bankside, Banbury

2.5.4.1 Reasons for supporting Banbury – Land at Bankside (phase 2):

- Recognise the need for further homes in Banbury and especially affordable housing for local people
- It is an acceptable compromise to some of the issues affecting Banbury, but only if the traffic issues on Oxford Road/South Bar and Cherwell Street are addressed

2.5.4.2 Reasons for not supporting Banbury – Land at Bankside (phase 2):

- The site is in Bodicote and not Banbury
- Spoil views
- Impact on wildlife
- Impact on existing residential properties
- Restrict access to canal walks and the open countryside
- Existing development proposals already have totally inadequate traffic provisions
- Loss of agricultural land
- It will result in the coalescence of Banbury and Bodicote
- There are no infrastructure provisions such as Ring Road/Inner Relief Road
- Create traffic problems

2.5.4.3 Other Comments

Several respondents suggest that the proposed allocation is only viable if adequate infrastructure is implemented.

One respondent suggested that the eastern edge will require substantial screening.

A developer suggested the delivery of the site is at risk because it can only come forward once the existing Bankside scheme is complete. As the existing scheme has yet to commence work on site, the delivery of BAN3 is consequently at risk.

One respondent feels that the council did not deal with the genuine concerns of many residents from both Bodicote and Bankside regarding the 1100 house development.

Another respondent suggests that in relation to the land south of Bankside, the proposed allocation is not supported by the evidence base and is poorly related to the urban area contrary to the strategic objectives for Banbury.

One respondent argues that the part of the site, closest to Oxford Road, may provide some potential for development. However, further east development on the plateau overlooking the Cherwell Valley would be unacceptable in terms of the likely impact on landscape character and views from within and from across the valley. It is considered that there is insufficient suitable land for a strategic site in this location.

One respondent argues that the proposed allocation is within the parish of Bodicote and not part of Banbury. They feel that the Council is expecting them to take on both this allocation for 400 dwellings and a share of 350 dwellings that have been allocated to the village group that Bodicote has been put in. They feel this is unfair and that the allocation of 400 dwellings in Bodicote is contrary to Policy RA1.

Bodicote Parish Council refers to point B.75 which states "Additional development in this area would enable the consolidation of new infrastructure" and questions whether the addition of more houses will make a difference as this has already been agreed with the approval of the existing Bankside extension.

One respondent suggests that it will be difficult to provide sustainable public transport to the Land at Bankside (BAN3), as a public transport route has already been agreed with the developers for the previous Bankside development.

Officers Response

1.9 Question 6: Are there any other sites you think should be allocated as a strategic housing location within the Core Strategy?

1.9.1 Summary of responses

2.6.1.1 General Comments

One respondent suggests using a larger site to the South of Banbury.

Another respondent commented that Bloxham has identified some areas which would be better developed than some of the proposed.

One respondent suggests the larger sites within the existing village envelope of the larger sustainable villages, thereby providing a means of security both market and affordable housing in a range of locations.

Another respondent suggests there are some sites within the bounds of Banbury that could be allocated to housing, with a change of use, for example the old Crest Hotel office building (Malt House Walk) that is falling into dereliction.

2.6.1.2 Specific Site Suggestions

- Old Alcan Factory Site, Banbury
- Land South of Broughton Road, Banbury
- Broughton Road, Banbury
- Wykham Lane, Banbury
- Land North of Hanwell Fields, Banbury and Land West Of Warwick Road, Banbury (in preference to Land at Bankside, Banbury)
- Land West of White Post Road and South of Banbury
- Land at Milestone Farm and Broughton Road, Banbury
- CEMEX's Site, Merton Street, Banbury
- Thames Water Land, South of Thorpe Way, Banbury
- Old Playing Field at the bottom of Hanwell Fields, Banbury
- Land at Calthorpe Street, Banbury
- Land at Middle Wretchwick Farm, SE Bicester
- South East Bicester
- Graven Hill, Bicester
- South West Bicester should be a firm allocation
- Bicester Airfield
- Land West of Webb's Way, Kidlington
- Oxford Technology Park, Kidlington
- Campsfield House, Kidlington
- RAF Upper Heyford
- Four sites in Wroxton – Field adjacent to existing village hall, Infill site opposite Old Policy House on Stratford Road, Infill site opposite Wingtree Cottage on Main Street and a paddock opposite The Chantry on Stratford Road

- Land at Gosford and Water Eaton
- Land at South Lodge, Caversfield
- Land North of Finmere

Officers Response

1.10 Question 7: Do you support the principle of reserve sites?

| | Yes | No | Total |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-------|
| No of Responses | 112 | 100 | 212 |

1.10.1 Summary of responses

52% of respondents support the principle of reserve sites.

2.7.1.1 Reasons for supporting the principle of reserve sites:

- There is a need to allocate a diverse portfolio of suitable sites to be able to offset and manage risk of delay in delivery e.g. eco-town
- Necessary to introduce flexibility / contingency in the overall spatial strategy / to ensure a robust strategy
- To provide a spread of sites
- To meet housing targets
- Only if there is a good reason to build on these locations and not because there is pressure from vested interests
- Obviously there is a balance to be struck between releasing the sites too early while being pragmatic

2.7.1.2 Reasons for not supporting the principle of reserve sites:

- Vital that the focus is on the Canalside site to ensure it is fully developed / better to focus on primary sites with appropriate infrastructure
- The reserve sites are unsustainable / due to their size would lack infrastructure
- Creates uncertainty for communities / local concern / blights land / leaves door open for future development / encourages developer speculation
- Creates uncertainty for landowners and their businesses / concerned about possibility of compulsory purchase
- Would create additional traffic and congestion
- They imply an 'either/or' concept allowing limited choices
- More logical planning in the first place would preclude the need for these
- Should be firm allocations to avoid uncertainty and to enable full and proper consultation
- Banbury cannot sustain indefinite growth
- Use previously developed land first / focus on areas in need of redevelopment
- The need for further sites should be left to a subsequent review of allocations / reserve sites may hinder future flexibility
- Rural character of the district needs to be preserved
- Do not support housing growth generally
- The most suitable sites should be developed
- Just avoids allocating other sites / should identify enough land for a firm allocation elsewhere such as the south of Banbury and Graven Hill, Bicester

- Would exceed housing requirements
- Reserve sites undermine planning efforts
- Would be target driven rather than because of local evidence
- Concerned about further growth without investment in road infrastructure
- Undue reliance on North West Bicester could place the urban focus of the strategy at risk
- Whole strategy is wrong
- Just a way of adding more sites

2.7.1.3 Other Comments

Bucknell Parish Council comments that only if sufficient infrastructure is provided to support the development of such sites.

One respondent comments that they support reserve sites if they do not destroy the villages around Banbury.

Several respondents including Hanwell Parish Council did not support the principle of reserve sites because of economic uncertainties with Canalside, any reserve sites could easily become strategic sites / would in effect be allocated.

Several respondents including Epwell Parish Council commented that the proposals represent further Greenfield development / would diminish the countryside & natural habitats.

Several respondents including Drayton Parish Council are concerned that it may hinder the development of more complex / Brownfield sites / encourage developers to 'hold out' for the easiest option / will be an invitation to developers.

Several respondents including Middleton Stoney Parish Council felt it was not clear on the reasons for reserve sites.

Several respondents including the Highways Agency commented that it is not clear how the reserve sites would be brought forward / how will reserve sites work if under-delivery elsewhere is due to market conditions.

Officers Response

1.11 Question 8: Do you support the locations proposed for reserve strategic housing allocations?

| Reserve Site Locations | Yes | No | Total |
|--|------------|-----------|--------------|
| South West Bicester | 91 | 120 | 211 |
| Banbury - Land west of Warwick Road | 74 | 162 | 236 |
| Banbury - Land north of Hanwell Fields | 79 | 182 | 261 |

1.11.1 Summary of responses to South West Bicester

57% of respondents do not support the reserve strategic housing allocation at South West Bicester.

2.8.1.1 Reasons for supporting South West Bicester:

- The SW Bicester Phase 2 site would not have an impact on existing villages
- Most sustainable site
- No significant constraints
- Could be combined with Phase 1 coherently
- Well located to Bicester / services and facilities / phase 1 facilities / well served by public transport / good access to park & ride
- Would benefit from new strategic infrastructure
- Potential to provide another primary school, new cemetery & local centre
- Better and more deliverable than NW Bicester
- Defined boundary of perimeter road would prevent urban sprawl
- Deliverable & can come forward quickly
- Would afford a high degree of certainty
- Support increased number of dwellings
- High quality design would be facilitated by Design Codes for phase 1

2.8.1.2 Reasons for not supporting South West Bicester:

- Greenfield site
- In an area already prone to traffic congestion
- Precedent for further development
- Coalescence with Chesterton / impact on setting & amenity of Chesterton
- Goes against spatial strategy and will contribute to urban sprawl
- Impact on rural character / negative visual impact
- Sustainability appraisal not undertaken fairly and consistently
- Should be allocated, and not be an isolated, unused reserve site

- Part of NW Bicester should be left in reserve instead
- SE Bicester a more sustainable site / would have less impact
- Single reserve site at Bicester would not ensure a 5 year supply
- Should have same status as NW Bicester
- Allocation of NW Bicester ahead of SW is not sound, not based on robust or credible evidence
- Not achievable within plan period nor suitable compared to Graven Hill
- Relies on phase 1 which has no clear phasing plan

2.8.1.3 Other Comments

The Highways Agency has reservations about this being a reserve for eco-housing, separated from the main eco-development by the A4095. South of Caversfield preferred as it is closer.

One respondent would only support the proposal with adequate infrastructure.

One respondent suggests growth is being forced on Banbury.

Officers Response

1.11.2 Summary of responses to Banbury - Land West of Warwick Road

68% of respondents do not support the reserve strategic housing allocation at Land West of Warwick Road.

2.8.2.1 Reasons for supporting Banbury – Land west of Warwick Road:

- Area already built-up / facilities in place
- Lesser quality agricultural land than west of Bretch Hill
- Immediate access to footpath/cycleway network
- Good access to northern employment areas
- Benefits from greater frequency bus services linking to employment areas & town centre
- Opportunity to provide a small local centre
- Will be needed as an allocated site because of reservations about the capacity of Canalside and the deliverability of Bankside within the plan period

2.8.2.2 Reasons for not supporting Banbury – Land West of Warwick Road:

- Site is inherently unsustainable and would offer little infrastructure
- Impact on Drayton village / Drayton Lodge
- Negative impact on the setting and character of Drayton Conservation Area
- Impact on wildlife
- Intrusion on rural area and environment of village
- Goes against spatial strategy and the focus on larger villages
- Development would breach the rim of the 'Banbury bowl' / be prominent in long distance views / views from public rights of way
- Landscape sensitivity and capacity study says the site has low capacity for development
- Topographical constraints
- Proximity to Neithrop Fields Cutting geological SSSI
- Proximity to medieval village & abbey parkland
- Greenfield land
- Principle of development is unacceptable
- Impact on Hanwell Community Observatory / light pollution
- Drayton and Hanwell have no facilities
- Considerable distance to employment areas / town centre / key destinations / services and facilities
- Poor accessibility to Hanwell Fields facilities / across main road / not safe
- Additional traffic / increased traffic to town / poor bus service
- Core Strategy does not reflect the results of BANITLUS
- Should be prioritised above land west of Bretch Hill
- Due to constraints of Canalside and doubts over deliverability of Bankside, both Warwick Rd and West of Bretch Hill will be needed
- Impact on Hanwell village

- Better options to the south of Banbury
- Site would not have defined boundaries
- Breaches the boundary defined by Warwick Road
- Would be ribbon development / poor integration with town
- Impact on residential amenity
- Sustainability appraisal not undertaken in a fair and consistent manner
- Site too small / would result in inappropriately high density & no open space
- Insufficient capacity to be a reserve site & uncertainty about timing
- Would in effect be allocated / would be an 'open-door' for developers
- Identification as a reserve site creates uncertainty
- Objection to centrally imposed housing targets
- Reduces land availability for local food production
- Additional CO₂ emissions / pollution
- Would reduce the business opportunities for Drayton Leisure Golf Centre
- Stray golf balls and floodlights from adjoining driving range would cause a nuisance / affect residential amenity
- Incompatibility with golf / camping / entertainment activities at Drayton Leisure Golf Centre
- Recent developments need time to settle down
- Southern end of site includes an old landfill
- Blight to farming business
- Would be affect by light pollution from North Oxfordshire Academy

2.8.2.3 Other Comments

The Highways Authority supports the locations of the reserve sites in Banbury.

The Environment Agency comment that any proposal will need to have regard to the historic landfill on the site in the Drayton Railway cuttings, and suggest including key criteria for development within this policy.

Several respondents including Hanwell Parish Council argue that it would contribute to urban sprawl and have an urbanising impact on countryside, landscape and rural area.

Oxfordshire County Council comments that it will be difficult to provide a sustainable bus service.

Several respondents including Hanwell Parish Council comment that it would result in coalescence / would erode the gap between Banbury and neighbouring villages.

Several respondents including Bodicote Parish Council suggest the site should be a firm allocation.

Officers Response

1.11.3 Summary of responses to Banbury - Land north of Hanwell Fields

70% of respondents do not support the reserve strategic housing allocation at land north of Hanwell Fields.

2.8.3.1 Reasons for supporting Banbury – Land north of Hanwell Fields:

- Ideal place for development as spine road & facilities are already in place in the existing development
- Area is already built up
- Capacity for 400-440 homes
- Space for a secondary school
- Part-owned & controlled by a house builder
- Landowners wish to bring site forward
- Restrictive covenants can be secured to provide long-term certainty for the open-setting between the site and Hanwell in the context of policies to protect the landscape

2.8.3.2 Reasons for not supporting Banbury – Land north of Hanwell Fields:

- Greenfield site
- Offers little new infrastructure / little scope for mixed use development / open space
- Drayton and Hanwell have no facilities / Hanwell school oversubscribed
- Impact on enjoyment of countryside / informal recreation / views from public rights of way
- Impact on rural quality of life / tranquillity
- Impact on Hanwell village / identity of village
- Proximity to Neithrop Fields Cutting geological SSSI
- Negative impact on Hanwell Conservation Area & Listed Buildings
- Encroachment into open countryside / Urban sprawl / ribbon development
- Council previously promised no further development in this direction
- spine road is a 'natural' boundary for the town
- Landscape Sensitivity & Capacity Study says low capacity for development
- Impact on setting of Banbury / breaching the edge of the 'Banbury Bowl'
- Poor accessibility to Banbury's services & facilities
- Increased traffic / through traffic through Hanwell / along spine road / to town centre / roads unsuitable
- Noise
- Pollution / additional CO₂ emissions
- Vulnerable to crime & disorder from the town
- Impact on residential amenity
- Too far from Banbury Town Centre / employment areas / key destinations
- Hanwell Fields needs time to properly establish a community

- Previously refused permission / no change in circumstances
- Area already built-up
- Should focus on regenerating other areas instead
- Better options to the south of Banbury
- Better to focus on one large site
- Impact on natural drainage
- Core Strategy does not reflect the results of BANITLUS
- Contrary to spatial strategy focusing on larger villages
- Sustainability appraisal not undertaken in a fair & consistent manner
- Would in effect be allocated / an 'open-door' for developers
- Separated from other areas by busy roads / not a safe environment / would be poorly integrated
- Uncertainty about timing & capacity
- Objection to centrally imposed housing targets
- All houses in Hanwell Fields should be sold first
- National economic conditions too weak

2.8.3.3 Other Comments

The Highways Authority supports the reserve allocations within Banbury.

Several respondents including Hanwell Parish Council suggest that the site is unsustainable.

Several respondents including Hanwell Parish Council comment that it will erode the small strategic gap between Banbury and Hanwell, cause coalescence and should be Green Belt.

Several respondents including Hanwell Parish Council object due to impact on Hanwell Community Observatory / light pollution / impact on important community facility.

Several respondents including Hanwell Parish Council suggest it will adversely affect wildlife habitats / bat roost / environment.

Hanwell Parish Council comments that land is mostly best and most versatile agricultural land / reduces land available for local food production.

Several respondents including Hanwell Parish Council suggest it will have an urbanising effect on landscape / rural area / long distance views.

Oxfordshire County Council comments that it will be difficult to provide a sustainable bus service.

Several respondents including Hanwell Parish Council are concerned that this will set a precedent for further development / no defined boundary / creates a less defensible edge.

Several respondents including Bodicote Parish Council suggest the site should be a firm allocation.

Officers Response

1.12 Question 9: Do you support the villages identified to accommodate housing in the rural areas?

| No of Responses | Yes | No | Total |
|-----------------|-----|-----|------------|
| | 120 | 134 | 254 |

1.12.1 Summary of responses

52% of respondents do not support the villages identified to accommodate housing in the rural areas.

2.9.1.1 Reasons for supporting the villages identified to accommodate housing in rural areas:

- The revised Category A villages and the basis upon which they have been selected appears to make sense
- The larger villages should hold some housing growth
- Government guidance recommends that development in rural locations should be encouraged in the most sustainable locations. In accordance with this principle it is appropriate that the majority of housing is directed towards the more sustainable rural locations
- The villages should be allowed to grow in order to support local services. Even the smallest villages may be able to contribute to the housing in rural areas, particularly if services can be sourced nearby in larger villages

2.9.1.2 Reasons for not supporting the villages identified to accommodate housing in rural areas:

- Too many beautiful villages have been destroyed by inappropriate development
- Growth shouldn't just be distributed across only the more sustainable villages; some development should be moved to villages considered less sustainable. These smaller villages would then be more likely to become viable places for shops, bus services etc. and would become more sustainable
- The villages will not be small communities anymore
- No development in villages unless new homes are only built for local people as they do in Wales
- Large scale development should not be imposed on any village. Growth should occur through natural expansion
- Too much emphasis on these villages alone having to accept unwelcome expansion

2.9.1.3 Other Comments

One respondent commented that a blanket restriction on all housing development is unbelievably negative and runs the risk of creating, in the long term, communities where retired people outnumber those of working age with children.

Another respondent said they find the mixing of category A and Category B villages between the allocations in RA2 to be confusing and that it potentially undermines the role of the settlement categorisation.

A developer commented that it is appropriate that the settlements which score most highly against the criteria should receive the largest amounts of development. The forms of development for each tier of settlement identified in Policy RA1 are largely appropriate. However, all three categories of development should also be able to accommodate development to meet local needs. This is different from the Rural Exception Sites policy (Policy RA3) which is to provide affordable housing. A Local Needs policy is designed to meet needs identified by a parish, be they market or affordable housing, or other development such as employment or community facilities. The key criterion is that any development must be supported by the local community and genuinely needed.

One respondent commented that it is difficult to see how the types of development specified for Category A villages in Policy RA1 could bring forward the amounts of development in the four largest (Adderbury, Bodicote, Bloxham and Deddington) as set out in RA2, if 'minor development' is interpreted as 'fewer than 10 dwellings', a common definition used across England, and as set out formally in the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995. It is most unlikely that there will be enough available, suitable and deliverable separate sites to bring forward these numbers.

2.9.1.4 Specific Comments about individual villages

One respondent commented that Adderbury is a sustainable location given its services and proximity to Banbury along with public transport services. It is correctly identified as a Category A settlement.

Adderbury Parish Council challenges the categorisation of Adderbury as a type 'A' village. The Parish Council believe that Adderbury only complies with a few of the criteria for this categorisation.

One respondent supports the assumption that Middleton Stoney is categorised as a 'low sustainability' village.

Another respondent is concerned that Fritwell has already seen extensive development over recent years. Adding this additional burden is unreasonable when surrounding villages have not done their bit.

Another respondent commented that The Sibfords are comparatively small and relatively isolated by both distance and topography from urban centres and employment and yet have been categorised, along with the likes of Adderbury and Bloxham "as a larger and more sustainable village". This is flawed and it fails key strategic objectives on reduced dependency on the private car and sustainability.

A respondent supports the categorisation of Cropredy as a Category A village. This is one of the most sustainable villages in the northern part of the District and fulfils an important role both for its own residents and those of nearby villages.

One respondent supports the identification of Chesterton to receive some housing growth, but argues that Chesterton should be a 'Category A' village.

Another respondent argues that Finmere is a sustainable location because of its facilities and regular bus service to nearby towns. For these reasons, they believe Finmere should be a Category A village and should be allowed a larger amount of housing growth than it has been allocated.

One respondent argues that Begbroke should be included in Policy RA2 as CRAITLUS stage 2 identified it as one of the most sustainable villages in the district.

One respondent highlights the facilities in Fringford and the surrounding area, and argues that Fringford is sustainable and should be a Category A village.

Officers Response

1.13 Question 10: Do you support the housing numbers distributed to the groups of villages identified?

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|--------------|
| | Yes | No | Total |
| No of Responses | 105 | 128 | 233 |

1.13.1 Summary of responses

55% of respondents do not support the housing numbers distributed to the groups of villages identified.

2.10.1.1 Reasons for supporting the housing numbers distributed to the groups of villages identified:

- Support the reduction in rural housing targets due to Bicester eco-town
- Support housing numbers if appropriate infrastructure is put in place
- Re-apportioning growth towards the Category A settlements is considered the most appropriate and sustainable solution to delivering new housing within the Rural Areas

2.10.1.2 Reasons for not supporting the housing numbers distributed to the groups of villages identified:

- Villages know they are likely to have to accept some development, but it needs to be the appropriate number and in the appropriate place for each village and not where the developers or planners think would be a good site
- Excessive in relation to existing village size
- Too many new houses to meet local needs
- The reserved sites should be used, not the villages
- Most of the villages will not be able to support such numbers - schools, facilities and transport as well as transport links
- If you are serious about protecting the identity and character of villages in Cherwell, the balance of new housing needs to move further from the villages and more into the towns
- Singling out supposedly "sustainable" villages for the lion's share of new development, while others get a much lower proportional increase, seems unbalanced and puts the identities of those supposedly sustainable villages in danger

2.10.1.3 Other Comments

One respondent suggests the larger villages identified should be able to meet a range of housing needs, both affordable, key worker/near market and market, and in order to do so, acceptable provision on key sites within an existing village envelope may be a better target than absolute numbers.

Another respondent supports the principles of this policy, but would urge the Council to consider the distribution of development between the villages carefully in order to achieve the best possible solution through the Site Allocations DPD process.

A respondent feels that the Draft Core Strategy provides insufficient information to enable the reader to adequately assess whether the grouping of villages is appropriate or whether the level of housing for each group is reasonable.

One respondent argues that without precise numbers of homes allocated to individual villages it is difficult to comment as there could be local issues with access or impact on immediate junctions.

Another respondent thinks it is important to look at each village independently and not to lump them altogether for assessment.

A respondent comments that whilst the level of growth to be accommodated in the grouping of the 4 North Cherwell villages amounts to 730 dwellings in total; this figure has been arbitrarily reduced below that set out in the South East Plan. It is therefore suggested that, as a minimum, the North Cherwell rural areas allocations be increased by 240 dwellings to total 970 dwellings.

One respondent argues that Cropredy has a low performance in the CRAITLUS report and should not have to sustain more than 45 houses over 26 years without serious improvement to its sewage, schools and road system.

Another respondent feels it should be made clear that numbers will be spread according to population and that Cropredy's allocation can be spread amongst the other villages in Cropredy's cluster.

One respondent argues that the identification of Hook Norton as a Category A village warrants the increased development focus at this location, in comparison to less sustainable settlements within the District.

Another respondent feels that the allocation for Kidlington is insufficient because there is a proven need for more housing.

A respondent considers that there should be more than 220 dwellings allocated to the cluster of villages that includes Arncott, Bletchingdon, Chesterton, Kidlington, Kirtlington, Middleton Stoney, Weston on the Green and Yarnton, as these are some of the most sustainable settlements in the District.

One respondent believes that Ambrosden and Launton have already undergone proportionately significant development in the last few years. An additional allocation of 180 homes between the two villages risks overwhelming each. The distribution proposed at villages such as Arncott and Chesterton also represents a significant imbalance and potential that the rural nature of each village be compromised.

Officers Response

1.14 Question 11: Do you agree with the approach to be used to determine windfall residential properties within villages?

| No of Responses | Yes | No | Total |
|-----------------|-----|----|-------|
| | 123 | 66 | 189 |

1.14.1 Summary of responses

65% of respondents support the approach being used to determine windfall residential properties within villages.

2.11.1.1 Reasons for supporting the approach to be used to determine windfall residential properties within villages:

- Development should not be prevented even within the smallest villages, particularly infilling and conversions

2.11.1.2 Reasons for not supporting the approach to be used to determine windfall residential properties within villages:

- The extra houses incurred will have an impact on infrastructure, schools, traffic, and doctor's surgery
- It spoils the character and appearance of the village - gives a clumsy out of character appearance
- All villages should be allowed windfalls
- Could create overcrowding and urbanisation
- Once again villages can be loaded with new properties built in back gardens under the present planning rules - totally destroying the village landscape

2.11.1.3 Other Comments

One respondent commented that it is not clear from the question what is referred to. However, they support the general proposal to allow conversions in all settlements and the development of infill sites in all Category A and Category B villages. They also support the development of sites in any settlement which are to meet identified local needs.

Another respondent supports the proposal in principle but advises that great care needs to be taken to ensure 'over development' does not occur which would create towns out of villages.

A respondent feels that insufficient detail is available to identify criteria for infill development.

Another respondent feels that infilling should not include back gardens as these should be protected green spaces.

One respondent feels the wording of the policy is too vague.

Another respondent argues that the policy is not practical. After 50 years of infilling demanded by planning authorities, most of the available space has been used up.

The Highways Agency has no objection to the approach to be used to determine windfall residential properties within villages.

One developer commented that paragraph B.143 of the Draft Core Strategy identifies that whilst no allowance has been made for windfall provision; such sites are likely to come forward. This will assist in meeting the housing requirements within the villages. Accordingly it is proposed that the Delivery DPD may seek to phase development of allocated sites within villages so that should windfall sites come forward, some allocated sites can be deleted if no longer required. The proposed 'monitoring' approach to windfall provision will lead to uncertainty concerning the delivery of allocated sites. Sites allocated for development require significant investment and lead-in work to ensure their delivery. The proposed approach set out by the Council in Paragraph B.143 would lead to uncertainty over when sites would be required for delivery. This could have a detrimental impact upon the supply of new housing within the District.

Officers Response

1.15 Question 12: Do you support the policies for meeting affordable housing requirements? (Policies H4 & H5)

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|----|--------------|
| No of Responses | Yes | No | Total |
| | 153 | 52 | 205 |

1.15.1 Summary of responses

74% of respondents support the policies for meeting affordable housing requirements.

2.12.1.1 Reasons for supporting the policy for meeting affordable housing requirements:

- There is a need for affordable housing in Cherwell
- There is a particular need in rural areas / higher % supported
- 30% affordable housing within major schemes in Banbury and Bicester is reasonable, provided viability, site circumstances and grant availability are considered
- Inclusion of flexibility via an economic viability assessment is supported / will enable housing delivery
- Proposals for Kidlington are supported

2.12.1.2 Reasons for not supporting the policy for meeting affordable housing requirements:

- Percentages are too high / likely to be unaffordable by developers / would reduce property values
- Rural threshold is too low / due to the costs of development / would discourage sites from coming forward / would produce schemes of just 1 dwelling which many social housing providers do not want / would result in developers paying contributions instead and building expensive houses / is not adequately justified by the Affordable Housing Viability Study
- Would question whether rural areas can afford more affordable housing than urban areas
- The threshold of 1:3 is too low and unworkable. The previous threshold of 1:6 should be retained (Middleton Stoney Parish Council)
- Financial appraisals for developments of 3 or more in rural areas would be excessive and inappropriate
- Threshold in villages should be higher to prevent villages becoming 'exclusive'
- An urban threshold of 10 would lead to many small developments that would not provide affordable homes while adding to transport, social, environmental and economic infrastructure pressures (Bicester Town Council)
- Should be a 35% requirement across the district
- Not clear why the requirement for Banbury (30%) is lower than for other areas and why it should vary
- Need more affordable housing in Banbury

- Too much focus on just two areas
- 30% target for Banbury is inflexible and will not help promote development on strategic allocations such as Banbury Canalside. The policy should reflect the additional costs of developing that site
- Affordable housing should be allocated to all / smaller villages
- 'Get out' clauses are too generous. Need to ensure that the requirements are not circumvented (Kidlington Parish Council)
- Should be a return to Council Housing, not expensive semi-private alternatives
- Need more rented housing and not more to buy
- Could result in anti-social behaviour in peaceful neighbourhoods
- Would generate extra traffic, noise and light pollution
- Brownfield sites should be considered
- Needs to be sufficient flexibility built into the policy / needs to be clear that financial assessments will play an important role in assessing mix and tenure
- Policy needs an expressly stated cascade mechanism which, in the absence of RSL take-up, enables off-site contributions or the selling of houses at an agreed discount on a low cost covenant that states that the house can only be sold for an agreed discounted percentage in perpetuity
- Requirement for a financial contribution for part requirement of an affordable home is unreasonable and complex. Provision should reasonably be made to the nearest rounded figure
- Policy is over-detailed / social rented & intermediate housing split should be based on an up-to-date housing needs assessment
- Would distort the housing market, lead to poor quality housing and social inequalities
- Affordable housing would be taken-up by non-resident landlords and allowed to deteriorate
- Policy should be related to bedroom numbers to create larger social homes

2.12.1.3 Other Comments

Cotswold Conservation Board suggests a more ambitious target for rural areas should be set, noting the results of the viability study.

Kidlington Parish Council supports a higher affordable housing requirement.

One respondent suggests percentages should be minimum requirements.

Homes and Communities Agency suggests the target of 3,300 homes should be a minimum amount as the [since revoked] South East Plan indicates that 4,130 should be provided.

The Homes and Communities Agency will review the funding position following 'open book' financial analysis in line with the Local Investment Plan.

One respondent comments that the policy needs to state that the full provision of affordable housing is expected unless demonstrated and validated that a scheme would not be economically viable.

One respondent argues buy and rent schemes are expensive and suggest a need for Council housing.

One respondent feels the proposals will make little overall difference.

Several respondents including Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower Parish Councils suggest priority should be given to those with local connections.

One respondent comments that the location of affordable housing needs to consider living costs.

One respondent feels that available housing is being taken-up by people moving into the area and so the local waiting list never goes down.

Once respondent comments that local housing need should be met locally.

One respondent feels it is difficult to comment as there is a need to know what level of development there would be in each village.

Banbury Town Council comments that the district and Banbury need more affordable housing, both social rented and shared ownership.

Banbury Town Council suggests each site should be optimised and developers should not be able to duck under the threshold.

Kidlington Parish Council supports the wording of the approach to stop developers in Kidlington ducking under the threshold.

Homes and Community Agency comments that the expectation that the requirements will be met without Social Housing Grant is supported.

Homes and Communities Agency supports an 'open-book' financial analysis approach for potentially unviable schemes.

Bicester Town Council supports a requirement for 30% affordable housing and the distribution suggested.

Kidlington Parish Council comments that the increase from 30% to 35% for Kidlington reflects the different needs of the south of the district and the impact of Oxford.

Several respondents including Hanwell Parish Council feel that the Council should aim for a higher percentage, e.g. 40%.

Bicester Town Council comments that an urban threshold of 10 would lead to many small developments that would not provide affordable homes while

adding to transport, social, environmental and economic infrastructure pressures.

Several respondents including the Highways Agency comment that there should be a higher percentage in the towns rather than less sustainable locations for transportation / environmental reasons.

Blackthorn Parish Council comments that rural areas should not have the highest proportion as they have less facilities and employment opportunities.

Bloxham Parish Council comments that urban people should not be provided with affordable housing in rural areas at the expense of rural applicants.

Bucknell Parish Council suggests there is a need to take into account existing infrastructure and services. Housing standards should not be compromised.

Kidlington Parish Council suggests the threshold for Kidlington should be lowered.

Hanwell Parish Council suggests a high proportion should remain permanently affordable.

Officers Response

1.16 Question 13: Do you support the Councils approach to rural exception sites? (Policy RA3)

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|----|--------------|
| No of Responses | Yes | No | Total |
| | 123 | 39 | 162 |

1.16.1 Summary of responses

76% of respondents support the Council's approach to rural exception sites.

2.13.1.1 Reasons for supporting the Council's approach to rural exception sites:

- Exception sites are vital if housing is to be available for local people
- Provision of affordable housing, especially in rural areas, is to be commended
- more affordable housing is needed in towns

2.13.1.2 Reasons for not supporting the Council's approach to rural exception sites:

- Such policies have never really worked as there is little incentive to release land. Better to plan for affordable housing on market housing sites within larger villages. A rural exception policy could remain as a 'sweep'
- No exceptions should be made
- With regard to the reference to partnership working, there is no evidence of the District Council taking any notice of comments made by Bodicote Parish Council
- Sites are either suitable, or they are not
- By destroying farmland, the council is not protecting existing employment sites
- The criteria used to define a sustainable village is questioned

2.13.1.3 Other Comments

English Heritage comment that regard should be given to English Heritage's guidance 'Affordable Rural Housing and the Historic Environment'.

Cotswold Conservation Board comment that it is disappointing that there is not proposal to allocate sites for 100% affordable housing in rural areas where there is an identified local need. There should be such a policy for sites in the Cotswolds AONB. Rural exceptions sites are only one mechanism for providing rural affordable housing.

Bloxham Parish Council comment that rural exception sites should not be so divorced from the village that the residents are isolated and the housing does not fit in with the existing village buildings.

Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower Parish Councils comment that no landowner will offer such sites as long as there remains the possibility of obtaining a full commercial value under the Draft Core Strategy. The two policies are

fundamentally in conflict. Might be that local housing need could be met provided [with general housing] if at least 50% of those houses come with the same controls as rural exception sites.

Several respondents feel there is insufficient information to comment.

One respondent commented that views of Parish Councils should be taken into account as there could be valid local reasons to reject.

The Highways Agency argues that while a certain level of affordable housing is required in rural areas for social reasons, a strategy which locates a higher proportion in the more sustainable locations of Banbury and Bicester is favoured.

Bucknell Parish Council comments that the policy is impractical. Safeguards to ensure that the local community benefits from exception sites are not inadequate.

Steeple Aston Parish Council argues that exception sites are vital if housing is to be available for local people. The policy of restricting residency in villages of less than 3000 population should be continued as this ensures housing may be available for the young, or old, who wish to remain but who are forced to seek accommodation elsewhere, thus disrupting continuity of families and support in their home villages.

Homes and Communities Agency supports the idea of making rural locations more affordable. They also comment that rural exception sites are important as they provide affordable housing in locations where it may have been otherwise difficult.

Officers Response

1.17 Question 14: Do you support the locations proposed for strategic employment use?

| Strategic Employment Site Allocations | Yes | No | Total |
|--|------------|-----------|--------------|
| North West Bicester | 35 | 120 | 155 |
| South West Bicester | 36 | 119 | 155 |
| Banbury - land west of M40 | 52 | 138 | 190 |

1.17.1 Summary of responses to North West Bicester

Reasons for supporting North West Bicester:

- Bicester needs more employment opportunities to counteract the high level of out commuting

Reasons for not supporting North West Bicester:

- Greenfield site
- Need to retain as farmland (which is also a source of employment)
- The site is not served by a major railway station and is far from access to the M40; as such, it may not be as commercially attractive as other sites which have better strategic road access
- More detail is needed on the employment opportunities to be created
- Concerns over deliverability
- Contrary to the spatial strategy

Other Comments

An awareness of detailed understanding of existing commitments can help inform the employment provided on the North West Bicester site (i.e. the '5000 jobs' number should not be fixed). 5000 jobs on this site could undermine delivery of other employment sites in the town.

Concerns over who the jobs will actually be taken up by – some may be taken by people commuting into the area, whilst some eco town residents would still need to commute to other areas (1 job per home is not sufficient). The development would not therefore be self sufficient.

Oxfordshire County Council supports employment development at Bicester to increase the opportunities for containment by increasing the diversity in the type of employment offered and by providing opportunities to access employment by public transport, walking and cycling. They add that the success of the North West Bicester site as an exemplar eco-extension to Bicester relies heavily on the provision of attractive, reliable and frequent

sustainable public transport to key employment sites outside of NW Bicester and to Bicester town centre and rail stations.

Officers Response

1.17.2 Summary of responses to South West Bicester

Reasons for supporting South West Bicester:

- Well related to existing commercial/retail sites which are popular and well utilised. Opportunity for linkages with these developed sites, therefore minimising future greenfield incursion

Reasons for not supporting South West Bicester:

- Adverse traffic impacts
- Dependent on highways improvements particularly improvements to M40 Junction 9
- No detail on the deliverability
- Other mixed use strategic sites can better meet the short term need for employment provision by phasing development so that employment is provided early on

Other Comments

The Highways Agency reserves judgement until the BicITLUS transport model can demonstrate that this is the most appropriate strategic employment site. They reiterate the importance of the Council continuing to work with the Highways Agency in order to secure its delivery.

Oxfordshire County Council comments that they support employment development at Bicester to increase the opportunities for containment by increasing the diversity in the type of employment offered and by providing opportunities to access employment by public transport, walking and cycling. They add that there is an agreement with the developers for South West Bicester (BIC2) to provide a bus service to this site. The fact that it is located adjacent to the strategic A41 corridor makes this site relatively easy to serve by public transport. Finally, they comment that although this site is referred to as South West Bicester in the Draft Core Strategy, it is more commonly referred to as South East Bicester (as it is south east of the A41) or Bicester Business Park.

Officers Response

1.17.3 Summary of responses to Banbury - Land west of M40

Reasons for supporting Banbury – Land West of M40:

- Support for the site conditional on allowing for direct motorway access and limiting visual impact through low level and landscaped development

Reasons for not supporting Banbury – Land West of M40:

- Greenfield site
- The land is important for other purposes including recreation and would be better allocated for Banbury United Football Club
- Distant from the strategic housing allocations (Oxfordshire County Council)
- The site is within the flood plain (Environment Agency and others)
- Adverse traffic impacts
- Potential for adverse noise impacts (on the nearby residential areas)
- Concern for wildlife

Other Comments

Questions over the relationship with the South East bypass road (Banbury Town Council and others including the Banbury Civic Society).

Oxfordshire County Council comment that the Banbury site BAN6 has not yet been tested in the transport model. Work will be completed by June 2010. However, the distance between the strategic employment site (BAN6) and the strategic housing site at BAN2 is of concern as the existing public transport, pedestrian and cycling infrastructure does not facilitate movement between these two sites. Mitigation of this issue will be required.

The County Council also comment that this site appears to take land which could be safeguarded for the South East Relief Road. If the development proceeds without safeguarding land, the options for delivering this road will be severely curtailed.

Officers Response

1.17.4 General Comments

A policy is needed not only to allocate employment sites but to support the extension of existing employment sites (this would reduce the need to allocate significant numbers of new sites).

Consideration needed of the regeneration of current employment sites (which could also reduce the need to allocate strategic greenfield sites).

Oxfordshire County Council supports the strategy of locating most housing and employment growth in the main towns to enhance opportunities for sustainable travel, and to enable delivery of identified transport infrastructure. They also support mixed land use areas where housing and employment are collocated, so that the need to travel is reduced.

Another respondent criticised locating housing on one side of town and employment on the other, as this will increase congestion.

All employment sites should be near to train stations and should maximise opportunities for public transport, walking and cycling (Oxfordshire County Council).

Maximum parking standards are required for commercial developments to deter private car use and so alleviate adverse transport impacts (Highways Agency).

Concerns over infrastructure provision and deliverability of sites in general.

A mix of employment uses should be encouraged on allocated sites (B1, B2 and B8). Conversely another respondent commented that allocations need to be clear on the specific end use, so that impacts such as traffic can be fully evaluated and planned for.

There is a need to consider employment sites in other areas, not just Banbury and Bicester, in particular Kidlington (and Green Belt Review). Opportunities for rural employment need to be explored including small workshop premises for cottage industries.

Concerns that Bicester cannot attract 'high tech' types of businesses, given the competition created by the Oxford Science Park (Caversfield Parish Council).

Allocating sites is not enough – a proactive policy is required to encourage employers (to Bicester in particular).

Again, in relation to Bicester, Oxfordshire County Council states that the Draft Core Strategy needs to promote Bicester more strongly as a new location for educational, scientific and technological sectors and meeting the needs of clusters. This also applies to the section on the spatial strategy (A27) and on economic objectives (A31).

Some new sites were suggested in the comments against this question (in place of or as well as against Question 15):

- Alcan, Banbury
- Southam Road, Banbury (possibly the same as above, but no details given)
- Howes Lane, Bicester
- South East Bicester
- Expansion of Banbury Business Park (Adderbury)

Officers Response

1.18 Question 15: Are there any other sites we should allocate as a strategic employment site?

1.18.1 Summary of responses

General Comments

Deliverability is a key concern - reserve strategic employment sites are needed in case the allocated sites do not come forward as expected (Cherwell M40 Investment Partnership; comment also echoed by Oxfordshire County Council).

Smaller sites are also needed to ensure there is a balance of provision of sites.

A realistic assessment of site availability and deliverability is required (the same as for housing allocations).

Focus should be on regenerating or redeveloping existing brownfield sites across the district rather than allocating strategic greenfield sites.

Allocated sites should have a broad 'employment' designation and should not favour one type of employment over another. 'Low tech' uses should not be forgotten.

Infrastructure investment is required to bring sites forward.

Need a greater understanding of the interaction between commercial property market and housing.

Allocations that have not yet come forward should also be considered (i.e. Oxford Spires Business Park, listed below).

Oxfordshire County Council made a comment against this question in relation to the Canalside site, stating that the existing Canalside site (BAN1) is very accessible by public transport, and currently supports a large number of enterprises. Although it is strongly supported for housing through the transport evidence undertaken, it is not known where these businesses will relocate to and this is an important aspect of this site. The Canalside draft SPD gave insufficient attention to this issue.

Specific Site Suggestions

- North of Canal, South of M40, east of Hardwick Hill, Banbury
- 'Site D' (Options for Growth) – Thorpe Way area and land west of M40, Banbury
- SAPA, Banbury (particularly to accommodate businesses relocated from the Canalside area)
- Need to consider in more detail the future of businesses on Canalside
- North East Caversfield, Bicester

- South East Bicester/South of Langford Village/land between A4421 and the A41 or south of the A41
- Garden Centre, Bicester
- Regeneration of Murdock Road, Telford Road estates, Bicester
- Oxford Technology Park, Kidlington
- 'Additional land at Kidlington' (not specified)
- Phase 3 Oxford Spires Business Park, Kidlington remains undeveloped (and meeting need for housing land is a top priority)

Officers Response

1.19 Question 16: Do you support the locations proposed for strategic urban centre allocations?

| Strategic Urban Centre allocations | Yes | No | Total |
|---|-----|----|-------|
| Bicester – Land at Bure Place Car Park | 71 | 7 | 78 |
| Banbury – Land at Bolton Road | 95 | 7 | 102 |
| Banbury – Land between Castle Quay Shopping Centre and Spiceball Leisure Centre | 94 | 11 | 106 |

1.19.1 Summary of responses to Bicester - land at Bure Place Car Park

95% of respondents support the strategic urban centre allocation Bicester: land at Bure Place Car Park.

2.16.1.1 Reasons for supporting Bicester – Land at Bure Place Car Park:

- Need to build upwards
- Provision of additional facilities

2.16.1.2 Reasons for not supporting Bicester – Land at Bure Place Car Park:

- There are concerns about flooding and water capacity
- Car parking spaces in the town centre should be a major consideration
- Respondents have raised concerns about traffic and access issues`

2.16.1.3 Other Comments

Respondents have stressed that issues relating to road infrastructure need to be addressed and specified in the policies.

One respondent feels there are too many vacant shops in Bicester which have been empty for years and more shops are unnecessary.

Bicester Town Council welcomes the inclusion of the site but has raised concern about the timescale (which does not reflect the current projected completion date of late 2011). They welcome the commitments of a new bigger, modern library to replace the present one and a new civic building.

The Highways Agency support the locations proposed for strategic urban centre allocations but reiterate the necessity to include a parking policy that minimises parking spaces in sustainably located town centre locations.

Middleton Stoney Parish Council supports the proposal but comments that it is likely to become a 'drive to' destination and yet there are no proposals for road infrastructure improvements.

Officers Response

2.16.2 Summary of responses to Banbury - land at Bolton Road

93% of respondents support the strategic urban centre allocation Banbury: land at Bolton Road.

2.16.2.1 Reasons for supporting Banbury – Land at Bolton Road:

- Sustainable, Brownfield site located in the town centre
- Opportunity to secure a wide range of uses in a highly accessible location

2.16.2.2 Reasons for not supporting Banbury – Land at Bolton Road:

- Parking should be retained – valuable parking asset
- Concerns have been raised that council tax is high and money should not be spent on unnecessary projects
- Traffic and access issues are raised

2.16.2.3 Other Comments

One respondent suggests that minor development through re-using derelict buildings is considered the best approach.

CPRE note that the provision of retail/mixed use land at Bolton Road in Banbury could help to repair a *frayed edge* within the conservation area.

Banbury Town Council believes the Bolton Road Area is suitable for town centre expansion. They comment that the area needs enhancement, but the number of alleyways could link well with the old town and the recently pedestrianised Parsons Street.

Banbury Town Council stress that car parking provision needs to be included at this site and also feel it is a good site for a town centre supermarket, which the town currently lacks.

The Highways Agency support the locations proposed for strategic urban centre allocations but reiterate the necessity to include a parking policy that minimises parking spaces in sustainably located town centre locations.

One developer supports the allocation of the site. The site provides a significant Brownfield opportunity to secure a range of uses in a highly accessible location site and it would contribute towards increased floorspace requirements. They support the initial approach outlined in paragraph B.92 but ask for reference to be made to include *leisure uses* on the site (to reflect Gala Bingo). They stress the need for high quality design given it's location in the setting of the conservation area and various listed buildings.

One respondent comments that a multiplex cinema should have been built in Banbury 10 years ago.

It has been suggested that rejuvenating and upgrading the existing areas in Banbury TC is the best approach. The existing buildings are pleasant but

have been neglected. Parson Street has been given as an example of going through a successful ‘facelift’ and it is suggested the rest of the town follows.

Banbury Civic Society are concerned that the allocation of Land at Bolton Road will result in ‘clone shops’ being situated there. Development at Bolton Road should be of appropriate scale, massing and layout to complement and respond to the historic medieval burgage plots on the southern side of the site and the variety of alleys and back buildings. Conservation principles should be key to the policy to preserve and enhance the historic setting by listed and locally-listed buildings and the conservation area. The ideal place for ‘clone retail’ would be best placed at Calthorpe Street / Marlborough Road, as this would encourage footfall back to the town's core.

One respondent comments that Bolton Road lies within the existing defined Town Centre Shopping Area and it is therefore important that any development is properly integrated with the established retail core and does not undermine efforts to protect and enhance its vitality and viability.

One respondent has queried whether the existing multi-storey car park would remain?

Several respondents suggest that car parking should be a major consideration.

Officers Response

1.19.3 Summary of responses to Banbury - land between Castle Quay Shopping Centre and Spiceball Leisure Centre

89% of respondents support the strategic urban centre allocation Banbury: land between Castle Quay Shopping Centre and Spiceball Leisure Centre.

2.16.3.1 Reasons for supporting Banbury – Land between Castle Quay Shopping Centre and Spiceball Leisure Centre:

- Will provide an opportunity for an improved and larger performance/theatre venue as part of a redeveloped of the Mill Arts Centre complex
- A multiplex cinema should have been built in Banbury 10 years ago

2.16.3.2 Reasons for not supporting Banbury – Land between Castle Quay Shopping Centre and Spiceball Leisure Centre:

- Concerns about flooding
- The area by the library is underused
- Encroaching on green areas at Spiceball
- Traffic and access concerns are raised
- Area by the existing library is under utilised, so no need to encroach on green space

2.16.3.3 Other Comments

One respondent suggests that rejuvenating and upgrading the existing areas in Banbury TC is the best approach. The existing buildings are pleasant but have been neglected.

Banbury Civic Society are concerned that the removal of the Library to the Cultural Quarter will hasten the decline of the old town, unless mitigated by other policies and exciting development on the current Calthorpe Street and Marlborough Road car park sites. Retention of the historic parts of The Mill in their entirety is considered essential to successful or desirable development within the Cultural Quarter.

One respondent comments that Banbury does not need more tax funded 'culture'. The focus should be on new small businesses to fuel growth and new opportunities-which is considered difficult at present.

One respondent is concerned that St Mary's, Banbury, has not been included into plans in relation to the Cultural Quarter which is very odd given its large size and lively Arts programme.

One respondent suggests only premises above past flood levels should be considered and that there is no need for more shops as so many are vacant; they also doubt whether more offices are required.

The Highways Agency support the locations proposed for strategic urban centre allocations but reiterate the necessity to include a parking policy that minimises parking spaces in sustainably located town centre locations.

One developer suggests that the allocation should be expanded to include the North Canal car park. It provides an opportunity for parking to support the development of the quarter and also has the potential for redevelopment (subject to the appropriate re-provision of parking).

One respondent suggests the range of uses for the "Cultural Quarter" should be expanded to include uses that are complementary to the anticipated cultural uses and the established town centre uses. Examples include hotel and leisure uses.

Banbury Town Council supports the Cultural Quarter. The Town needs a site for a new library and facilities such as a theatre/cinema, and an art gallery and other commercial development are also favoured. The site will need to include car parking, probably on the ground floor with building above to prevent damage to buildings during any possible flooding.

The Environment Agency expresses concern that the site is within the floodplain of the river Cherwell. They recommend that this is highlighted in the Core Strategy, and criteria for development are added to the policy. This site will also require a Level 2 SFRA and a Sequential and Exceptions test to be demonstrated, in order to provide a robust evidence base for this allocation in the Core Strategy, and to be consistent with the national planning policy PPS25. EA also make reference to their comments made to the Canalside allocation which also apply to this site.

The 'cultural centre' does not appear to be an accurate description for the site (historically or geographically). Banbury is recognised worldwide by the Banbury Cross - the centre should be near here. Sites at Calthorpe Street and Marlborough Road areas are suggested.

Officers Response

1.20 Question 17: Are there any other sites we should allocate as a strategic urban centre allocation?

1.20.1 Summary of responses

2.17.1.1 General Comments

One respondent comments on Banbury High Street and Market Place; they suggest that these areas should be rejuvenated by freshening up shop fronts and encouraging new shops/cafes to the old heart of Banbury.

Another respondent suggests that in the medium term, Bicester Town Centre needs to be expanded.

One respondent comments that the proposals for Oxford Technology Park, Langford Lane, Kidlington, are part of a cluster that offers the same advantages as a strategic urban centre.

2.17.1.2 Specific Site Suggestions

- Bolton Road, Banbury
- Land between Castle Quay and Spiceball, Banbury
- Land west of Calthorpe Street, Banbury
- Land between Calthorpe Street and Marlborough Road, Banbury
- Bicester Village
- Land at Bure Place Car Park, Bicester
- Kidlington Village Centre
- Oxford Technology Park, Langford Lane, Kidlington

Officers Response

1.21 Question 18: Do you support the site allocated for the relocation of Banbury United Football club?

| No of Responses | Yes | No | Total |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-------|
| | 128 | 224 | 352 |

1.21.1 Summary of responses

A number of responses (**SAY HOW MANY**) have been received supporting the relocation of Banbury United Football Club (See Appendix 2); however they have not provided contact details and can therefore not be registered as a representation.

63% of respondents do not support the site allocated for the relocation of Banbury United Football Club.

2.18.1.1 Reasons for supporting the site allocated for the relocation of Banbury United Football Club:

- The site will give Banbury the opportunity for youngsters in the area to have better training and football coaching facilities and will be a great asset to the community
- A conurbation the size of Banbury should have a football club of stature, satisfying the needs of the football watching public and acting as a centre for excellence for the development of youth football in the area
- Will help to secure the long-term future of the club
- Needs to be re-sited in order to allow the regeneration of Canalside
- New club will bring benefits to the community

2.18.1.2 Reasons for not supporting the site allocated for the relocation of Banbury United Football Club:

- Traffic and access problems on a busy road
- Too close to existing residential properties leading to extra traffic, noise and pollution
- Prime land should not be taken, the existing site is preferable
- Loss of open countryside
- Village location is inappropriate for a town football club
- Located too far away from the motorway and railway station

2.18.1.3 Other Comments

Sport England would welcome further discussion with the Council, football club and football association regarding the suitability of the site, as from the information contained in the draft Core Strategy it is not in a position to support the proposal or otherwise.

One respondent supports the proposal provided there is some financial support to help the club move and adequate parking provision is made.

Several respondents suggest the need for a good public transport link between the club ground and the train station, so away fans can get in and out easily.

Several respondents suggest that other more appropriate Brownfield sites should be considered. A number of alternative sites have been suggested including the old Alcan sports field, Spiceball Park and land close to junction 11 of the M40.

One respondent states they already have Banbury rugby club on one side with 16 floodlights and to have further lights is not acceptable. An increase in noise, traffic, litter etc is not sustainable, with the additional 1100 houses for Bankside and no strategic changes in road capacity.

Officers Response

1.22 Question 19: Do you support other policies set out within the draft core strategy?

| No of Responses | Yes | No | Total |
|-----------------|-----|----|-------|
| Overall | 123 | 68 | 191 |

Not all policies received representations. Only the ones that received representations are discussed within this section

1.22.1 Summary of responses to Policy SD1 – Mitigating and adapting to climate change

SEEPB comment that they support this policy.

There was support for the policy’s recognition of resource efficiency and reducing flood risk (from the Environment Agency).

There was also support from two respondents for the acknowledgement in this policy of reducing travel by encouraging more sustainable travel patterns.

Oxfordshire County Council comments that the district’s preferred approach for proposals for renewable and low-carbon energy developments is supported as it is in general conformity with policy CC2 of the SE Plan which says that measures to mitigate and adapt to current and forecast effects of climate change will be implemented through application of local planning policy.

One respondent stated that in the adaptation section of this policy they would like to see a link between achieving climate change adaptation and protecting and enhancing biodiversity. This should be both in terms of helping biodiversity to adapt to climate change, and through recognition of the role of ecosystem services in achieving climate change adaptation. This point was also raised by Natural England and in response to another question by BBOWT.

Another respondent argues that Policy SD 1 is directly contrary to PPS1 in that the policy is extremely generic and leaves all detailed matters for inclusion within an SPD, which would not be subject to independent examination. There is no indication of what percentage / form of renewable energy provision will be sought and no indication of any assessment of the impact of this policy on site viability. The policy is therefore considered unsound. As currently drafted, it is down to the whim of the LPA as to what level to seek. In addition, the policy does not include any reference to size / type of development.

One respondent commented that the proposed strategic allocations conflict with policy SD 1 in that development has not been directed to the most sustainable locations. Development at Wykham Park Farm would make SD 1 more robust.

1.22.2 Summary of responses to Policy SD2 – Energy Hierarchy

SEEPB comment that they support this policy.

One respondent supports the Council's wording of the energy hierarchy in seeking to prioritise a reduction in energy consumption through the use of sustainable design and construction before looking at renewable energy options.

Another respondent does not support the energy hierarchy. In particular they do not understand the prioritisation of decentralised energy over renewable energy.

1.22.3 Summary of responses to Policy SD3 – Assessing Renewable Energy Proposals

SEEPB comment that they support this policy. However, they add that it would be helpful if the Core Strategy were to include a target for CO² emissions reduction to help deliver Policy CC2 of the South East Plan and a renewable energy generation target for the area to indicate the contribution the authority is seeking to make to the regional and subregional renewable energy targets.

Two comments note the increasing relevance of the content of this policy in terms of proposals coming forward. There was one comment of undetailed support for this policy.

One respondent supports the encouragement of renewable energy projects, especially where local sources of biomass feedstock are used. Government policy also encourages anaerobic digestion (AD) systems on farms, both as a source of renewable energy and as a sustainable means of waste disposal and greenhouse gas reduction. Often the conflict between waste management and renewable energy policies creates planning problems for on-farm AD applications.

A respondent suggests that the supporting text should include reference to the Cotswold AONB Management Plan and its content relating to renewable energy proposals. The policy also needs amplification in terms of the suitability of single turbines being dependent on the particular circumstances of each location.

Another respondent suggests that in assessing renewable energy proposals, impacts should be assessed not only on biodiversity designations, but also on habitats and species of principal importance (as listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006), and Conservation Target Areas, in line with national and regional policy.

One respondent states that although it is understood that national planning guidance does not preclude wind turbine schemes in Green Belts, there is

encouragement for referring to the careful consideration of visual impact on the openness of Green Belts. This was also echoed by another respondent.

One respondent refers to the concern that wind turbine proposals should be treated on an individual basis as there are likely to be adverse impacts. This was also echoed by another respondent.

1.22.4 Summary of responses to Policy SD4 – Combined Heat and Power and District Heating

SEEPB comment that they support this policy.

There was one comment expressing support for this policy. However the same respondent commented that the policy does not go far enough, and should in fact make the use of CHP and DH essential in all circumstances where applicable.

One respondent added that CHP might be ideal for affordable housing schemes (where small heating systems can be integrated across the development).

One respondent noted the rapidly changing economics of CHP and how this is best delivered (as well as concerns over installation/reliability/maintenance). They comment that this policy is likely to become increasingly redundant as it is overtaken by the national timescale carbon neutral targets. The policy should be deleted because of these reasons, and because it unnecessarily restricts the means of achieving carbon neutral development.

One respondent refers to the guidance in PPS1 relating to evidence based requirements and states that the financial impact of the introduction of this policy has not been assessed.

1.22.5 Summary of responses to Policy SD5 – Sustainable Construction

SEEPB comment that they support this policy.

Oxfordshire County Council comments that environment and climate change is a County Council priority, whilst the SE Plan seeks to achieve sustainable development through policy CC1 and to adapt to and mitigate climate change outlined in policy CC2. They would encourage housing development to achieve at least Code Level 3 of Code for Sustainable Homes in line with policy CC4 of the SE Plan and the Oxfordshire Sustainable Construction Advice Note (2009), which has been approved by CDC for development control purposes.

One respondent suggests the policy be amended to refer to the best use of embodied energy within existing buildings, which includes reusing buildings as well as making use of recycled construction materials. This issue is also raised by Banbury Civic Society (not specifically in relation to this policy) who comment that the Core Strategy should make explicit that, where there is a

conflict between existing heritage assets and new development, there will be a presumption in favour of retaining the heritage assets in use to avoid the consumption of building materials and energy and the generation of waste from the construction of replacement buildings.

One respondent suggests that eco standards of construction should be enforced on all growth areas throughout the district. Another respondent comments that Code Level 6 should be required for all new development in Bicester ('BREEAM Excellent') due to the eco town status.

A respondent (the Environment Agency) comments that they support this policy in general because it requires water efficiency in new development. The requirement for Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 or above will achieve water efficiency standards, which is justified because Cherwell District Council sits within an area of 'serious' water stress and limited water resources. As such they advocate the higher BREEAM 'excellent' level for new non-household buildings.

Another respondent is concerned that this policy seeks to apply Code Level standards which will already be the subject of national regulation through the Building Control and other regulatory regimes. Therefore, they feel it is not appropriate or reasonable for the Council to seek mandatorily to impose higher standards on an ad hoc basis as this policy seeks to do. They note that the Council could quite rightly 'encourage' these standards (perhaps by reducing other financial obligations on a scheme), but not impose.

Another respondent concurs, commenting that parts of the policy are in any event superfluous and other parts are contrary to the national timetable for the introduction of such standards.

These points are raised by another respondent, who does not consider that the evidence base study sufficiently justifies the policy. There is no definition of 'larger schemes'. The financial impact of the policy on schemes needs to be tested. Financial viability is also raised by another respondent.

One other respondent adds that the evidence base needs to be further explained, and that the policy would benefit from added flexibility if development viability is threatened.

1.22.6 Summary of responses to Policy SD6 – Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

Natural England comments that there are a few designated sites in Cherwell District which depend on, or are sensitive to hydrological conditions in close proximity to them, e.g. Oxford Meadows SAC and Otmoor SSSI. SuDS mitigate the effects of development on local hydrology by maintaining greenfield run-off rates and as such Natural England would like the policy to do more than "encourage" the use of SuDS in these situations, particularly for all new development in Bicester which has the potential to impact on the watercourses which lead through the town to the River Ray.

BBOWT suggests that the delivery of wildlife benefits through provision of SuDS is included in the policy. They add that the references to the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations 1994 should be updated to refer to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the 2010 Habitats Regulations), which came into force on 1 April 2010 to consolidate the various sets of amendments to the previous amendments.

The Environment Agency advises that more emphasis should be placed on reducing surface water run-off where possible, in order to meet the objective of reducing flood risk, which is an objective of PPS25 and the Council's Sustainability Appraisal Framework. It also advises that the policy should be clearer on when a SuDS scheme and a Flood Risk Assessment will be required.

Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council considers that the inspection, monitoring and maintenance of SuDS is not adequately covered by the policy. They also consider that more clarity is needed in the LDF to provide improved flood risk management and address inadequate or damaged drainage systems by providing preventative maintenance programmes and Surface Water Management Plans.

One respondent suggests that the caveat relating to adoption and ease of maintenance is unreasonable since the location of SuDS is not driven by ease of access but by the need to ensure adequate drainage.

1.22.7 Summary of responses to Policy SD7 – Protection of the Oxford Meadows SAC through Maintenance of Groundwater Flows and Water Quality

One comment of undetailed support for this policy.

BBOWT and other respondents stated that given the poor water quality of the rivers in the District, and the particular sensitivity of some of the wetland habitats, they suggest it would be appropriate for the Core Strategy to promote land management initiatives as described in policy NRM2 of the South East Plan.

Natural England supports this policy, however it would like to see included that water quantity is also protected in particular during operation of a development, as alterations to adjacent rivers or obstruction to natural groundwater flows may alter the flooding regime of the SAC. Furthermore there are other designated sites in the district that depend on, or are sensitive to, hydrological conditions, and so the SuDS policy (SD 6) needs to be strengthened to maintain greenfield run off rates for all new development.

1.22.8 Summary of responses to Policy SD8 – Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity and the Natural Environment

BBOWT stated that it would be helpful to specifically make mention of species and habitats of principal importance within the policy. Whilst it is explained in the contextual text that these features should be considered at sites of regional or local importance, this is not the usual approach (for example, PPS9 considers the two issues separately), and it would therefore be helpful to clarify this within the policy itself.

BBOWT also considers it essential that a mechanism is identified by which the biodiversity enhancements required by this policy can be delivered, and would support a tariff based approach to secure this.

1.22.9 Summary of responses to Policy SD9 – Conservation Target Areas

Natural England requests that the policy is extended to cover development within a 1 km buffer of the CTA where the aims of the CTA can be implemented within development. In this way the CTAs can be buffered and extended.

1.22.10 Summary of responses to Policy SD10 – Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

The Cotswold AONB Conservation Board suggests the policy should be widened to include impact on the setting of the AONB.

Natural England suggests the policy could go further to describe some of the forms of development that it considers to be potentially damaging and inappropriate, in order to provide more guidance.

1.22.11 Summary of responses to Policy SD11 – Local Landscape Protection and Enhancement

Bicester Town Council advocates the creation of green buffer zones between new Bicester and surrounding open landscapes and rural communities.

One respondent welcomes the decision to replace local, non-statutory landscape designations with a criteria-based policy. This is more likely to enable farm businesses in designated landscape areas to achieve the reasonable level of agricultural development needed to keep them commercially viable and competitive. They will then continue to be in a position to provide cost-effective landscape and environmental management as a by-product of their agricultural activity.

One respondent requests the inclusion of a criterion to allow for exceptions e.g. where development is required to deliver other policies in the Core Strategy.

1.22.12 Summary of responses to Policy SD12 – Oxford Green Belt

One respondent suggests the Core Strategy should include more details of the proposed railway station at Water Eaton and the effect that this will have on the Green Belt. Another respondent considers the policy should make allowance for Water Eaton Parkway station and the resultant relocation of the aggregates terminal as these proposals will enable wider strategic objectives to be met.

Another respondent is concerned that the gap between Kidlington/Yarnton and Oxford is being squeezed from both sides.

One developer suggests a strategic review of the Green Belt should be carried out as part of the Core Strategy. Alternatively, the Council should provide an evidence base that justifies the reason for not undertaking a review.

A respondent commends the declaration to respect the concept of Green Belt around Oxford and urge the Council to resist any further attempt to develop land within the Green Belt.

One respondent suggests a small scale review of the Green Belt around Kidlington should be considered, to allow the allocation of land at Langford Lane, Kidlington for Oxford Technology Park.

1.22.13 Summary of responses to Policy SD13 – The Built Environment

Sport England is concerned that this policy does not adequately reflect and build on the vision of the Core Strategy and strategic objective 13 regarding improving the health and well-being of those who live and work in the district.

1.22.14 Summary of responses to Policy NWB1 – Strategic Allocation 1: North West Bicester Eco-Development

One respondent suggests the Code for Sustainable Homes target should be level 4 to reflect the guidance set out in PPS1.

1.22.15 Summary of responses to Policy H1 – Housing Distribution

One respondent disagrees with the proposed distribution of housing across the district and the emphasis on the NW Bicester eco development to take a large proportion of properties that should have been distributed in North Cherwell.

Another respondent suggests the housing numbers in Policy H1 need to be adjusted to more accurately reflect the South East Plan.

1.22.16 Summary of responses to Policy H2 – Ensuring Sustainable Housing Delivery

One respondent supports the inclusion of the exception in this policy and promote its retention in the submission draft of this Document.

1.22.17 Summary of responses to Policy H3 – Efficient and Sustainable Use of Land

One respondent supports the intention to meet 40% of housing needs using previously developed land and urge the Council to increase this figure further.

Another respondent suggests the approach within the policy should be to incorporate a guideline figure of 33%, to reflect current evidence.

A respondent advises that it should be recognised within this policy that previously developed land supports important biodiversity habitats.

One respondent suggests that although Policy H3 refers to seeking to make efficient use of land, the Core Strategy should include a policy commitment to contributing to the regional density target of 40 dwellings per hectare, as set out in Policy H5 of the South East Plan.

1.22.18 Summary of responses to Policy H4 – Affordable Housing Target

One respondent states that policy H4 is looking to provide at least 25% of new housing 2006-2026 as affordable housing, which is below the target of at least 40% for Central Oxfordshire in the South East Plan (Policy CO3) and the overall regional target of 35% for social rented and intermediate housing (Policy H3). Given that the supporting text states that Cherwell has a huge need for affordable housing and that the recent viability study concludes that in some rural areas a higher level would be possible, they consider that the options should be examined further to enable the delivery of more affordable homes.

1.22.19 Summary of responses to Policy H5 – Affordable Housing Requirements

One respondent objects to the specification that affordable housing requirements will be met without the use of social housing grant. Whilst this may be reconsidered along with the composition of affordable housing in the event of development being rendered unviable, this is unduly prescriptive.

1.22.20 Summary of responses to Policy H6 – Housing Mix

Open respondent suggests it is inappropriate for the Council to seek to micro-manage the size and type of market housing to be provided as part of new developments.

Another respondent suggests policy H6 should be limited to the first sentence and the specified mix of dwellings should be deleted.

A respondent feels that not all large scale developments will provide appropriate locations for retirement/downsizing homes.

One respondent states that they note the need for more family housing and suggests the Council aims to retain existing family sized homes and resists the sub-division of properties.

Another respondent is concerned that the policy is too restrictive and will not result in the development of dwellings which genuinely meet needs at the time they are built.

One respondent believes the housing mix is far too prescriptive and should be a district-wide target, not a target to be used for every site.

1.22.21 Summary of responses to Policy H7 – Extra Care Housing

One developer feels it would be unreasonable for developers to have to comply with a policy that states 5% of properties must fall in this category, if the RSLs do not consider there to be a need for affordable extra care homes.

Another respondent argues that this approach is not economically viable on smaller sites; it is understood that the economies of scale are such that developments of this type require in the order of 40-50 extra care homes for market sale if they are to be economically viable.

1.22.22 Summary of responses to Policy H8 – Travelling Communities

One respondent argues that the policy excludes Green Belt. Circular 01/2006 and case law show that Green Belt may be considered in exceptional circumstances which include a lack of alternatives.

Another respondent suggests that consideration should be given to shortening the list of criteria and making the policy more positive in line with guidance.

One respondent suggests consideration needs to be given to the relocation of the existing site which is within the Canalside regeneration area. They would suggest the expansion of the successful site in Bloxham.

The Environment Agency supports the inclusion of flooding criteria in this policy. Mobile homes and caravans are classified as "highly vulnerable" in PPS25, and should not be permitted in Flood Zone 3a and 3b. But they should also be avoided in any areas of flood risk, in line with the sequential approach, so they recommend changing the wording to "avoiding areas at risk of flooding".

1.22.23 Summary of responses to Policy E1 – Employment Development

One respondent supports the policy, acknowledging its conformity with PPS4.

The Cotswolds Conservation Board supports this policy.

Bicester Town Council also supports the policy.

One respondent supports the policy but notes the contrasting approach being taken at Canalside.

One respondent suggests it is important to provide support for employment in rural areas, particularly to meet identified local needs. Whilst the policy says that proposals in rural areas will be supported where they meet local needs there is no explanation of how local needs will be identified. The policy would restrict the redevelopment of existing employment sites outside Banbury and Bicester, and the conversion of rural buildings (for example as part of a farm diversification scheme). The policy should be amended to provide greater support for rural businesses and conversions of existing rural buildings.

Another respondent generally supports the policy but also comments that the last criterion makes the policy inflexible. They refer to the example of Bodicote, and a potential employment development at Cotefield Farm which could serve local needs and those of the wider areas. However this potential would be missed through the inflexibility of the policy. This comment is also echoed by another respondent who, whilst supporting the policy's reference to a range of employment sites and many of the criteria, also questions the reference to urban areas only.

One respondent, in relation to a particular site in Bicester, comments that the policy should also allow flexibility to allow employment sites to operate within a range of commercial uses, whether B use class or not. Furthermore a buffer zone should be established around employment sites in which residential and other sensitive uses will not be permitted, in order to protect commercial operating requirements.

Chiltern Railways supports Policy E1 in that new employment development should be located with good access to public transport. This will be particularly important if the District is to attract "knowledge economy" employers, who are dependent on good connections and the ability to attract staff from a wide area.

Prodrive Motorsport Ltd supports the intention to continue to protect existing employment land and buildings, and the criteria set out in the policy. Prodrive also supports the acknowledgement that there may be cases where an applicant wishes to change the use of a site or redevelop it for a non-employment use, and that these cases will be considered with regard to specific criteria as listed. Paragraph A.164 of the Draft Core Strategy is in accordance with Policy EC2 of PPS4, which requires planning authorities to ensure their policies are flexible enough to accommodate sectors not anticipated in the plan and allow a quick response to changes in economic circumstances; and identify a range of sites to facilitate a range of economic development. Prodrive supports the intention to ensure a balanced portfolio of sites is made available to support economic growth across the district, on

the understanding that the proposed strategic allocations for employment use in Banbury and Bicester and further smaller allocations sit alongside the existing site allocations. Prodrive also supports the delivery of a flexible supply of employment land via the Delivery DPD.

One respondent comments that the policy should be amended to encourage the redevelopment of existing employment sites to provide modern and efficient facilities for mixed employment development (not all of the requirements for employment land will be met through strategic allocations). Existing employment buildings will continue to perform a crucial role in the growth and diversification of the local economy. Many businesses may wish to expand or to redevelop their existing facilities. This should be encouraged where it would help secure local employment opportunities or where it could improve the efficiency of existing businesses. This can also help to meet environmental objectives by providing better performing buildings in terms of the use of energy and resources.

The South East England Partnership Board suggests the policy includes reference to achieving smart growth to reflect the SE Plan, explaining what this requires and how it will be encouraged in terms of the six key principles: employment; enterprise; innovation and creativity; skills; competition; and investment in infrastructure, including transport and physical development. In order to promote smart growth and help reduce future transport demands, policies should actively encourage the development of communications technology infrastructure in accordance with the SE Plan and set out how opportunities to promote advances in ICT and new ways of working (i.e. home based businesses will be realised). They wish to see reference to partnership working to promote smart growth and skills and training.

Oxfordshire County Council comments that the section on economic issues is somewhat low key in terms of any spatial dimensions around Bicester's role although it is referred to later in the document e.g. under the vision for Bicester. The strategy needs to promote Bicester more strongly as a new location for educational, scientific and technological sectors and meeting the needs of clusters. This also applies to the section on the spatial strategy (A27) and on economic objectives (A31).

1.22.24 Summary of responses to Policy E2 – Supporting Urban Centres

One respondent said it would be helpful if Policy E2 could set out the hierarchy of town and village centres in the district and set out the distribution of additional floor space for main town centre uses over the plan period.

One developer suggests criterion 6 should be re-worded in order to retain control over existing retail development outside the three urban areas, without eliminating future development prospects. They suggest the policy be amended in order that existing retail development outside the Council's preferred urban centres can be measured against the provisions in Planning Policy Statement 6.

1.22.25 Summary of responses to Policy I1 – Infrastructure

A respondent suggests the policy should be amended so that it complies with the latest national policy relating to Community Infrastructure Levy.

1.22.26 Summary of responses to Policy I2 – Green Infrastructure Network

Sport England feels the policy or supporting text does not appear to build on the use of the term 'of value' within the policy and it is therefore unclear how the value of a site or feature will be measured or whether the evidence base provides this detail.

Oxfordshire County Council considers that references to networks, links and connectivity should be made more overt by stating "linkages through walking and cycling routes and public rights of way".

1.22.27 Summary of responses to Policy I3 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision

Sport England supports the basis of the policy but requests a number of amendments to the wording.

Banbury Town Council suggests the Council needs to consult and work with the Town Council when looking at open spaces and recreation.

1.22.28 Summary of responses to Policy I4 – Local Standards of Provision

Banbury Town Council suggests a need to deal with deficiencies identified and work to the standards outlined to ensure provision meets local need. It also stresses the need for outdoor sports provision to be accompanied by adequate changing facilities.

Sport England has a number of concerns regarding the inclusion of one combined standard for all outdoor sports provision. The inclusion of the one standard does not provide certainty as to the nature of, or demand for, provision that development proposals will be required to contribute towards. In addition, it is unclear how appropriate the 10 minute walk/drive time accessibility standard is for each type of provision included under the 'outdoor sports provision' heading. The minimum size requirements and the realistic onsite thresholds are also likely to differ greatly for each type of provision within the category. It is also noted that the policy does not include qualitative standards of provision. Sport England and another respondent comment that as the PPG17 study was carried out in 2006 there may be a need to update the evidence base to adequately support the draft Core Strategy.

Natural England comments that where new open space provision seeks to maintain established character or increase ecological connectivity between two sites the area needs to be large enough to be functional irrespective of the local standards.

One respondent considers that this policy is a development control policy and should be included in the delivery DPD rather than the Core Strategy.

The policy should make it clear that the eco-development is subject to separate open space standards in line with the PPS1 supplement.

One respondent considers the standards excessive and queries whether a viability assessment has been carried out.

One respondent considers the policy should be written more flexibly to allow for combined children's play area schemes as an alternative to LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs.

1.22.29 Summary of responses to Policy I5 – Built Sport, Recreation and Community Facilities

Sport England requests deletion of the words “to seek to” to strengthen the policy in line with the wording of Policy I3. Sport England welcomes the inclusion of separate standards of provision in table 12 but considers that quality and accessibility standards need to be included. It suggests that policies I3, I4 and I5 should be combined into one policy and linked back to the vision and strategic objectives.

Another respondent also suggests that policies I3, I4 and I5 are combined for succinctness.

1.22.30 Summary of responses to Policy BIC2 – Employment land at South West Bicester

A respondent advises the area identified for employment land at South West Bicester is adjacent to Bicester Wetland Reserve Local Wildlife Site. Any proposals for development here should be able to demonstrate that they will not negatively impact on the LWS.

1.22.31 Summary of responses to Policy BIC5 – Meeting the Need for Open Space, Sport and Recreation in Bicester

BBOWT comments that restoration of Stratton Audley quarry should deliver biodiversity enhancements in line with the wildlife interest of the site and to meet requirements of PPS9 for development to enhance or add to biodiversity resources.

1.22.32 Summary of responses to Policy BAN1 – Strategic Allocation 4: Banbury Canalside

One respondent supports the regeneration of Canalside as a strategic housing allocation but is concerned at the level of proposed ‘town centre uses’ i.e. retail, leisure and office.

1.22.33 Summary of responses to Policy BAN4 – Reserve Strategic Allocation 2: West of Warwick Road

One respondent objects as the Council has not adequately demonstrated that housing needs cannot be met by sequentially preferable sites.

1.22.34 Summary of responses to Policy BAN5 – Reserve Strategic Allocation 3: North of Hanwell Fields

A respondent objects as the Council has not adequately demonstrated that housing needs cannot be met by sequentially preferable sites.

1.22.35 Summary of responses to Policy BAN6 – Strategic Allocation 7: Land west of M40

One respondent suggests the site should not be restricted to B1 and B2 uses.

1.22.36 Summary of responses to Policy BAN7 – Supporting Banbury Town Centre

A respondent is concerned that the extension of the ‘town centre’ to the east of the town centre will stretch the established retail core and undermine its vitality and viability.

Another respondent suggests the boundary needs refining to identify a retail core and, if necessary, a periphery where other town centre uses would be considered appropriate.

1.22.37 Summary of responses to Policy BAN9 – Strategic Allocation 9: Banbury Cultural Quarter

One respondent suggests the proposed allocation for the ‘Cultural Quarter’ should be extended to include the North Canal car park.

Another respondent argues the range of uses proposed for the ‘Cultural Quarter’ should be expanded to include those which are complimentary to the anticipated cultural uses.

1.22.38 Summary of responses to Policy BAN10 – Meeting the need for open space, sport and recreation in Banbury

Banbury Rugby Club considers that the LDF documents (including the evidence base) fail to acknowledge adequately the breadth and depth of rugby in Banbury, and that Bodicote Park should be protected for playing rugby.

1.22.39 Summary of responses to Policy RA2 – Distribution of Housing in the Rural Areas

One respondent believes this policy of restraint is the appropriate way forward for both Kidlington and Yarnton, and the other Green Belt settlements.

1.22.40 Summary of responses to Policy RA4 – Directing Employment in the Rural Areas

A developer accepts that allocating land to meet employment needs in rural areas should be a matter for a separate DPD; the policy should be expanded to provide support for employment to meet identified local needs, for the redevelopment of existing rural employment sites and for the conversion of buildings to provide new employment units.

1.22.41 Summary of responses to Policy MON1 – Housing Land Supply: Bicester

One developer comments that Policy MON 1 sets out the monitoring thresholds for housing delivery, below which the reserve strategic allocation at SW Bicester Phase 2 would be brought forward. The policy also suggests that the release of land at SW Bicester Phase 2 may be phased to reflect the level of shortfall that is experienced.

They do not consider this to be a suitable approach to ensuring housing delivery. Policy MON 1 would effectively preclude any planning application for Phase 2 coming forward before 2016 at the earliest, with the next window of opportunity coming in 2021. While Phase 2 is not of the same scale as NW Bicester, and will benefit from being able to integrate into infrastructure created for Phase 1, the lead-in time for delivering housing on the site should not be underestimated. If an application is delayed until 2021, then it is unlikely that a meaningful level of development could be delivered on site before the end of the plan period in 2026.

Furthermore, phasing the delivery of housing from Phase 2 to reflect a shortfall would be inappropriate. Phase 2 will be a significant development, which will need to be planned and delivered comprehensively, and with certainty that it can be carried through to completion.

To phase the delivery of housing on Phase 2 according to the ability, or otherwise of another site to deliver housing would be inefficient, and would create difficulties in meeting overall housing targets for the district.

Paragraph 7.7 of the South East Plan recognises that the regional housing figures given are unlikely to meet demand for housing and will require an upward revision in a future review of the plan. This paragraph also contains reference to the opportunity for local planning authorities to provide higher than allocated levels of housing through the LDF process. It is therefore considered that the distinction between NW Bicester and SW Bicester Phase 2 is unnecessary. Giving both sites an equal status and allowing them to be brought forward independently of one another would give the Council the greatest opportunity to meet the housing allocation in the South East Plan.

The Hanwell site is unsustainable due to poor infrastructure and is becoming an extension of Banbury town. The proposed BAN 4 and BAN 5 are disruptive to a small village and its wildlife.

1.22.42 Summary of responses to Policy MON3 – Housing Land Supply: Banbury

One respondent suggests the triggers set out in Policy MON3 will not enable the 'reserve sites' to come forward in sufficient time to make good the shortfall which could occur.

Another respondent is concerned that this policy would only allow for the release of the reserve sites in the event that BAN1, BAN2 or BAN3 fail to

come forward in a sufficient timescale (i.e. in 2016-2021). Greater flexibility should be afforded to release reserve sites in the event that other commitments fail to be delivered.

1.22.43 Other Comments

The Environment Agency recommends a policy is included on flood risk, particularly as there are strategic sites at risk from flooding. It comments that there may be locally specific criteria to be set in the policy to help with the application of flood risk management principles, e.g. guidance on building behind flood defences. It recommends a number of areas which the policy should address.

Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council requests the inclusion of a section on cemetery provision for Kidlington as the existing burial ground will soon be full. They also request that proposals to improve Kidlington's flood defences are included in the LDF and that development upstream of the flood defences should contribute towards their improvement.

Officers Response

1.23 Question 20: Do you have any other comments on the draft core strategy?

1.23.1 Summary of responses

One respondent feels poor access to the M40 is an issue for Banbury district. Either a second Junction south of Banbury or a new river/canal/railway crossing is needed to reduce congestion in the town.

Another respondent argues that Central Government's policy of build at all costs is turning our countryside and small towns into a larger sprawl of concrete. Empty properties and second homes should be put to use for homeless people before new building continues. The Draft Core Strategy is far too long and complicated; it should be condensed and in plain English.

A respondent would prefer to see threshold of 400 units reduced with more sites allocated to avoid (so called) reserve sites and provide more flexibility.

Despite the inclusion in the Local Development Framework of "Canalside", Inland Waterways Association submits that the Draft Core Strategy misses an opportunity to make more of the valley which contains the River Cherwell and the Oxford Canal. This make a north south "green" link running through the district and already makes a huge contribution to the district's environment. There is opportunity to do much more. Districts, e.g. Northampton and Leicester, with similar opportunities, are in their Local Development Frameworks published information showing that they are planning to make much more of their navigable river valleys than Cherwell.

One respondent says there is no mention of religious buildings, even though many of these buildings are central to their townscapes or villagescapes.

Another respondent advises there are inconsistencies between the maps accessible as 'Interactive Maps' and those included within the appendices to the Draft Core Strategy e.g. the boundary of the "Cultural Quarter".

A respondent would support the Vision for Banbury, and is largely supportive of the Spatial Strategy for Banbury but would also like to see recognition of the need for a South East Link Road and the support of CDC to assist Banbury Town Council in lobbying other organisations such as OCC and the Highways Agency.

One respondent feels there needs to be a section dealing with communications over the planning of wireless and satellite towers and providing a good communication network for villages and other urban areas.

Oxfordshire County Council state that there is little or no acknowledgement of the role of partner organisations in shaping and delivering the objectives and policies in the document. There should be greater reference to the roles and responsibilities of Oxfordshire County Council in terms of infrastructure, transport and education and other service provision. The strategy should

reflect the single conversation process / development of a local investment plan. Flowing from this and linked to the Closer to Communities / locality working, the strong emphasis on Bicester and Banbury will help provide a focus for future locality working in these areas, as will the lesser focus on Kidlington.

One respondent argues that whilst the document highlights the importance of the preservation and enhancement of the area's natural and built environment it fails to address the importance of preserving and enhancing Cherwell's fragile historic environment and non designated heritage assets. Whilst a number of specific policies address the potential for harm to the historic and natural environment (such as H8 Travelling Communities and SD3 Assessing Renewable Energy Proposals) this is not addressed as a Key Environmental Objective in the Core Strategy.

Another respondent suggests it will be essential that the Core Strategy makes reference to the provision of adequate water and sewerage infrastructure to service all new development and to avoid unacceptable impacts on the environment (such as sewage flooding of residential and commercial property).

A respondent commented that this Draft Core Strategy is only of any value if comments and objectives listed by local people are actually listened to and acted upon.

Bicester Town Council welcomes the commitment to Anaerobic Digester Plant at NW Bicester but would like to see this sized to service the whole of Bicester and queries the use of incineration at Ardley and wonders if these processes have been considered 'in the round'?

Officers Response

1.24 Question 21: Do you have any comments on the Sustainability Appraisal?

1.24.1 Summary of responses

One respondent suggests sustainability will be constrained by CDC's ability to enforce policies where private developers will need to be persuaded to incur extra costs.

One developer states that it is imperative that the sustainability of individual sites is assessed on a consistent basis. From an analysis of the Sustainability Appraisal this does not always appear to have been the case. They are not confident that the site to the south of Broughton Road has been assessed in a fair and equitable manner. In part this is due to its inclusion within the land to the south (and west of Bloxham Road) but otherwise it appears to arise by not considering sites and their potential constraints in a consistent manner. Examples are given.

One respondent finds the weighting given to some villages in the CRAITLUS report confusing. Cropredy has been given a far higher sustainability rating than it can actually deliver, therefore the issue of sustainability in villages needs to be readdressed in some cases.

One respondent ask how the strategy relates to the proposed high speed rail link through the centre of the region.

One respondent argues the proposal to place 400 houses in Bodicote and relocate Banbury Football Club to Bodicote is not compatible with sustainable development.

One respondent suggests that BAN3 would not be sustainable. The use of cars would increase and everywhere is too far to walk or cycle (carrying a load).

One respondent comments that it seems strange to be advocating more building on greenfield sites, when the country will need more food grown locally. There is no provision for allotments, and in fact at least one disappears according to the maps.

One respondent suggests the town needs the flood alleviation scheme to be completed before Canalside can be developed.

Several respondents suggest the work seems to be a broad-brush desk exercise with too many judgements one could challenge.

One respondent raises the issue of theory versus practice. In theory the social economic and environmental aspects show awareness. In practice what is proposed does not tie in. Categorising sustainability is nebulous e.g. a village may have a school but it could already be at bursting point.

One respondent commented that CDC's commitment to reducing carbon emissions from development and to pursue stated policies relating to biodiversity and conservation is to be commended.

One respondent found it very technical and difficult to understand, they could not really relate it to the things that they are concerned about living in Hanwell.

One respondent suggests it is not evident from the plans how (for example) a 50% reduction in car usage will be achieved or where 40% green space is being achieved.

One respondent stated that a succinct green slogan is 'think globally act locally'. They question how we can save the rainforest when we are destroying our own countryside to promote rapid population growth in an overcrowded island.

One respondent asks why farmers are not allowed to remove their farmland from the development map if they so wish.

One respondent asks who is going to live in all these houses and where is all the employment. There are plenty of existing empty houses.

One respondent suggests that empty premises and 'brown sites' in towns where people work should first be priority before destroying villages.

One respondent states that as they have major concerns regarding infrastructure in Bicester and disapprove of the proposed NW option, they must therefore disagree with the Sustainability Appraisal.

One developer comments that while in general the SA framework allows a reasonably objective comparison between sites aligned with the objectives of the Core Strategy, it is too broad brush in some areas to distinguish between sites. Particular concern relates to protecting best and most versatile agricultural land or where this is not possible, taking the lower grades first for development to be a significant omission despite its assessment within the SA elsewhere.

One respondent considers that the sustainability performance of Banbury Canalside has been overstated. The site relies on the extensive relocation of employment uses; this has the potential to extinguish existing businesses, and poses a serious threat to the overall economic performance of Banbury. Economic performance is an important component of the overall sustainability of Banbury.

One developer comments that the SA assesses Land West of Bretch Hill as having 'Mostly Positive' effects on the economic objective. Again, the assessment provides a wholly inadequate justification for this assessment. The SA highlights that the integration with Bretch Hill may reduce social problems, but it is not explained or justified how the site will make a 'Mostly Positive' contribution to sustaining economic growth in Banbury.

One respondent suggests that the Sustainability Appraisal submitted in support of the Core Strategy is deficient in its consideration of the likely impacts of options for housing growth around Bicester.

The same respondent commented that the NW Bicester eco-development performs better than the previously promoted sites, despite the larger scale of development. In those categories where the Eco-town has performed better than its predecessor on the same site, the improvement is not based on evidence that the benefits can or will be delivered. The improvements are generally based upon the criteria set out in the supplement to PPS1, concerned with eco-towns. They also consider the improvement of the Eco-town against the SA objective of encouraging tourism, on the basis that the rarity of eco-towns will attract visitors, to be entirely spurious and symptomatic of an attempt to artificially enhance the apparent sustainability credentials of the allocation.

One respondent asks if anyone actually questioned the assumptions that all of this is based upon and if anyone has been out to physically check what damage could be caused.

One respondent argues that traffic on the A4260 Banbury to Oxford Road will not be sustainable if some or all of the proposed development proceeds. If log jamming of vehicles is not to occur then further consideration needs to be given to road improvements.

One respondent comments that many of the comments and statements are politically driven by government and are unlikely to represent what will really happen. Most families will continue to have two cars; they will use them to travel to and from the motorway to work, shop and use for leisure. Without significant changes to the road system in Banbury gridlock will be the norm.

Banbury Town Council commented that BITLUS identified Canalside as the most sustainable location in terms of transport, but it also highlighted that every arterial road into Banbury was at capacity in the Town Centre, and that they cannot easily be improved or widened due to physical restraints. The Town Council feels that CDC needs to support a South East Link Road and by working in partnership with CDC and OCC they can prioritise this matter.

Bloxham Parish Council considers that the economic needs of the district should sit at the centre of the SA on an equal measure with environmental and social issues. Regrettably, there are shortcomings in the evidence base in this regard e.g. the employment land review.

Sibford Ferris Parish Council argue that although its general thrust is towards a more even distribution of expansion, the Draft Sustainability Appraisal itself fails to weight sufficiently transport problems in remote areas or the problems for the provision of local employment.

Bucknell Parish Council considers that the draft Sustainability Appraisal has been a desk-top exercise which is fundamentally flawed because it fails to take into account the present inadequate infrastructure. Without adequate infrastructure, they do not believe that sustainability is achievable.

Hanwell PC are very concerned at the assessment of sites BAN4 and BAN5 which does not seem to reflect the issues fought over at the Persimmon Appeal Inquiry in 2007 - by CDC itself - and seem overall to indicate that the landscapes are not as worthy of protection as other potential housing sites around Banbury.

Hanwell PC are very concerned at the way the Strategic Site J in Banbury (i.e. Sites BAN4 and BAN5) has been assessed in Appendix 1 Table 35 (Land at NW Banbury) relative to other sites, giving the overall impression that it is of low value and development would make positive impacts.

English Heritage commented that the Sustainability Appraisal that accompanies the draft Core Strategy anticipates further work for all stages of the process. English Heritage has recently published guidance on 'Strategic Environmental Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal and the Historic Environment' that they hope will be of assistance in this process in informing the continuing development of the LDF.

The Highways Agency is content that the sustainability appraisal has been satisfactorily prepared in accordance with national guidance and its findings reflect the most sustainable sites of those identified.

OCC Archaeology is satisfied that the Sustainability Assessment includes the preservation of the historic environment within its sustainability objectives.

The Environment Agency commented that in Table 14 it is not clear why Canalside scores more positively than Land west of Concorde Avenue. Both sites are in Flood Zones 1, 2 and 3. Possibly Canalside is seen as partly positive as a result of the Flood Alleviation Scheme, but this would not be correct because the Alleviation scheme is designed to reduce risk to existing development, and is not being delivered by the Canalside regeneration. Also, if these sites are compared to the assessment of Canalside in table 30, a different score is given again. At this stage it is not clear if flood risk reduction can be delivered through implementation as the evidence base Level 2 SFRA and Masterplan have not been produced to a standard where this can be determined yet. More clarity and consistency is needed between the assessments of sites at risk of flooding.

Banbury Civic Society commented that normally part of the evidence base for the preparation of a Core Strategy would be a Historic Landscape Categorisation and, often, an Extensive Urban Survey (EUS). Neither has been available for use within the Sustainability Appraisal, although it accepted that the commissioned Landscape and Visual study covered a number of the usual bases.

Banbury Civic Society is very concerned that the Land at Calthorpe Street (Site N) has been dismissed so lightly. Development here could regenerate the Old Town and induce footfall up the High Street from the Castle Quay area. Clearly the Sustainability Appraisal has not been able to reflect PPS 5.

Officers Response

2 Appendix

2.1 Appendix 1

2.1.1 List of organisations sent a hard copy of the consultation documents

- Highways Agency
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- English Heritage
- Government Office for South East
- South East England Partnership Board
- Oxfordshire County Council
- South East England Development Agency
- Thames Water
- Anglian Water Services Ltd
- Secretary of State for Transport
- Network Rail

This list does not include the Town and Parish Councils, all District Councillors and the Partnership and Management board of the Local Strategic Partnership who were also provided hard copies of the documents.

2.2 Appendix 2

2.2.1 Example of letter of support for Banbury United Football Club

Executive

Use of Natural Resources Project

23 May 2011

Report of Head of Environmental Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report considers the progress of the Use of Natural Resources Delivery Group and the overall progress of the Council in responding to climate change and energy efficiency within its own operations.

This report is public

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To note the achievements of the Use of Natural Resources project;
- (2) To support Cherwell's Carbon Management Plan (Appendix 1) reducing 22% of the Council's carbon emissions by 2014/15 through improving the energy efficiency of its own operations; and
- (3) To approve the Energy Policy (Appendix 2) which sets out the how the Council will use energy efficiently.

Executive Summary

Introduction

- 1.1 National government believes local government has a significant role to play on the climate change agenda. In March 2011, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Local Government Group that recognised the pivotal role that local councils have in tackling climate change through showing leadership and encouraging local communities to take action to mitigate and to adapt to a changing climate.
- 1.2 Nationally the target is to reduce CO₂ emissions by 20% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. To reflect the importance of local authorities leading change locally on the climate change agenda, central government continues to require local government to report on an annual basis CO₂ emissions from across our estates and operations.

- 1.3 The Council's effective use of natural resources became the focus of the Audit Commission's Use of Resources Assessment in 2008/09. An initial assessment by the Commission found satisfactory arrangements in place but drew attention to energy consumption in sports centres leading to high CO₂ emissions, a lack of baseline performance data and no programme for future energy efficiency improvement. This was despite a consistent reduction in CO₂ in most areas due to past Council initiatives.
- 1.4 The Use of Natural Resources Delivery Group formed to improve the Council's Use of Resource Assessment has involved key staff from across the Council and used multiple work streams to address numerous areas simultaneously. With great support from across the Council, it has focused on achieving real reductions in the Council's CO₂ emissions.
- 1.5 Although the end of the Use of Resources assessment was announced in 2010, the Use of Natural Resources Delivery Group has continued to focus on reducing the Council's emissions through improving energy efficiency.
- 1.6 This report highlights the achievements of the project including reducing CO₂ emissions by 4.5% in 2010/11 and generally improving the Council's environmental performance. It also proposes actions to build on this success into 2011/12 by implementing a Carbon Management Plan.

Proposals

- 1.7 To continue building on the successes of the Use of Natural Resources project in addressing and improving the Council's environmental performance into 2011/12
- 1.8 Agree future priorities and draft action plan which forms the basis of continuing work of the Use of Natural Resources group during 2011/12 in line with the Carbon Management Plan
- 1.9 Agree the Energy Policy which outlines how the organisation will use energy in an efficient manner.

Conclusions

- 1.10 A co-ordinated cross-service approach is employed to take action and to drive forward and support Cherwell's Carbon Management Plan reducing 22% of its carbon emissions by 2014/15
- 1.11 The strategic themes of the Carbon Management Plan will derive largely from the Use of Natural Resource Delivery Group and its work streams.
- 1.12 A new Energy Policy will help further the success of carbon reduction work as part of the Carbon Management Plan.

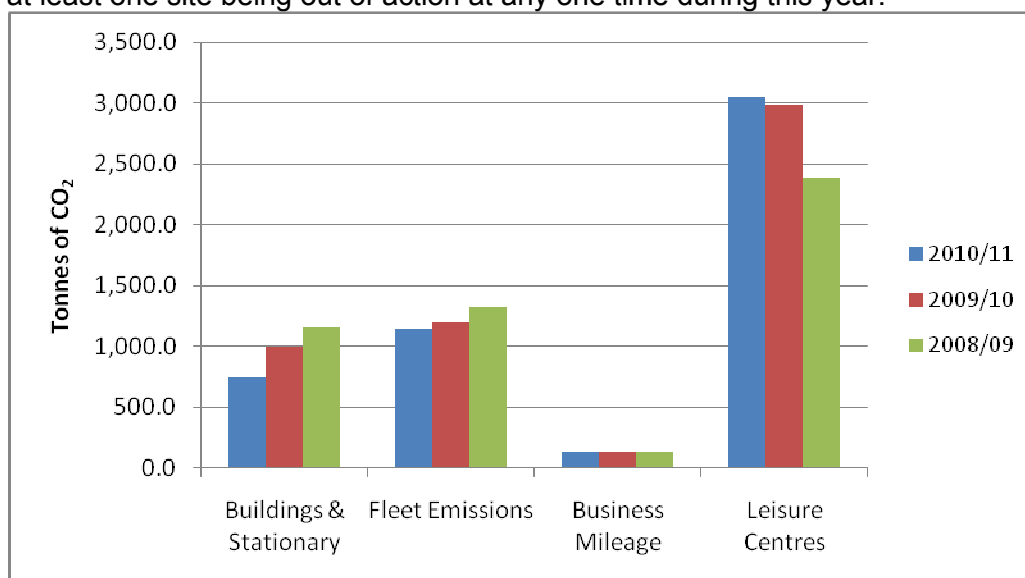
Background Information

2.1 Measurement of the Council's carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions has previously been assessed by National Indicator (NI) 185. In the first NI 185 baseline year (08/09), emissions from Cherwell District Council operations were 5,002 tonnes. The main sources of these emissions were:

- Leisure Centres (48%)
- Corporate buildings (23%)
- Transport (26%)
- Staff travel (3%)

2.2 The figure below demonstrates that overall emissions from the Council's own operations have fallen in 2010/11 by 4.5% compared to 2009/10 but have risen by 1.5% compared to 2008/09. Out of the four main emission sources (buildings, leisure centres, fleet emissions and staff travel), buildings and fleet emissions have substantially reduced their emissions in 2010/11 by 25.3% compared to 2009/10 and 36% compared to 2008/09.

2.3 However, leisure centres have increased by 2.2% (since 2009/10) and by 27.8% since 2008/09. This is due to the artificial low baseline data in 2008/09 because of the substantial refurbishment activities at leisure centres that led to at least one site being out of action at any one time during this year.



Cherwell's Low Carbon Management Plan

2.4 Cherwell District Council participated in the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme (LACM8) from May 2010 to March 2011. This plan represents the completion of the programme and sets out our path for reducing CO₂ emissions over the next five years.

2.5 Our carbon reduction target is to reduce CO₂ emissions from our own operations by 22% from a 2009/10 baseline year by the end of financial year 2014/15. This equates to a reduction of 1,225 tonnes of CO₂ between 2010/11 and 2014/2015.

2.6 With energy costs rising and predicated to do so continually in the future, it is

essential that efficiencies are adopted to reduce this cost. With a 22% reduction target in emissions Cherwell District Council energy costs will be significantly reduced by approximately 5% per annum accumulating to just over a £1,000,000 worth of savings over 5 years.

- 2.7 The Carbon Management Plan's reduction target of 22% will be delivered through the Use of Natural Resources Delivery Group. This delivery group meets on a monthly basis and reports to the Accommodation Project Board and Corporate Management Team on a regular basis.
- 2.8 The Carbon Management Plan projects are identified within specific work streams- and are in line with the workstreams for the Use of Natural Resources Delivery Group.

Use of Natural Resources Delivery Group

- 2.9 The scope of the project agreed by the Corporate Management Team in March 2010 was aimed at achieving improved CO₂ emission performance, providing clear leadership and improving systems for ensuring good performance.
- 2.10 A project team, the Use of Natural Resources Delivery Group, was formed from an existing Energy Efficiency Taskforce with revised terms of reference. Eight workstreams were identified, and each workstream lead was required to devise a work package specifying the tangible outcomes and delivery dates for their area.
- 2.11 The eight workstreams and their overall objectives were as follows;
 - Sports centre energy use – securing agreement with Parkwood on how to make changes in sports centres and their operation to result in reductions in CO₂ emissions
 - Property improvements – addressing any sub-standard energy performance in the Council's buildings and identifying a programme of improvements
 - Technology enhancements – addressing the high energy consumption of computers and servers by completing the server virtualisation programme and rolling out installation of thin client terminals to reduce energy consumption
 - Fleet use optimisation – achieving fuel reduction targets and reviewing routes to minimise fuel usage
 - Sustainable procurement strategy – implementing the strategy and ensuring that sustainability forms a key part of procurement activities
 - Workplace travel plan – assessing staff travel patterns and devising a plan aimed at reducing non-sustainable methods of travel
 - Data and performance management – improving the quality of the Council's performance data on environmental issues and how it uses this data to manage improvements
 - Culture change and best practice – engaging staff across the Council to embed good practice and share successes.

Achievements and outline of the work programme 2011/12

2.12 A project approach has been used to bring together the various workstreams and ensure a sustained focus is kept on progress since the project commenced in March. An overview of the achievements and future actions of the project to date are set out below against the individual workstreams.

2.13 Sports Centre energy use

- There has been a good reception from Parkwood on working together in order to reduce the energy consumption at the Council's leisure centres. Under the terms of their contract, such reductions benefit them financially, although the Council will benefit from the reduced CO₂ emissions which are counted against it as 'council operations'
- More accurate and frequent information on energy usage is now collected at the leisure centres, and proposals forwarded by the Carbon Trust to help minimise consumption are being explored with Parkwood.
- All sports centres were visited and assessed by the Carbon Trust and a detailed action plan has been developed that will be implemented this year.
- A feasibility study for a biomass boiler has been commissioned for Bicester Sports Centre.
- A project for photovoltaic (PV) panels at Spiceball and Bicester Leisure Centres has been approved as part of the 2011/12 capital programme.
- However, there is recognition that there are conflicting priorities in terms of encouragement for residents to make use of the recreation facilities and the cost of the energy to run them. For example, the more swimmers who use the pools, the greater the energy used. The main aim is to work towards protecting Cherwell District Council from increases in energy tariffs by reducing energy where feasible, using energy efficiently and promoting the use of on site renewables such as solar panels or/ and biomass.

2.14 Property improvements

- The Thorpe Lane Depot refurbishment project has been used to improve the environmental performance of the facility and to remove any asbestos from the site.
- Depot works completed to date include the installation of PV solar panels on the roof of the refurbished workshop. The Council now benefits from use of the 'free electricity', and from the revenue generated by feed-in tariff returns. The PV solar panels installed at Thorpe Lane Depot in 2010 are on target to generate 12,474 kWh (saving 6.7 tonnes of CO₂) and generating income or saving electricity of more than £5,000 per year.
- All buildings at the depot are all being well insulated and contain energy efficient lighting. The new roofs on the vehicle workshop and in the warehouse have improved levels of insulation and larger areas of skylights have been installed to make the most of natural daylight instead of artificial light. The lighting schemes come on and off through the use of motion sensors.

- As part of redevelopment a biomass boiler is being installed to serve the offices.
- Water usage at the depot has been substantially reduced through the use of a vehicle wash down facility which recycles a high percentage of the water used.
- A bid for photovoltaic (PV) panels at Bodicote House was approved as part of the 2011/12 capital programme.
- A contract has recently been let for the refurbishment of Old Bodicote House. It includes environmental initiatives such as: energy efficient lighting, energy efficient hand dryers for the toilets, water efficient taps and cisterns, waterless urinals, secondary glazing to all windows to reduce heat loss and the replacement of the existing gas boilers with a biomass boiler.
- Bodicote House has also had alterations to lighting with the use of Passive Infra Red (PIR) sensors to switch off lights in areas such as kitchens, print rooms, meeting rooms, some toilets and some corridors when not in use, and to reduce the lighting level in areas where lighting levels do not need to be as high. LED (Light Emitting Diodes) light fittings have been installed as part of the lighting scheme in the main reception area. Modern efficient cooling systems have been installed in the IT server room.
- Sub-meters have been installed and existing energy meters are being upgraded to allow the use of smart meters technology. These will ensure that energy consumption is monitored accurately and routinely, leading to better estimates of the Council's CO₂ emissions from its buildings, and for assessing the performance of energy savings initiatives.

2.15 Technology enhancements

- The server virtualisation programme is complete, leading to significant reduction in energy consumption. The reduction in space required by the new (more efficient) servers will lead to a reduced requirement for air condition, leading to further energy reductions.
- The original plan to roll out thin client technology has been superseded by improved technology becoming available. The new units identified will still have very low energy consumption and are being rolled out throughout the financial year 2011/12.

2.16 Fleet use optimisation

- Environmental Services has continued to reduce its fuel usage and has met a 2.5% reduction in 2010/11 despite needing to adapt to a change in collection arrangements for food waste. Further optimisation of routes will be possible during 2011/12 with an implementation of revised rounds

2.17 Sustainable procurement strategy

- The Sustainable Procurement Strategy and a Sustainable Procurement Guide has been rolled out during the year, with sustainability being assessed as part of every procurement exercise. The use of full-life costing has been used to inform decisions on procurement issues (such as boiler

replacement and electrical maintenance)

- A hands-on approach has been used with suppliers to impress on them the importance of sustainability and ensure they sign up to abiding by the principles in the Strategy. Where feasible, sustainability indicators are also being introduced as part of new contracts to ensure that environmental performance can be monitored through the life of a contract.

2.18 Workplace travel plan

- A staff travel survey was undertaken in June and July 2010, with a 64% return rate, and has been used to assess current travel patterns and the potential for these to change. A staff travel group was formed to assist with the survey and help develop the Travel Plan itself. The process has been assisted throughout by input from the Oxfordshire County Council Travel Plans team.
- In May 2011, a revised Workplace Travel Plan will be launched to encourage staff to think about the necessity to travel, encourage use of walking and cycling, to encourage use of public transport and car sharing as an option.
- Given the nature of the rural district it is sometimes a necessity to drive but for some shorter journeys there are alternatives. The Council will support staff in a Cycle Purchase Scheme and has overhauled the pool bikes for use.

2.19 Data and performance management

- Robust performance management arrangements have been established. A scorecard of performance measures has been introduced and returns are collected on a routine basis.
- The appointment of an Energy Officer during 2010 means that assessment of CO₂ emission performance can now be undertaken in-house rather than through external consultants, leading to more timely production, greater ownership and cost savings.

2.20 Culture change and best practice

- A network of Green Champions has been established to promote and encourage energy efficiency amongst staff, and share good ideas and best practice. This sits alongside regular information items such as Green Tips for staff in Cascade and articles in Inside Cherwell to raise the profile of energy saving.
- Staff have taken part both in Climate Change Week and Green Office Week to promote positive messages throughout the organisation. As part of Green Office week an Energy Efficiency Guide for all members of staff has been launched.
- Environmental Services will pursue the Environmental Management Standard (ISO 14001) for Thorpe Lane depot as a pilot, once the depot re-development is complete, for its possible introduction on a council-wide basis in future. This has involved evaluating the effect that the Depot has on the environment, prioritising those impacts and seeking methods to reduce

them.

2.21 Communications

- A comprehensive communications plan has been developed covering each of the areas mentioned above. To further promote energy efficiency internally as well as externally, articles are planned for Inside Cherwell, Cascade and in some cases press releases will be mailed out.

Energy Policy

- 2.22 In parallel to the Carbon Management Plan a new Energy Policy has been developed jointly between the Facilities Management and Climate Change teams. The proposed policy is set out in Appendix 2.
- 2.23 The policy is based on the energy hierarchy of reducing use, using energy efficiently, deployment of renewable where practical and a reduced reliance on fossil fuels if possible. The adoption of this policy further reinforces the Carbon Management Programme and its target of 22% reduction.
- 2.24 As outlined in the policy the Council will seek to improve its energy and reduce its energy consumption across all sites and operations. All staff will encourage good practise behaviour whilst at work. Please see Employee Energy Saving Guide, Appendix 3.
- 2.25 This will allow the Council to be an example in a low carbon future. The Council aims to use its role as a community leader to positively encourage emission reductions in the wider community.

Carbon Reduction Commitment

- 2.1 The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) is a mandatory emissions trading scheme for organisations whose total electricity consumption is greater than 6000 MWh in the initial reporting period of calendar year 2008. At present Cherwell District Council's electricity consumption is below the threshold and is not required to take part in the trading scheme however it is required to report its electricity consumption.
- 2.2 In 2008, Cherwell District Council had three meters settled on the half hourly market at Bicester Ploughley Leisure Centre, Bodicote House and Banbury Museum Café. Our consumption in 2008 was approximately 1800MWh. Therefore we were required to undertake an 'Information Disclosure' to tell the Environment Agency our usage in 2008 but we do not need to take part in the CRC scheme.
- 2.3 The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) intends to simplify the CRC scheme. Government is considering reducing the threshold from the 6000MWh but has not stated to what level. We await any announcement on any reduction in the threshold for qualification in CRC which may impact on Cherwell

Community Leadership – Cherwell Climate Change Partnership

- 2.4 In successive local satisfaction survey's locally, 80% of our residents believe that the Cherwell District Council has a strong role to play in cutting carbon

emissions community work

- 2.5 Three years ago the Cherwell Climate change partnership was established. Its core members are Banbury and Bicester Town Council, Kidlington Parish Council, Thames Valley Police, Banbury and Bicester Chambers of Commerce, ORCC and Oxford Cherwell Community College.
- 2.6 All members have developed and signed up to environmental pledges around the Cherwell Sustainable Community Strategy and give regular feedback on implementation. Pledges include actions relating to energy usage, recycling, transport, procurement and water conservation. Partners were encouraged to sign up to at least four pledges and many signed up to more.
- 2.7 To broaden the remit of the Cherwell Climate Change Partnership it has been merged with the Environment Forum – giving Parish Councils and other community groups the chance to contribute
- 2.8 The Cherwell Climate Change Partnership has published a climate change and energy efficiency leaflet, which is being distributed through our partners and through roadshows and events organised by the Environmental Services Department (Appendix 4).

Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

- 3.1 Key to reducing energy efficiency and reduction in emissions are the Carbon Management Plan and the Energy Policy. The good work and improved performance already achieved by the Use of Natural Resources Delivery Group needs to continue to achieve further CO₂ emission reductions.

The following options have been identified. The approach in the recommendations is believed to be the best way forward

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Option One | To approve the proposed Carbon Management Plan and Energy policy, and agree the 22% target reduction in CO ₂ emissions by 2014/15 |
| Option Two | To reject the proposed Carbon Management Plan and Energy policy and rely on improvements in energy consumption and carbon emissions made to date. This is forecast to cost the council £1,000,000 more by 2015. |
| Option Three | To ask officers to modify the proposals to set a lower emissions target, recognising that this would conflict with public and national government expectations |

Consultations

- | | |
|--|---|
| Use of Natural Resources Delivery Group | Continued investment in energy efficiency projects and promote energy awareness will help to reduce emissions and energy costs. |
|--|---|

Implications

- Financial:** Energy costs are rising and it is important to reduce energy usage to stop costs rising
Comments checked by Denise Taylor, Service Accountant, 01295 221982
- Legal:** There are no direct legal implications with this report
Comments checked by Nigel Bell, Team Leader – Planning and Litigation, 01295 221687
- Risk Management:** A Cleaner Greener Cherwell is one of the four strategic priorities of the Council and increasing energy efficiency and reducing CO2 emissions is a key component
Comments checked by Claire Taylor, Community and Corporate Planning Manager, 01295 221563

Wards Affected

All

Corporate Plan Themes

A Cleaner, Greener Cherwell

Executive Portfolio

Councillor George Reynolds
Portfolio Holder for Environment, Recreation and Health

Document Information

| Appendix No | Title |
|----------------------------|--|
| Appendix 1 | Summary of Cherwell Carbon Management Plan |
| Appendix 2 | Energy Policy |
| Appendix 3 | Employee Energy Saving Guide |
| Appendix 4 | Cherwell Climate Change Leaflet |
| Report Author | Ed Potter, Head of Environmental Services |
| Contact Information | 01295 221902 Ed.Potter@cherwell-dc.gov.uk |

Cherwell District Council Carbon Management Plan (CMP)

Cherwell's Use of Natural Resources Project



Date: 18 April 2011

Version number: FINAL

Owners: Jo Colwell (Project Leader) & Chiko Wade (Deputy Project Leader)

Approval route: CMT/Executive

Approval status: Not approved

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1. Foreword from the Carbon Trust

Cutting carbon emissions as part of the fight against climate change should be a key priority for all public sector organisations. Carbon management is about realising efficiency savings, transparency, accountability and leading by example. The UK government has identified the public sector as key to delivering carbon reduction across the UK in line with its Climate Change Act commitments and the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme is designed in response to this. It helps organisations to save money on wasted energy and put it to better use in other areas, while making a positive contribution to the environment by lowering carbon emissions.

Cherwell District Council partnered with the Carbon Trust on this programme in 2010-2011 to realise substantial carbon and cost savings. This Carbon Management Plan commits Cherwell District Council to a target of reducing CO₂ by 22% by April 2015 and underpins potential financial savings and cost avoidance to the organisation of around £1 million by that date.

Public sector organisations can contribute significantly to reducing CO₂ emissions and improving efficiency. The Carbon Trust is therefore very proud to support Cherwell District Council in their on-going implementation of carbon management.



Richard Rugg
Head of Public Sector
The Carbon Trust

Foreword from Cherwell District Council

Cherwell District Council is an authority continually striving to be amongst the best performing councils in the country. We believe tackling climate change is clearly rooted in improving performance and requires a concerted corporate commitment, which is why it is at the heart of our strategic priorities. We are also ambitious, with a long term vision to be carbon neutral as set out in the District's Sustainable Communities Strategy published in 2009.

In 2006/07, we developed the Cherwell Environmental Strategy for a Changing Climate. This Strategy emphasises our leadership role and the importance of working in partnership. We are aware we have more work to do to put our own house in order and are committed to achieving the improvements required within our own operations, but also to be a catalyst for change in the wider community. Responsibility therefore lies with us to lead by example and to promote widespread action within the Cherwell area.

Within our operations the three major areas of emissions are our sports centres which have undergone modernisation, our vehicle fleet which has an annual rolling replacement plan of more environmentally friendly and fuel efficient vehicles, and other council buildings, some of which were refurbished in 2008/09 with their energy efficiency improved or are due to be refurbished in the near future. We hope our refurbishment project at Thorpe Lane Depot - which has reduced energy use, is using energy efficiently and deploys solar PV and a biomass boiler - will become a positive case study for our community and beyond.

During 2010 we embarked on a corporate improvement project to look at our use of natural resources in parallel with our participation in the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme. We believe this twin track approach will ensure we deliver improved performance on both energy efficiency and CO₂ emissions, provide clear leadership and result in improved systems for ensuring good performance into the future. The emphasis will be on the delivery of tangible results and providing the foundation for sustainable improvements in future years.

It is vital that we demonstrate leadership and seek to reduce emissions across all our estate and operations. In uncertain financial times it is also critical that we reduce our energy costs and provide the best possible value for money for the residents of Cherwell. The Council is entering a new phase in 2011 by embarking on a shared management structure with South Northamptonshire District Council to seek further efficiencies and improvements.

This Carbon Management Plan sets out our actions to March 2015 to reduce emissions as well as costs, to protect both the planet and the public purse.

Sue Smith
Chief Executive

Cllr Barry Woods
Leader of the Council

Vision

Cherwell District Council is committed to **reducing our Carbon Dioxide** emissions. By March 2015 we will reduce our emissions by **22%**. Our long term **vision is to be Carbon neutral** in our own operations.

We will achieve our Carbon emissions reduction target by **implementing** practical, cost effective projects, and by **embedding carbon management principles** throughout our Council.

By achieving this we hope to **maintain a clean and green environment**, and mitigate against the impact of future energy cost increases.

Cherwell District Council **aim to lead** the District's carbon reduction **by example**, and provide support **throughout our Communities to increase their resilience**.

Summary

Cherwell District Council will seek to reduce its CO₂ emissions by 22% (1225 tCO₂) by March 2015

Cherwell District Council participated in the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme (LACM8) from May 2010 to March 2011. This Carbon Management Plan represents the completion of the programme and sets out our path for reducing CO₂ emissions over the next five years. Our carbon reduction target is to reduce CO₂ emissions from our own operations by 22% from a 2009/10 baseline year by the end of financial year 2014/15. This equates to a reduction of 1225 tonnes of CO₂ between 2010/11 and 2014/2015.

Our rationale for taking part in this programme of work is based upon improving our performance as a local authority both in terms of cutting costs to the public purse and reducing CO₂ emissions. The District has a long term vision to be Carbon neutral by 2030 as set out in our Sustainable Communities Strategy and agreed by the Local Strategic Partnership. The vision for the district is ambitious but we must start by showing leadership as a local authority by putting our own house in order first.

Cherwell's most recent recorded CO₂ emissions amount to **5568 tonnes of CO₂**. This is for the baseline year, 2009/10. This includes emission from our own operations and from major contractors who operate on our own behalf. Leisure centres are the largest emissions source with 55% of the total emissions and therefore are a strong focus in this Carbon Management Plan. CO₂ emissions from energy use have a total direct and indirect cost of approximately **£1,400,000** per annum. With energy costs rising and predicated to do so continually in the future, it is essential that efficiencies are adopted to reduce this cost. With a **22% reduction target** in emissions Cherwell District Council energy costs will be significantly reduced by approximately 5% per annum accumulating to just over a **£1,000,000 worth of savings by March 2015**, against business as usual. To continue with a business as usual approach, energy costs could increase steadily costing the Council in excess of over £1,500,000 over a 5 year period. This is the Value at Stake for The Council.

A 22% reduction target in emissions equates to over a **£1 million worth of savings by March 2015**, against business as usual. This is the Value at Stake.

Cherwell Energy Policy

Draft version – to be designed

1.0 Declaration of Commitment

Cherwell District Council recognises that its internal and external operations, infrastructural development and influence on the wider community impact upon the environment.

The Council acknowledges that it is a major user of natural resources and as such, has a responsibility for protection of not only the environment but to safeguard the environment for future generations as well. With imminent impacts of a changing climate and highlighted climate vulnerabilities within Cherwell, it is a Council priority to reduce contributing impacts that affect the environment.

The efficient use of energy is a critical issue for the Council and is committed to responsibly managing the use of energy and utilities in all operations.

The Council has a vision to become carbon neutral for all its own operations and to be prudent with its finances. Therefore, inefficiency is not acceptable and the Council aims to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption where possible.

Through Cherwell's continual drive to advance services and be more efficient where possible, the Council believes that the adoption of this policy demonstrates its commitment to the principles of active energy management. The adoption of this policy further reinforces the Low Carbon Management Programme endorsed in 2011/12. The aim of the Carbon Management Programme to reduce CO2 emissions by 22% across all its operations.

The Council will aim to improve its energy and water efficiency and reduce its energy and water consumption across all sites and operations. The Council staff will encourage good practise behaviour amongst staff whilst at work. This will allow the council to be an example in a low carbon future. The Council aims to use its role as a Community Leader to positively encourage emission reductions in the wider community.

[Signatures]

Chief Executive & Councillors & Green Champions

2.0 Scope

The policy applies to all Council owned buildings and offices leased by for or on behalf of Council in which the Council is responsible for payment of utility bills and to motor vehicles, plant and equipment owned by or leased by Council. The areas that will be targeted include:

- Buildings – involving all council offices, depots, civic buildings, leisure centres and the main council head quarters
- Transport – including the council's fleet vehicles and business mileage

3.0 Policy Statement

Cherwell District Council is, in accordance with Government targets, committed to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption, and to maximising efficiencies so far as is reasonably practicable without adversely affecting the working conditions of staff or imposing on the activities of the public or visitors using the Council's facilities.

3.1 General Principles

Cherwell District Council will achieve these goals by following a framework that outlines the core principles on which effective, sustainable energy policies are based. An energy hierarchy designed to ensure efficient energy use. This hierarchy should be applied in all CDC operations in house and/or external where appropriate.

Priority 1: Energy Conservation

Changing wasteful behaviour in all the Councils internal and external operations to minimise the actual demand on natural resources.

Priority 2: Energy Efficiency

Continually reviewing and updating technology used in our services where practically feasible to ensure efficient use of energy consumption, reducing demand and eliminating waste.

Priority 3

Exploitation of sustainable or alternative resources where possible.

Priority 4

Where non-sustainable resources need to be used, the investment and exploitation of low-carbon technologies if possible.

Priority 5

Use of conventional energy resources.

Objectives

The Council's overall objectives regarding energy consumption and use are detailed below. This will contribute the reduction in energy consumption at the Council and fall in line with the energy hierarchy fundamental principles.

- Reduce Council carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by at least 22% by 2014/15 (against the 2009/10 baseline of 5568 tCO₂).
- Embed carbon management and climate change best practice into corporate policy and management practice (including budgetary process) across the Council.
- Make use of renewable energy technologies where possible.
- Determine and implement an accurate and robust CO₂ emissions accounting system that can be used year on year to assess progress.
- Ensure that energy consumption is monitored routinely across all Council sites so as to highlight opportunities for improvement
- Secure resource deployment (financial and people) to achieve effective carbon reduction throughout the Council.
- Raise awareness of climate change amongst staff, elected members and our public/partners and help to involve them in carbon management actions.
- Review the potential for energy saving opportunities including renewable energy technologies

5.0 Immediate Aims

Through existing working groups the Council has identified and implemented a number of work-streams directly linked the success of the objectives. This will continue and be executed over 2011/12 fiscal year.

- To review existing energy management arrangements, implement sub and Smart Metering arrangements and work towards the use of building energy management systems.
- To develop the utility database for monitoring energy consumption costs to ensure that energy information is delivered to each department/site for further awareness and accountability.
- To promote increased awareness in the Council and wider community of energy issues through existing networks.
- To carry out regular energy audits to identify areas for improvement and low cost investment.
- To identify and develop appropriate performance indicators for each individual building and where appropriate, departments.

6. Responsibilities

Departmental Heads and **Facility Manager** will have responsibility for controlling the operational consumption of energy and water within their areas, in so far as reasonably practicable.

Members of **Use of Natural Resources** will have responsibility of continual monitoring and targeting of specific energy reduction workstreams.

Green Champions will have a responsibility to actively champion initiatives where possible.

The **Energy Officer** will have responsibility for the co-ordination of energy management measures and for devising and recommending plans to support the policy's implementation.

7 Energy Officer Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Energy Officer will be as follows:

- (i) Monitor progress in achieving the objectives of the Carbon Management implementation plan;
- (ii) Monitor and target energy and water consumption and develop strategies for the reduction of energy and water use;
- (iii) Review Council's energy performance;
- (iv) Evaluate the benefits of energy management;
- (v) Develop and champion the concept of a low carbon future
- (vi) Liaise with external consultants to identify and implement energy efficiency projects and on energy efficiency measures for new build and refurbishment;
- (vii) Develop strategies for the implementation of renewable energy sources within Council's building stock;
- (viii) Assist with developing strategies for the use of green technologies within Council's fleet;
- (ix) Advise on the selection of energy efficient equipment;
- (x) Advise on the choice of fuel type and tariff selection;
- (xi) Liaise with those responsible regarding the tendering of utilities;
- (xii) Promote energy efficiency throughout the Council, raising staff and end-user awareness;
- (xiii) Maintain records and produce regular reports on consumption and related expenditure.

8.0 Legal and Policy Framework

8.1 Linkage to Corporate Plan

The Corporate Plan and Improvement Strategy 2007-2012 highlights the Strategic Priority 3 of “A cleaner, greener Cherwell”. A robust and practical policy is imperative to achieving this objective.

8.2 Legal Context

This policy directly relates to a number of other pieces of relevant legislation, including:

- The Energy White Paper (2005)
- The Energy White Paper (2007)
- Draft Climate Change Bill (2007)
- The Energy End Use and End Services Directive (COM2006/32EC)
- The Energy Performance of Buildings (2002/91/EC)
- The Freedom of Information Act 2000.

9.0 Impact Assessment

9.1 Impact on Staff and Financial Resources

This policy will initially be rolled out to all staff that has responsibility for operating and maintaining buildings and/or fleet. If training is necessary, the training will be carried out utilising the use of existing resources. External resources can be utilised through The Energy Saving Trust and the Carbon Trust and United Sustainable Energy Association.

9.2 Sustainable Development

In so far as this policy promotes energy conservation, there is a positive contribution towards the Sustainable Development in all areas.

10.0 Implementation

The Energy Officer will facilitate the implementation of the Carbon Management Plan to support the energy policy's goals.

10.1 Support and Advice

10.1.1 Training

The Energy Officer will arrange training in conjunction with the Training Officer where required.

10.1.2 Advice

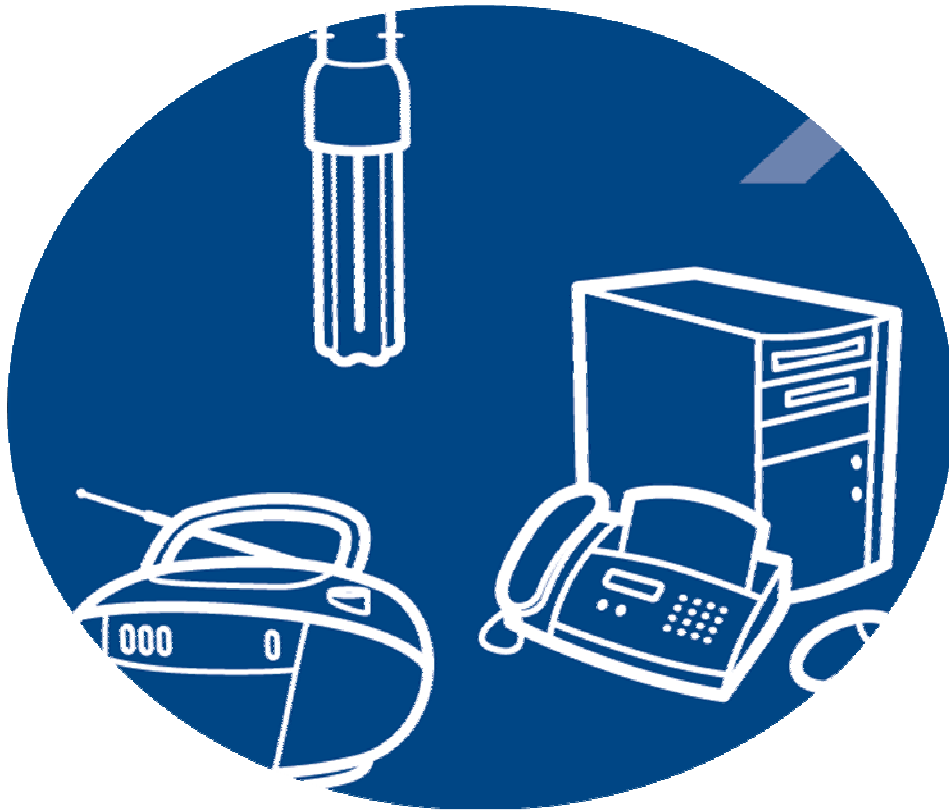
Further information on this policy can be obtained from the Energy Officer.

10.2 Communication Strategy

The Energy Policy will make use of existing communication channels and Project Groups. Copies of the policy, once approved will be made available on the Council's intranet site.

11.0 Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

This policy will be subject to review no later than 1 year after approval.



Emp

Deliver the Council's commitments and help sustain our world for future generations.

How to save energy, reduce waste help



DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

Cherwell District Council reduce its carbon emissions

Overview

Cherwell District Council is committed to reducing our Carbon Dioxide emissions. Over the next five years we aim to reduce our emissions by 22% (2009/10 baseline).

A 22% reduction target in emissions equates to over a **£1,000,000 worth of savings over 5 years**. This is the Value at Stake.

We will achieve our Carbon emissions reduction target by implementing practical, cost effective projects, and by embedding carbon management principles throughout our Council.

What can you do today?

Good Housekeeping can reduce energy consumption by 10% and as a Council we strive to increase efficiency and reduce energy consumption where possible.

Here are some simple actions you can take at work to get the most out of the available equipment and help deliver the council's commitments.

Office equipment

Did you know?

On average, 20% of the total energy bill in offices is accounted for by office equipment – about half of this use stems from PCs and monitors.

What you can do now:

- Switch off all equipment overnight. Machines which do not have on/off switches should to be switched off at the plug.
- Get into the habit of switching off your PC monitor over lunch and any other time when not in use;
- Don't switch on appliances unless you are ready to start using them;
- Unplug any phones or phone chargers when not in use.

Lighting

Did you know?

Lighting an empty office overnight wastes enough energy to heat water for 1,000 cups of coffee.

What you can do now:

- Light sensors are being introduced in most rooms but switch off lights when not needed, particularly at the end of the working day and during breaks;
- Ensure all lights are correctly labelled, if not contact the Facilities Manager on ext 7988;
- Use blinds to minimise glare and solar heat gain but open blinds whenever possible to maximise use of natural daylight;
- Use workstation/task lights only when there is insufficient ambient light and the workstation is occupied;
- Report dirty windows, fittings, failed bulbs and damaged or not working blinds to maintenance by e-mail via the 'maintenance' inbox.

Heating & Cooling

Did you know?

Building heating at Bodicote House is controlled by an automated "Building Management System".

If you work in Bodicote house and are too hot or too cold in winter, do not open the windows or doors and do not use portable heaters. Contact the Facilities Manager on ext.7988.

What you can do now:

- Check and report any draughts from doors and windows, via e-mail, to 'maintenance'.
- Don't use portable or supplementary heaters - they are expensive to run and consume more energy, if cold try wearing an extra layer; Supplementary heaters can also affect the sensors for the heating system which means they can actually turn the main heating system off!
- Do not obstruct or stack materials against radiators, they will make them less effective.
- Be considerate towards your colleagues before opening windows in cold weather as draughts can travel a long way

Waste & Water

Did you know?

70% less energy is required to recycle paper compared with making it from raw materials

What you can do now:

- Apply the waste hierarchy: reduce, re-use, and recycle!
- Think twice before printing, and if you really must, print double sided;
- Use a mug or cup for drinks instead of plastic disposable cups.
- Reduce water consumption by turning off taps fully and reporting any drips to maintenance by e-mail via the 'maintenance' inbox;
- Do not use personal kettles, use water heaters provided in kitchens.

Transport

Did you know?

On average, smarter driving can cut your CO2 emissions by around 8% – equivalent to an annual fuel saving of up to one month per year.

What you can do now:

- Try not to drive unnecessarily, if a meeting is not really essential use the phone;

- For short journeys don't use the car, walk or cycle to work if you can; if not, think about using public transport or car-sharing;
- If you use your car slow down: at 70mph you could be using up to 15 per cent more fuel than at 50mph
- Check your revs and drive from cold: waiting for the engine to "warm up" just wastes fuel, produces harmful CO2 emissions and air pollution;
- Have a look at the Council's Workplace Travel Plan (2011) which gives an overview of the Council's planned actions and milestones as well as information which can help you make informed travel choices.

Green Champions

Did you know?

The Council's launched its Green Champion in November 2010; Green Champions promote awareness of sustainable working practices and assist and encourage colleagues to work more sustainably. If you want to know the name of the Green Champion within your service area or want to become a Green Champion yourself, contact Chiko Wade or Jo Colwell.


For more information on Council policies and what you can do to help visit: <http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=1777>

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Protect the environment,
save energy and money!





This leaflet gives ideas and information on what you can do to tackle climate change and save energy along the way.

It is jointly produced by Cherwell's Local Strategic Partnership and its subgroup, the Cherwell Climate Change Partnership. We recognise the increased and urgent priority given to climate change – both in reducing emissions and preparing for more extreme weather events such as floods.

But we cannot do this alone, that is why working in partnership with residents and the business community of Cherwell is so important. We know we need to work together on climate change.



Barry Wood
Cherwell Local
Strategic Partnership
board member

**Local Strategic
Partnership**

What you can do about climate change

Carbon dioxide is the main gas contributing to climate change and the level of emissions will only rise if we continue to live as we do.

The likely impacts of climate change are serious but we can play a part in the fight back against it and at the same time save some money.

As a resident, homeowner or tenant, reducing your energy use is one of the most important things you can do.

Time and effort invested in making your home more energy efficient will considerably reduce your carbon output and can also lead to significant savings on your utility bills. So everybody wins!

Facts and Figures

- Around 45% of the UK's carbon dioxide emissions actually come from energy we use every day - at home and when we travel.
- The average household spends £1,000 on energy each year, over 50% more than an energy efficient home.

(Source the Energy Saving Trust)

How to get the most out of this guide

We have structured this leaflet into five different sections: Energy, Waste and Recycling, Food, Travel and Water. In each of these sections we offer different levels of advice:

- £ **quick fixes** – advice that focuses on behaviour change around the house
- £ **medium investment** – advice that helps reduce carbon and save energy. This may involve some financial cost such as buying energy saving light bulbs.
- £ **high investment** – advice that involves initially substantial investment costs but also allows, in some cases such as solar panels, for income generation

Energy

The biggest long-term savings come from changing your energy habits and being more energy efficient around the home.

As you start to see savings it's a good idea to re-invest this money in energy saving products and appliances to reduce your energy consumption even further. The long-term savings will more than pay for the cost of buying and installing these measures.

£ Turn down your thermostat. Reducing your household temperature by 1°C could cut your heating bills by up to 10%.



£ Is your water too hot? Your cylinder thermostat should be set at 60°C.



Bridget Richardson,
Oxford and Cherwell Valley College

“Here is my top energy-saving tip - try to avoid putting hot or warm food straight into the fridge as this increases the energy required to keep the contents cold.”

£ Always turn off the lights, TV, computer and other appliances when you leave a room. Leaving appliances on stand by costs an average household, £200.00 per year.

£ Washing your laundry at 30°C can save you 40% of the electricity used to wash at 40°C and always wash a full load as this will use less water than two half loads.

£ An energy saving light bulb uses 20% of the energy of a traditional light bulb, lasts 12



times as long and can cut up to £7 off your annual electricity bill.

£ Washing dishes in energy efficient dishwashers is more water-efficient than washing dishes in a sink! This is great but you should only wash a full load.

£ Fit a British Standard insulating jacket for your hot water tank. They are around 7.5cm thick, cost around £10 and can cut bills by up to £15 a year.

£ Look at insulating your home further. Up to 33% of heat is lost through the loft and 25% of heat is lost through exterior walls.
www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk

£ You can benefit from a feed in tariff if you generate your own electricity by installing solar panels.
www.energysavingtrust.org.uk



Susie Ohlenschlager,
Oxfordshire County Council

“How about using the solar-powered tumble drier (my washing line) every day the sun is shining? That saves me a lot of money.”



energy saving trust™

Energy-efficient appliances are easy to identify by the labels attached to them. You should look for the blue Energy Saving Recommended logo, the Energy Star symbol and the EU energy rating label.

One of the most helpful indicators is the EU energy rating label which displays an efficiency rating from A to G with A being the most efficient. An A-rated appliance will consume about half the power of a G-rated model. All appliances being sold by a retailer in the EU must display this label by law.

Water



Cllr Nick Harrison,
Banbury Town Council

“Through the local “In Bloom” initiative Banbury has significantly reduced the amount of water used by replacing all wire hanging basket units with self watering reservoir units.”

£ A dripping hot water tap wastes energy so make sure you fix leaking taps and that they are fully turned off.

£ Up to nine litres of water can be used in a single toilet flush - use water hippos or Save-a-flush to reduce water consumption. You can get those free from your water company.



£ Showers can use between six and 45 litres a minute. By fitting a water-efficient shower head you can save water without changing your showering habits.



£ Collect rainwater by investing in a water butt – you could water your garden, your houseplants, or wash your car for free!

Reduce, reuse and recycle

£ Reduce the amount of unwanted mail through your letter box by registering with the Mail Preference Service www.mpsonline.org.uk

£ Buy loose fruit and vegetables where possible to avoid excess packaging such as plastic trays, cartons and film.

£ Re-use and refuse plastic carrier bags

£ Find out how to recycle batteries, glass bottle and jars, household items, electrical items, bicycles and virtually anything else here: www.cherwell.gov.uk/recycling

£ Remember to put all your cooked and uncooked food waste in the brown bin – we will make compost from it and save money in landfill charges.



Martyn Grant,
Thames Valley Police

“Here at Thames Valley Police we have set up recycling schemes for all the offices and have heavily reduced the amount of waste going to landfill. Recycling is better for the environment and saves us money.”



 **recycle**
for Cherwell

Food



£ Grow your own vegetables, even if space is limited, you can still grow potted herbs.

£ Write a shopping list to ensure you only buy what you need, avoiding wasting food and saving money.

£ Compost food waste at home, or use Cherwell's free brown bin collection service so that food waste is composted rather than going to landfill.

£ Have milk delivered to support local dairy farmers and reduce waste. Glass milk bottles can be re-used 20 times before they are recycled.

£ Reduce food miles by purchasing UK-grown, seasonal fruit and vegetables and buy food from a farmers market, farm shops and other outlets selling locally-produced food and drink.

£ Sign up for an organic vegetable box. Local box schemes can be found at www.local-food.net and www.bigbarn.co.uk. Just type in your postcode for details.



Chris Johnson,
Bicester Town Council
Cllr. Carol Steward,
Bicester Town Council /
Cherwell District Council

"We just have to recommend a visit to the Bicester Farmers' Market – that is the place to get fresh and local food."



Travel

£ Try walking or cycling short distances – it will save you money and be good for your health.



£ Looking for a way to get from A to B by train, coach or with your bike? Travel direct gives you all the information you need www.transportdirect.info

£ Consider car sharing. Take a look at the following website for car-shares in Oxfordshire www.oxfordshirecarshare.com

£ If you have to drive you can save around 13% of your fuel costs by keeping your distance from other vehicles and not accelerating or braking excessively.



Anton Nath,
Oxfordshire Rural
Community Council

“Why not walk the kids to school or walk to work instead of driving? Even just once or twice a week can make all the difference. You might even surprise yourself and enjoy the change as it becomes part of your routine.”



Useful links

These are just a few of the many resources available on the web:

www.1010global.org/uk

Is a movement of people, schools, businesses and organisations cutting their carbon by 10% in a year.

<http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk>

Act on CO² can help you find out what your carbon footprint is and how you can make some simple changes to help tackle climate change.

www.bigbarn.co.uk BigBarn can help you find your local food producers.

www.biggreenswitch.co.uk Big Green Switch provides green-living information including energy-saving tips, recycling advice, money-saving ideas, waste reduction, water saving and clean transport tips.

www.climatex.org ClimateXChange community based projects for Oxfordshire.

www.coinet.org.uk Climate Outreach and Information Network.

www.decc.gov.uk Department of Energy and Climate Change.

www.defra.gov.uk Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs.

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk Energy Saving Trust, provides information and advice on how you can be more energy-efficient in your home.

www.energysavingsecrets.co.uk Energy Saving Secrets is a reference point for consumers on saving money and the environment.

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Environment Agency, provides information on rivers, flooding, and pollution.

www.gardenorganic.org.uk Garden Organic, a UK-based organic growing charity.

www.liftshare.org Liftshare a national network of online car-sharing systems.

www.lowcarbonlife.net Low Carbon Life gives detailed advice on how you can reduce your carbon emissions.

www.stopclimatechaos.org Stop Climate Chaos Coalition is dedicated to action on climate change and limiting its impact on the world's poorest communities.

www.sustrans.org.uk Sustrans: designs and builds routes for cyclists, walkers and people with disabilities.

www.ukcip.org.uk UK Climate Impacts Programme helps organisations assess how they might be affected by climate change.

www.usea.org.uk United Sustainable Energy Agency offers sustainable energy solutions to individuals, businesses and organisations. Local operator for Energy Saving Trust.

www.waterwise.org.uk Waterwise provides impartial advice to householders, businesses and schools on water efficiency and associated products.

Cherwell Climate Change Partnership

The Cherwell Climate Change Partnership is one of the delivery groups forming part of the Cherwell Local Strategic Partnership. Our aim is to deliver environmental benefits within Cherwell, encouraging individuals, communities, organisations and businesses to play their part. We want to raise awareness of climate change and its associated risks and opportunities across all sectors of Cherwell.

Members of the Cherwell Climate Change Partnership include:

- NHS Oxfordshire
- Banbury Town Council
- Banbury Chamber of Commerce
 - Bicester Town Council
 - Bicester Chamber of Commerce
 - Bicester Youth Council
 - Kidlington Parish Council
- Oxfordshire Rural Community Council
- Thames Valley Police
 - Cherwell District Council



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or visit **www.cherwell.gov.uk**

The information in this document can be made available in other languages, large print braille, audio tape or electronic format on request. Please contact 01295 227001

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innej formie, prosimy dać nam znać. 01295 227001

ਜੇ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ, ਤਾਂ ਇਹ ਸਾਥੋਂ ਮੰਗ ਲਓ। 01295 227001

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。01295 227001

Page 178
اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو براہ مہربانی ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔
01295 227001

Executive

Bicester Multi-Sport Village

23 May 2011

Report of Strategic Director Environment and Community

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update on the development of the Bicester Multi-Sports Village project, to award the contract for the construction of Phase 1 (construction of grass pitches and landscaping) and to consider the revenue implications of the project when it becomes operational in 2014.

This report is public

Appendix 2 to this report is exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To award a contract for the construction of Phase 1 of the Sports Village, subject to planning consent for the outstanding reserved matters, to Agripower Ltd.
- (2) To request Bicester Town Council to consider funding for the revenue implications from 2014/15.
- (3) To progress with the design of Phase 2 and investigate funding opportunities to deliver the full scheme.

Executive Summary

Introduction

- 1.1 Members will recall that a report was agreed at the Executive meeting on 1 September 2008 regarding the development of the Bicester Multi-Sports Village. The Sports Village project has been progressing through a Member/Officer Project Board which has recently been considering the planning, procurement and management issues relating to the project. It has also considered the estimated capital costs of the full scheme, the reduced scheme options if the capital required cannot be secured, the revenue implications of those options as well as issues relating to design and planning consent.

- 1.2 The Sports Village is to be located on land within the Kingsmere housing development at SW Bicester and this land will shortly be transferred to the Council's ownership as part of the S106 agreement. The Council will also be given a capital contribution towards the cost of constructing a pavilion and outdoor sports facilities on the designated site plus a commuted sum.
- 1.3 This report seeks approval to progress with phase 1 of the project which will need to be undertaken in order that the Council meets the legal obligations within the S106 agreement.

Proposals

- 1.4 It is proposed that the contract for phase 1, construction of the grass pitches and landscaping (appendix 1) is awarded, subject to planning reserved matters, to Agripower Ltd and that these works are completed during the summer/autumn 2011.
- 1.5 It is also proposed that, because the Sports Village is essentially a local recreation facility meeting the needs of the local community, Bicester Town Council be requested to consider funding for the revenue implications of the Sports Village.

Conclusion

- 1.6 The Sports Village development is soon to begin the construction phase and a realistic timetable to deliver the project has been established. The project is being progressed in three phases, Phases 1 and 2 would ensure that planning obligations are met with Phase 1 commencing this summer. Phase 3 will only be progressed if the relevant funding can be secured.

Background Information

- 2.1 At the Executive meeting 1 September 2008, Members agreed to support the development of the Bicester Sports Village. The Sports Village has since featured in the capital programme so that preliminary design work could progress.
- 2.2 The Sports Village site is subject to a Section 106 agreement with the developers of the major housing development at South West Bicester, Countryside Properties. The agreement requires the developer to transfer the land for the Sports Village site to Cherwell District Council one year after they commence on site. Owing to the slump in the housing market Countryside Properties decided to delay their start date to 1 June 2010.
- 2.3 The Sports Village Project Board have continued meeting to consider the overall site design (see Appendix 1 attached), management options, capital funding issues, revenue implications of the final scheme and procurement issues for Phase 1 (including the Reserved Matters planning application). The Board representation includes elected Members from the District, Town and County Councils supported by relevant officers from each organisation.

The County Council's interest is with the school facility and the potential joint use aspect of the sports village. However, provision of the school facility remains uncertain at this time.
- 2.4 The Project has been divided into three phases;

Phase 1 – Construction of Grass Pitches (3 full size rugby/soccer pitches, 3 junior soccer/rugby pitches and a cricket wicket) and landscaping. The construction period is programmed over this summer and autumn with a defects period until September 2012 followed by a maintenance regime for the next 2 growing season so that the pitches become established and ready for use in September 2014.

Phase 2 – Construction of the Pavilion, car parking and floodlighting (likely to be procured through a design and build process). Procurement for this phase will commence next year and completion is programmed to coincide with the playing pitches being available in September 2014.

Phase 3 – Construction of a 3G synthetic pitch, athletics track and tennis courts. These elements of the project were to be funded by grants from Sport England and the Football Foundation. However those funding streams have almost entirely dried up and the capital funding for this phase is still to be identified. Officers continue to seek the funding required and if successful it is hoped these facilities will also be constructed to coincide with the playing pitches being available in September 2014. This will of course be subject to further progress reports for consideration by the Executive in the future.

- 2.5 The Project Board have identified that the capital funds currently in place are insufficient to complete Phase 1 & 2 and that there are no funds in place for Phase 3. However, because of the timing and procurement of each phase, this situation could change. What is certain is that the available funding is sufficient to deliver Phase 1, followed by either a scaled down version of Phase 2 or, a Phase 2 designed in a modular fashion that could be 'added to' if/when other funding becomes available.
- 2.6 The revenue implications have also been scrutinised and two scenarios were considered. Firstly, the Sports Village operating as just Phase 1 & 2 and secondly as Phase 1, 2 and 3. In both cases it was identified that using the best information available that there would be a requirement for revenue support as detailed below;

Phase 1 & 2 A revenue subsidy of £65,113 in year 1 reducing down to £53,320 in year 5. This includes a sinking fund of £30,000 a year for the maintenance and repair of the pavilion.

Phase 1, 2 & 3 A Revenue subsidy of £31,489 in year 1 reducing down to £10,758 in year 5. This includes a sinking fund of £60,000 a year for the maintenance and repair of the pavilion and the 3G synthetic pitch.

Note: These figures are based on the facility being operated by a Trust that could benefit from reduced rate charges on the facility. However to set up a new trust could cost up to £60,000.

- 2.7 The revenue implications do not kick in until after the construction and initial maintenance period and based on the phase 1 & 2 options. The estimated implications are shown below (the figures in brackets are the revenue cost if funding can be secured for phase 3).

- 2011/12 No revenue implication as construction maintenance is built into Phase 1.
- 2012/13 No revenue implication as construction/establishment maintenance is built into Phase 1.

| | |
|---------|--|
| 2013/14 | No revenue implication as establishment maintenance is built into Phase 1. |
| 2014/15 | £41,505 (£20,072) Part year cost as establishment maintenance is built into Phase 1 up until September 2013 and the facility operation commences in August 2013. |
| 2014/15 | £60,733 (£21,512) |
| 2015/16 | £56,717 (£15,077) |

- 2.8 The management options of the sports village have also been considered by the Project Board and officers are currently investigating the charitable trust model. This option allows the operator to take advantage of an 80% mandatory rate relief and therefore appears to be the most advantageous. The Project Board will be considering this option further when more information becomes available.
- 2.9 The Sports Village site has outline planning permission for sports provision on formal open space. A reserved matters planning application for Phase 1, detailing the layout of the grass pitches, the drainage arrangements and the planting scheme, has now been submitted and it is expected to be considered by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 16 June. However the layout of the pitches requires that two sections of existing hedgerow need to be removed which are shown in the Design Code for the Kingsmere Development as being mandatory and the Planning committee are being asked to move away from this guidance in granting permission on the reserved matters. The planting scheme provides mitigating planting (over three times the length of hedgerow that is being removed) and enhances the other areas of trees, hedgerows and wild grass areas on the site.
- 2.10 The transfer of the land is currently being progressed and is scheduled to be completed on 1 June 2011 to allow for Phase 1 to commence in July 2011.
- 2.11 Procurement of phase 1 has been progressed via the Council's Procurement Team and as a result of advertisement six companies were shortlisted to be invited to tender. The results of this process can be found in the confidential appendix in Part 2 of this meeting's agenda. The tender evaluation process has concluded that the bid provided by Agripower Ltd represents that which is most economically advantageous to the Council.

Tender evaluation was based upon:

- Prices submitted for the bill of quantities;
- Choice and source of materials;
- Case studies demonstrating approach to unforeseen project challenges;
- Evaluation of potential challenges for the construction project;
- Ideas for adding value to the project;
- References and experience of similar schemes.

Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

3.1 The section 106 agreement puts a legal obligation on the Council to deliver some outdoor sports facilities and therefore Phases 1 and 2 should be progressed.

3.2 Revenue implications should be addressed by Bicester Town Council

The following options have been identified. The approach in the recommendations based on Option 1 is believed to be the best way forward.

Option One Award the contract for Phase 1 and continue to investigate options for the delivery of Phases 2 and 3.

Option Two To consider alternative schemes which, because of planting seasons, would delay any work on site until June 2012.

Option Three Not to progress the project but to provide a reduced scheme that would only meet the needs of the Kingsmere Development meeting the legal obligations of the Section 106 agreement.

Consultations

The Environment Agency The Environment Agency has agreed in principle to the removal of the two sections of hedgerow subject to an adequate mitigating planting scheme.

Countryside Properties Countryside Properties were consulted on the requirement to remove the sections of hedgerows which are shown as mandatory within the agreed Design Code for the development and have agreed in principle.

Implications

Financial: The Council has earmarked £1.5m for this project which is sufficient to commit to Phase 1 and to contribute along with other funding to a substantial part of Phase 2. No revenue funding has been budgeted.

Comments checked by Denise Taylor, Service Accountant, 01295 221982

Legal: The award of contract for the Phase 1 works to the bidder submitting the tender most economically advantageous to the Council accords with the provisions as to tender acceptance contained in the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

Any correspondence communicating an award of contract in this matter will need to confirm that the execution of a formal agreement with the successful tenderer for the Phase 1 works is wholly dependent upon planning consent for the outstanding reserved matters being given.

Comments checked by Richard Hawtin, Team Leader - Property and Contracts, 01295 221695

Risk Management:

There are no notable risks associated with the recommendations in this report.

Comments checked by Paul Marston-Weston, Head of Recreation and Health, 01295 227095

Wards Affected

Bicester South, Bicester East, Bicester North, Bicester Town, Bicester West and surrounding rural areas.

Corporate Plan Themes

A Safe and Healthy Cherwell

Providing the Bicester Multi-Sports Village would enable residents of Bicester and surrounding areas including children, young people and adults to take part in greater opportunities for meaningful, structured regular sport and physical activity. This would give each individual the health related benefits of a physically active lifestyle and is consistent with Eco Bicester – One Shared Vision.

A District of Opportunity

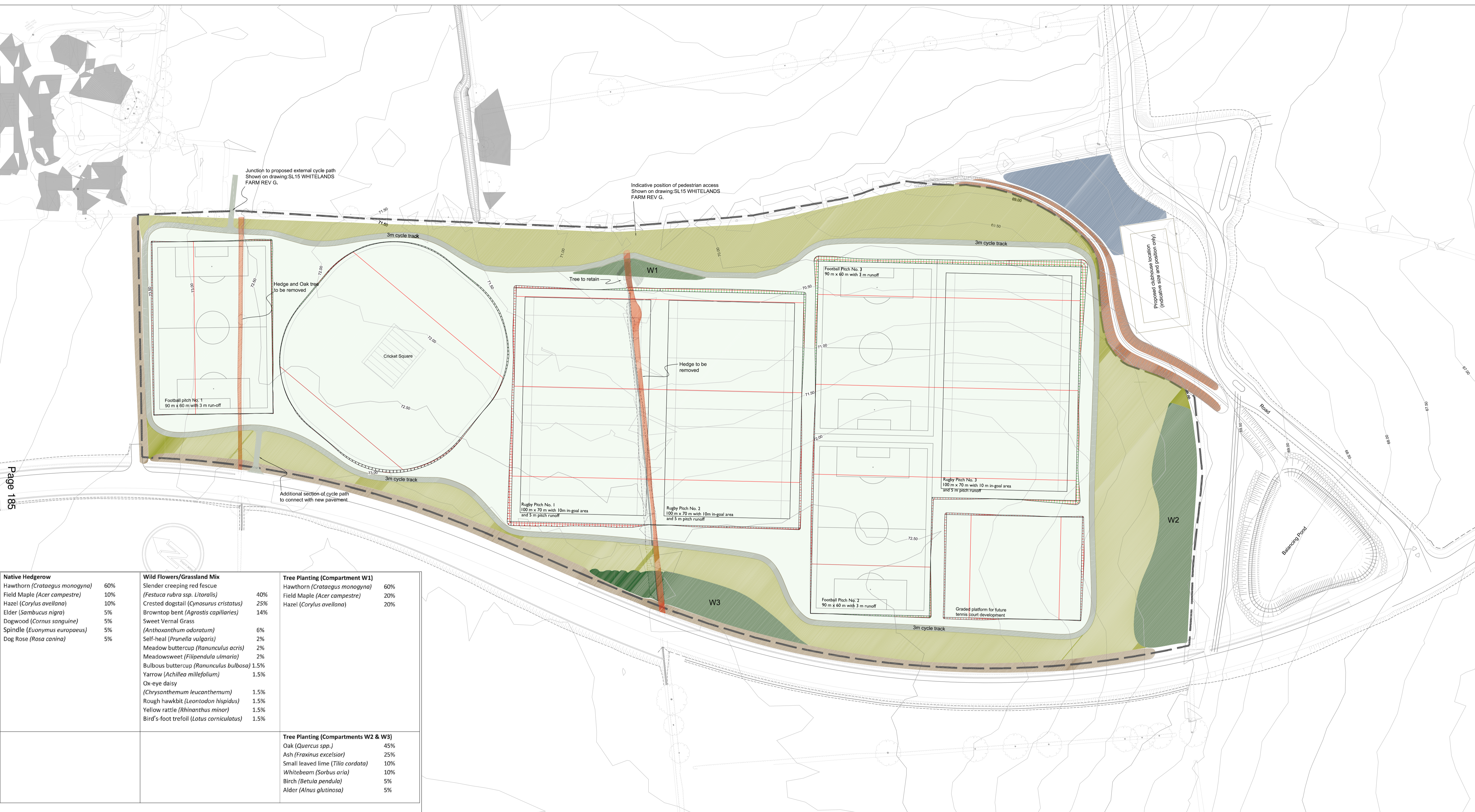
The Bicester Multi-sports Village would provide a training facility for sports clubs to train and compete in their chosen sport. This would give players a participatory opportunity and give coaches and volunteers the opportunity to gain nationally recognised qualifications. The pavilion would also provide a much needed conference, function and meeting venue for Bicester increasing the facilities on offer to all organisations and companies.

Executive Portfolio

Councillor George Reynolds
Portfolio Holder for Environment, Recreation and Health

Document Information

| Appendix No | Title |
|---|---|
| Appendix 1 | Layout design of Phase 1 of the Bicester Sports Village. |
| Appendix 2 - EXEMPT | Phase 1 tender evaluation - Exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 |
| Background Papers | |
| Executive Report 1 September 2008 – Bicester Sports Village | |
| Report Author | Philip Rolls, Recreation and Health Improvement Manager |
| Contact Information | 01295 221697 philip.rolls@Cherwell-dc.gov.uk |



| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Native Hedgerow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>) 60% Field Maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>) 10% Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) 10% Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>) 5% Dogwood (<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>) 5% Spindle (<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>) 5% Dog Rose (<i>Rosa canina</i>) 5% | <p>Wild Flowers/Grassland Mix</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slender creeping red fescue (<i>Festuca rubra ssp. Litoralis</i>) 40% Crested dogstail (<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>) 25% Browntop bent (<i>Agrostis capillaries</i>) 14% Sweet Vernal Grass (<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>) 6% Self-heal (<i>Franella vulgaris</i>) 2% Meadow buttercup (<i>Ranunculus acris</i>) 2% Meadowsweet (<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>) 2% Bulbous buttercup (<i>Ranunculus bulbosa</i>) 1.5% Yarrow (<i>Achillea millefolium</i>) 1.5% Ox-eye daisy (<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>) 1.5% Rough hawkbit (<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>) 1.5% Yellow rattle (<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>) 1.5% Bird's-foot trefoil (<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>) 1.5% | <p>Tree Planting (Compartment W1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>) 60% Field Maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>) 20% Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) 20% |
| | | <p>Tree Planting (Compartments W2 & W3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oak (<i>Quercus spp.</i>) 45% Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) 25% Small leaved lime (<i>Tilia cordata</i>) 10% Whitebeam (<i>Sorbus aria</i>) 10% Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>) 5% Alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>) 5% |

Note 1 – The ditch sides should be allowed to develop deeper vegetation to allow the passage of small mammals. It will be important however to ensure that water flow is maintained.
 Note 2 – A low growing tree plantation will be introduced around a significant yet degenerating oak to discourage traffic around the area of this tree and its canopy for health and safety reasons.

Hedgerow introduction
 The planting scheme for the sports development at Bicester includes the provision of 717 metres of newly planted native hedgerow. This is in part to enhance the ecological and visual elements of the site but is also in place to compensate for hedgerow losses that are to occur as part of this development. These losses amount to 343 metres.
 New hedgerows will be introduced utilising 1+1 forestry transplant tree specimens planted in a double row with 450mm gaps along and between rows. Trees will be introduced via the notch planting method and protected either with individual tree guards or with chicken wire fencing.

Grassland Management
 Deeper grassland/wildflower areas should be managed by a twice per year cut, with all arisings collected during February and September. A scarification operation should also be performed in future years if coarse grassland species begin to invade.

legend

- Proposed car park
- Proposed grassland / wildflower
- Proposed Hedgerow introduction
- Proposed tree introduction
- Proposed hedge removal
- Ditch (see NOTE 1)
- Pitch areas and surrounds
- Site boundary

drawing details

client: Cherwell District Council
 project: Bicester Sports Village
 drawing title: Proposed Landscape Planting Scheme
 drawing no: DE101824 007
 drawn by: LC/MP
 checked by: JW
 date: 11.03.11
 scale: 1 to 1000 @ A1

revision history

| revision | details | DR | CH | AP | date |
|----------|---|----|-----|-----|----------|
| A | Additional section of cycle track added | LC | JRW | JRW | 28/04/11 |

drawing status
Tender Issue

notes
 (with background plan received 18.01.08)

STRI

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Executive

Brighter Futures in Banbury Programme

23 May 2011

Report of Strategic Director Environment and Community

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider a review of the first year of the Brighter Futures Programme in Banbury and the proposed emphasis in the second and subsequent years.

| |
|-----------------------|
| This report is public |
|-----------------------|

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To note the very good progress made in the first year of the Brighter Futures Programme
- (2) To support the areas of emphasis and proposed activity in 2011/12
- (3) To receive further reports as appropriate on progress

Executive Summary

Introduction

- 1.1 The Brighter Futures in Banbury programme has been running for just over a year in an attempt to support in better ways those individuals and families in most need. During this time, it has made significant progress with effective multi-agency focus and joint actions.
- 1.2 The first year's activities and outcomes can be found in the attached Annual Report at Appendix 1.

Proposals

- 1.3 The proposals in this report are about making a difference to those families and individuals in greatest need. They include continued effectiveness of multi-agency working, helping those in greatest need, having a common purpose and understanding, taking a long-term approach, making best use of current and anticipated reducing resources and engaging with local people

and communities in Banbury.

1.4 Proposals for the coming year include maintaining the focus on the five main themes of :

- Financial and Employment Support
- Young People's Aspirations and Attainment
- Housing and Environment
- Health and Well-being
- Safe and Stronger Communities

1.5 Specific initiatives in 2011/12 include;

1. consolidate where we have started to make a real difference, for example:
 - getting local people into local jobs, such as through the Job Clubs
 - preventing young people becoming, and remaining, NEET
 - improving skill levels to increase local residents' employability
 - developing more self-build schemes in the area
 - enrolling even more local people into volunteering, particularly young people
 - ensuring we maintain the reduction in crime and disorder achieved to date
 - maintaining effective networks of professionals already established in the area.
2. co-ordinate youth provision in response to changes in local service provision during 2011
3. support residents affected by the proposed reductions in Benefits and Tax Credits from April and the Incapacity Benefit reassessment process proposed for later in 2011
4. introduce new services where possible, such as a Food Bank for Banbury, working with the faith and voluntary communities
5. improve access to services supporting residents, such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and "Next Step" – the free careers advice service for adults to support them back into learning and work
6. target early-intervention, one-to-one tuition, under-achieving pupils and a family focus to learning.

Conclusion

1.6 The Brighter Futures in Banbury programme will only be effective if it is targeted, long-term, multi-agency in nature and clear on its purpose and outcomes. A common understanding amongst all relevant agencies of what can and should be done underpins the proposals for 2011.

Background Information

- 2.1 The attached Annual Report 2010 sets out the extensive range of activities undertaken in the three target wards arranged by the five themes. It represents an excellent multi-agency response to local need and has established a new way of working which is based on a common purpose, good communication and better understanding of the roles and activities of many organisations.
- 2.2 The Programme commenced with the benefit of a Programme Manager funded by the Local Area Agreement Reward Grant. However, when this was cut by 50%, this role has been terminated as a means of directing the resource to more service initiatives.
- 2.3 The Council has been active in its support of this work in many ways, key has been taking a strong leadership role:
- Oxfordshire Partnership with Chief Executive and Council Leader input;
 - Chief Executive input at the '6 Oxfordshire Chiefs' meetings;
 - Strategic Director input to the Oxfordshire Programme Management Group
 - Strategic Director lead as Chairman of the Brighter Futures in Banbury Steering Group;
 - Head of Housing Services and Improvement Manager lead roles for Housing & Environment and Employment & Financial Support Banbury themes;
 - Improvement Manager coordination role for Banbury activity;
 - Aligning mainstream Council services such as benefits, employment support, housing, recreation, cleansing, and health improvement to the wards and people most in need;
 - The appointment of Councillor Colin Clarke as Portfolio Holder for Breaking the Cycle of Deprivation, who chairs the three tier Banbury Councillors meetings and workshops.

Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

- 3.1 In pursuing this programme, there are a number of key principles which should be considered. They are as follows:
- The focus on health inequality issues will by its nature need long term wider economic, social and environmental actions to be fully effective;
 - The outcomes sought must be relevant to the communities targeted and the specific needs of people in those communities;
 - This is an ongoing programme, not a project and as such there will be a need to embed actions in mainstream service provision for all participating agencies.
- 3.2 Effectiveness can only be achieved if there is commitment of participating agencies. It is encouraging to note that the level of commitment to work together to make a difference is evident throughout all partners.

- 3.3 The important issue of finance is a cause for concern. The Oxfordshire programme was originally allocated £1 million, but given the Coalition Government announcements about funding cuts, 50% of this will not be forthcoming. In addition, of the £500,000 received to date most has been committed to the work so far. What is also clear at this point is that in addition to the reduced additional funding, core budgets of partner organisations will be smaller in the future.
- 3.4 The most important aspect about funding is therefore not about how much new funding will or will not be available, but to ensure the most effective and efficient use is made of what ever resources are available irrespective of cutbacks. The new and enhanced multi-agency initiatives proposed for 2011 are being implemented with this intention. It is expected that more such initiatives will follow.
- 3.5 Long term outcomes expected will include:
- There will be a sustained improvement in IMD scores for the target areas, including the specific domains of health, employment, crime, education and skills;
 - The gap in death rates between the best and worst quintiles in the District will be reduced;
 - There will be better outcomes for children and young people - reduced teenage pregnancies, improved educational attainment, improved skills, fewer accidental and deliberate injuries and reduced poverty;
 - Reduce number of young people not in employment, education or training;
 - Improved skills levels and more will be employed or develop enterprises;
 - Public involvement in planning and implementing the programme will result in increased satisfaction with living in the area;
 - Financial savings and efficiencies with public money for health, social care, policing, children's services, community safety and advice services;
 - Improvements in the number of people who are obese, who smoke, who have low levels of physical activity, mothers who breastfeed, people with undiagnosed or unmanaged diabetes, teenage pregnancies and who take up flu vaccines.
- 3.6 This Banbury work is being pursued as part of the Oxfordshire wide programme as it is in certain Banbury wards which the data indicates most need is located. Over the medium term and as progress is made in Banbury, other parts of the District should be considered for similar focussed work according to the needs in those areas. Before this occurs, it will be important from the Banbury work to develop good practice and proven interventions which can then be applied elsewhere

The following options have been identified. The approach in the recommendations is believed to be the best way forward, reflected in Option One.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Option One | Adopt the recommendations as set out |
| Option Two | Amend/add to the areas of focus for 2011 |

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**Cherwell local
strategic Partnership**

The Brighter Futures in Banbury Programme

**Annual Report
2010**

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1. Foreword and Executive Summary

“2010 – a year of all working together in Ruscote, Neithrop and Grimsbury and Castle Wards, improving opportunities and making a real difference.”

**Councillor Colin Clarke, Banbury Town Mayor and
Cherwell District Council Portfolio Holder for Brighter Futures in Banbury**

One of my strong beliefs is that we need to do more to help the young people and children of Banbury to improve their life chances and achieve their ambitions. This is the key to breaking the cycle of deprivation and addressing the health inequalities that we are experiencing.

It has therefore been a privilege to lead this programme during 2010 with such a focus on supporting families, children and young people, particularly those not in employment, education or training, referred to as “NEETs”. During the year we heard directly from many residents, particularly those attending our Connecting Communities events, sharing concerns and celebrating the strengths of their neighbourhoods. This has helped us shape our actions.

I’m particularly proud to have been a part of Brighter Futures in Banbury in a year that has seen:

- The start on site of the ‘*The Miller Road Self-Build Project*’ engaging young people who are NEET in construction experience, life skills training and construction training
- Opening of ‘*The Hill*’ Youth Centre including funding for a youth worker to support young people and their families and work in schools to help prevent youth homelessness
- The first *Prince’s Trust Programme* for Banbury, offering intensive supporting and transforming the lives of a group of Banbury’s NEET young people
- Funding for two *Transition Workers* from September, so far supporting 75 young Banbury people from dropping out and becoming NEET from college or employment, with a long term estimated saving of over £12m in average lifetime cost to the public purse
- An increasing spotlight on volunteering, successfully enrolling young volunteers at a Making a Difference *Volunteering Day* at the local college (OCVC)
- An expansion of *Job Club* events including special clubs for young people and popular sector based events matching employers and training providers to local job seekers
- “Get that Job” courses and the Job Finder Service, run by Oxford and Cherwell Valley College, successfully matching local residents into local jobs
- A new family learning course for parents and carers in four Banbury Children’s Centres
- Successes in the Extended Schools programme and gains for under-achievers through the Every Child Matters initiative and piloting of dedicated maths provision
- Intensive support programme for 20 families in Banbury to help them help themselves and reduce the cost and impact of their problems on the community and service providers (estimated saving of £55,000 per family per year)
- Improved awareness of healthy eating, take up of basic cooking skills and health screening programmes by targeted groups.

What impact is Brighter Futures in Banbury Programme having?

Many of the above initiatives have touched the lives of those living in the Brighter Futures Wards and the results of working together over the last 12 months in these Wards are coming through:

- Reduction of 62% in repeat offending from adult and juvenile offenders who were linked to a large number of crimes in Banbury
- Reductions in those on Jobseekers Allowance, particularly so in the under 25 age group
- Overall reductions in young people not in employment, education and training (NEET)
- Teenage pregnancy rates on the decline across the three Brighter Futures Wards and Neithrop and Ruscote are no longer in the top 20% of wards in the county.

So what are the Priorities for Brighter Futures in Banbury for 2011?

We will continue our on-going conversation with the local community getting input and feedback as we all travel together on this journey. I am particularly pleased that we will be holding more of our Connecting Communities events before the summer; look out for these and make sure you come along.

You will all understand that 2011 will be a challenging year. We are yet to fully understand the impact of local public sector cuts on local residents as well as partner agencies working to improve the Brighter Futures area. With this in mind, we are planning to focus our attention towards areas where this programme can make a difference with the resources available:

- consolidate where we have started to make a real difference, for example:
 - getting local people into local jobs, such as through the Job Clubs
 - preventing young people becoming, and remaining, NEET
 - improving skill levels to increase local residents' employability
 - developing more self-build schemes in the area
 - enrolling even more local people into volunteering, particularly young people
 - ensuring we maintain the reduction in crime and disorder achieved to date
 - maintaining effective networks of professionals already established in the area.
- co-ordinate youth provision in response to changes in local service provision during 2011
- support residents affected by the proposed reductions in Benefits and Tax Credits from April and the Incapacity Benefit reassessment process proposed for later in 2011
- introduce new services where possible, such as a Food Bank for Banbury, working with the faith and voluntary communities
- improve access to services supporting residents, such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and "Next Step" – the free careers advice service for adults to support them back into learning and work
- target early-intervention, one-to-one tuition, under-achieving pupils and a family focus to learning.

And in case that all sounds like a lot of hard work, I'm please to say Brighter Futures also looks to celebrate all that is good about where we live, including taking part in Grimsbury's Food Festival on 15 May to which you are all welcome.

I'm sure you will agree with me that 2010 has been a year of working together, improving opportunities and making a real difference, and I hope you will all play your part with me in continuing this good work during 2011.

Councillor Colin Clarke

Banbury Town Mayor and Cherwell District Portfolio Holder - Brighter Futures in Banbury

2. Overview of the Brighter Futures in Banbury Programme

Cherwell Sustainable Community Strategy - Our District, Our Future

The Cherwell Sustainable Community Strategy, Our District, Our Future, was launched in February 2010, following extensive consultation and engagement with over 100 local organisations and community groups. This strategy sets out a long term vision for the future of the district and shapes how the Local Strategic Partnership will work together. The Brighter Futures in Banbury programme is a fundamental part of delivering this shared vision; 'a diverse economy with opportunities for all, vibrant communities connected by a sense of pride, place and purpose'.

Brighter Futures in Banbury is a targeted programme of work, set up to increase life chances and address health inequalities within three wards in Banbury. A priority within Our District, Our Future is to tackle areas which rank on the lower end of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. There are several areas in Banbury across the three wards of Ruscote, Neithrop and Grimsbury and Castle which rank amongst the 20% most deprived in the country.

Brighter Futures in Banbury

The programme aims to create 'brighter futures for Banbury people', to tackling evidenced deprivation and health inequality. The overall aim is to break the cycle of deprivation and health inequality, but the route to a brighter future will be different for each individual. To be successful this programme will need to move individuals forward, some of whom may have complex, inter-woven needs.

For individuals to realise their full potential the basic ingredients need to be right: a decent home and physical surroundings, secure income, good health and well-being, a feeling of safety and a sense of connection or belonging in the local community.

There has been considerable investment by many agencies over many years into deprivation and health inequalities. For example, the Council's stock transfer to Charter Community Housing in 2004 created the investment needed to bring many of the homes in the area far above a minimum decent standard. However, the latest research highlights the areas of Ruscote, Neithrop and Grimsbury and Castle as being where this programme should focus, particularly to:

- Improve skill levels and educational attainment
- Improve employability, focusing particularly on young people
- Improve financial situations, addressing debt and financial exclusion
- Improve overall health and well-being, reducing the clear inequality gaps with low life expectancy and high rates of teenage pregnancy
- Build a safer and more connected community, where residents feel socially included
- Target specific support to vulnerable people, families and children in need.

This programme is not all about new initiatives, much will be about improving the outcomes from current activities through better co-ordination, co-location and better multi-agency working. This following report sets out the five 5 themes that make up the programme and some of their associated work to improve the lives of residents in the least affluent areas of Banbury.

In addition to the 5 themes in the Action Plan, there are three core principles for this programme:

- community engagement and consultation
- raising aspiration and ambition
- capacity building through multi agency working

3. Financial and Employment Support

Background

The financial and employment support theme covers the first three areas of the programme's objectives:

- Improve skill levels and educational attainment
- Improve employability, focusing particularly on young people
- Improve financial situations, addressing debt and financial exclusion

Top 3 achievements in 2010:

| Issue... | We did... |
|---|--|
| Support young people entering work or further education for the first time (to prevent them becoming NEET - not in employment, education or training) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Learnt from best practice, such as Reading's prevention work. ○ From September 2010 two Prevention/Transition Workers have been employed, one at Banbury Connexions and the other at Oxford and Cherwell Valley College's (OCVC) Banbury Campus. Funding for these workers is from Brighter Futures in Banbury. ○ The aim of the project is to try to prevent young people dropping out of work and college and, therefore, stopping them becoming NEET. ○ In the 3 months of the project, 25 young people have been supported in employment and 48 supported to stay at college. Therefore, Banbury already has fewer NEETs than last year saving the public purse an estimated £165k per NEET, totalling £12m to date. |
| Support young people who are already NEET (not in employment, education or training) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brought Prince's Trust Programme to Banbury, drawing on best practice and a trial of the Programme in Oxford City and supported with funding from Brighter Futures in Banbury. ○ The Prince's Trust Team Programme for Banbury started with 12 local Banbury NEETs in October 2010 for a 12 week intensive programme of work experience, voluntary work, team building and a residential. ○ Final presentation from the Team hosted by Tony Baldry MP and Banbury Town Council in December 2010; where the young people described their engagement with learning and employment and their future plans from now on. ○ Oxfordshire Connexions now recruiting for a second Prince's Trust Team for Banbury to begin early 2011. |
| Support for young people to get involved in volunteering in their local community with the added benefit of being a route to employment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Over 70 students made volunteering commitments at the "Making a Difference" Youth Volunteering Day on 19 October 2010, led by the portfolio holder for Brighter Futures, Cllr Colin Clarke, at OCVC's Banbury Campus. ○ 38 students are joining the Youth Action Team to get Red Cross first aid training ○ 28 students committed to seek volunteering placements and awards. 8 students signed up on the day directly with WRVS, Katherine House Hospice and Order of St John Trust. ○ Plans are in place to repeat this success in Spring 2011. |

Areas for Development:

| Issue: | What needs to happen in 2011: |
|---|--|
| Working with employers to create local jobs, particularly apprenticeships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Cherwell Skills Board's initiative in 2010 to work with local businesses to create more apprenticeships was focused towards the wards in the Brighter Futures in Banbury area. The resulting Business Administration Apprenticeships Scheme saw Cherwell District Council take on 6 apprentices, the majority from the Brighter Futures Wards. Other employers, such as Banbury Town Council, joined the scheme also and OCVV provided the training to NVQ2 level. ○ However, pulling the scheme together during 2010 highlighted the impact of the economic downturn and few local businesses felt able to offer apprenticeships. What has also become clear is that Banbury does not seem to have the number of apprenticeships on offer as other parts of the County. ○ In 2011 we aim to increase the apprenticeships offered in Banbury and accessible to young people from the Brighter Futures Wards. We will work with a number of employers to encourage them to take on apprentices, working with Oxford and Cherwell Valley College and Adult Learning in conjunction with the National Apprenticeship Service. ○ We will work to prove that apprenticeships are not only worthwhile for a young person who is disproportionately disadvantaged by the recession, but that they are also advantageous for businesses as they are funded. |

Top 3 activities for 2011:

| Issue... | We will... |
|---|---|
| Support residents affected by Benefit and other Tax and Allowance Changes from April 2011 and look to increase support for those suffering hardship | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work with claimants so they understand the impact of the changes on them. ○ Work with partner agencies to offer a comprehensive network of support and advice. ○ For those without the resources to buy food, introducing a Banbury Food Bank ○ Give residents access to affordable money by developing the business case for a credit union in Banbury. |
| Improve aspiration and employability for young people through mentoring schemes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Look to introduce mentoring opportunities for young people in the 3 Wards working with a number of interested voluntary sector organisations, professional training organisations and employees from local businesses. |
| Get local people into local jobs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expand the Worklessness/Next Step Project to offer more careers advice sessions to more local people in more local Banbury venues in partnership with local GP surgeries, Children's Centres and the Council's Linkpoint venues ○ Expand the popular special events hosted by the Job Clubs, such as the Health and Social Care events supported by local employers and training providers in the field. |

Further information:

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| Theme Lead: | Alison Davies Cherwell District Council | Alison.Davies@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk 01295 221580 |
| Partners: | Skills and Employment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Job Clubs: led by Tony Baldry MP, coordinated by Cherwell District Council (CDC), working with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), Job Centre Plus (JCP), Oxford and Cherwell Valley College (OCVC) and Connexions, Oxfordshire Business Enterprise and local employers (Bicester Village, CTG Ltd, Order of St John's)• Skills Development is led by OCC, OCVC (Get that Job) and at Children's Centres such as the Sunshine Centre• Career Advice and Guidance :through Next Steps contracts held by providers such as OCC Adult Learning and OCVC• Volunteering as a route back to employment: V-involved and Community and Voluntary Sector• Work Ready schemes: Job Centre Plus and Connexions• Transition Workers: OCVC and Connexions• Prince's Trust Programme: Connexions and OCC• Apprenticeships, Future Jobs Fund and Foundation Learning: OCC, OCVC and National Apprenticeship Scheme Financial Inclusion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Benefit support, debt counselling, debt prevention – JCP, CDC's Benefits Advisors, Citizens Advice Bureaux and their Capability Workers, Charter Community Housing Inclusion Team, Christians Against Poverty and Oxfordshire Advice Project• Access to hardship resources – hardship loans (JCP and Social Services), Furniture (CVS and Faithworks), Food (Peoples Church, Banbury Town Council, Charter Community Housing and Cherwell District Council), affordable warmth (CDC) | |

4. Young People's Aspirations and Attainment

Background

This theme aims to raise aspirations and to enhance opportunities for young people to achieve better qualifications and skills, including numeracy, in order to access a greater variety of pathways in the world of work, further and higher education. This involves a range of partners working together more effectively to collectively provide greater support for young people to maximize progress and achievement. Central to this theme is the emphasis on promoting family learning skills so that parents and carers are better engaged with their children's learning from the earliest years and are able to provide appropriate home support for learning. Key objectives:

- Improve skill levels and educational attainment
- Improve employability, focusing particularly on young people
- Target specific support to vulnerable people, families and children in need.

Top 3 achievements in 2010:

| Issue... | We did... |
|--|--|
| New family learning course for parents/carers in Banbury Children's Centres. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Negotiations undertaken with OCC Family Education Service to prepare and deliver new parents/carers courses in Banbury. ○ Plans finalised to deliver new courses at each of the four Banbury Children's Centres starting in January 2011 ○ Arrangements made through OCC maths consultant to provide each participating family with access to individual family packs of educational resources to stimulate child numeracy development. |
| Success of Extended Schools (ES) programme in supporting school clusters to employ home/school link workers and to promote extended range of learning and recreational opportunities in proportion to numbers of children on free school meals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Case Studies collected to evaluate and show positive impact of home school link workers employed in small clusters of schools/children's centres. ○ Evidence that GO 4 IT funding has promoted greater participation by disadvantaged children in extended hour's activities such as breakfast and homework clubs, sports, music, arts and holiday activities. ○ Recognised achievement of schools in working towards 'full core' Extended Schools offer through Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. |
| School initiatives to raise levels of achievement and increase rates of progress in core subjects with specific focus on under-achieving pupils. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schools with children on Early Years Foundation Stage profile have been supported by advisory teachers through networks and training to develop their knowledge of observation assessment, tracking progress and planning for next steps. ○ Raised levels of achievement for under-achieving pupils at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 participating in pilot one to one maths tuition e.g. Banbury School. ○ Gains in number, age and attitude score for under-achieving pupils participating in Every Child Counts (ECC) initiative at primary schools e.g. St. Mary's School. |

Areas for Development:

| Issue: | What needs to happen in 2011: |
|---|---|
| Accessing more financial support for extending one to | Continue to explore ways of supporting schools of the Banbury Partnership to provide more one to one tuition at secondary level and |

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| one tuition and equivalent successful primary school initiatives in promoting numeracy and literacy success for targeted under achieving children. | through Every Child a Reader (ECR) and Every Child Counts (ECC) at primary level. Evidence from Every Child a Chance Trust indicates that the bottom 5% of 5 and 6 year olds improve their reading age by 21 months after 40 hours of one to one tuition. Children improve 14 months in number age after 20 hours of ECC tuition. At Banbury school 76% pupils at Key Stage 3 went up one national curriculum level after just 10 hours of one to one tuition. |
|--|--|

Top 3 activities for 2011:

| Issue... | We will... |
|---|--|
| Implement delivery of new family learning courses at Children's Centres | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deliver four family learning courses of 12 hours duration at each of the four Banbury Children's Centres beginning with Sunshine Centre in 2011. ○ Ensure the family learning programme includes one Children's Centre worker in attendance on each course in order to assist continuity and sustainability of delivery in future years. ○ Promote lifelong learning by providing participants with access to adult national curriculum courses in numeracy/ literacy at level 1 and 2. |
| Develop further the work of Extended Schools in providing a full range of extended learning opportunities, better parental engagement and home-school links. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aim for more schools to move from Bronze to Silver and Gold awards by providing increased evidence of full core Extended Schools offer encompassing Quality Child Care, Parental Support, Community Access, Varied Menu of Activities, Ease of Access to CAF, and Safe Place to Be. ○ Further share good practice in parental engagement through resources, displays and roadshows, and through staff development and workshops. ○ Support access to a full programme of learning and recreational opportunities for pupils of disadvantaged background including access to breakfast and after school clubs, holiday activities, sports, arts music and drama activities, homework clubs, and ICT facilities. |
| Further support the work of schools in raising levels of achievement and increase rates of progress in core subjects with specific focus on under-achieving pupils. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop through the Banbury Initiative for Early Years the delivery of skills in problem solving, reasoning and numeracy (PRSN) focusing on language to express observations, ideas and answers. ○ Explore ways to secure the continuation of programmes of individualised learning in maths for targeted children in primary and secondary schools e.g. One to one tuition, ECC ○ Support the work of OCC maths and English in primary and secondary schools. |

Further information:

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| Theme Lead: | Mike Moran, Oxfordshire County Council Mike.moran@oxfordshire.gov.uk |
| Partners: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Links to schools and other county services – adult learning, family learning, extended schools services, children's centres and libraries. Family learning in children's centre provides an opportunity for community engagement, but currently no voluntary sector links per se from this theme. ○ Strong links to schools and other county services around education and attainment – adult learning, family learning, extended schools services, children's centres and libraries. |

5. Housing and Environment

Background

This theme aims to target specific support to vulnerable people, families and children in need, specifically:

- improve outcomes for those in housing need
- prevent homelessness
- reduce poor housing conditions e.g. over crowding
- improve condition of housing stock
- good access to amenities, including shops, health centres and leisure facilities

Top 3 achievements in 2010:

| Issue... | We did... |
|---|---|
| <p>History of high levels of youth homelessness and housing crisis presenting from BFIB wards.</p> <p>Preventing homelessness can have a huge influence on a young person's life chances and mean that they are more likely to enter training, get a job and better health.</p> | <p>Cherwell District Council Housing Services has pioneered a range of new initiatives in partnership with statutory agencies and the voluntary sector and undertaken targeted work in the BFIB wards. This has been made possible through Housing Services negotiating significant investment from Central Government (CLG), Homes and Communities Agency, Oxfordshire County Council, Banbury Community Church and Sanctuary Housing. Examples of these initiatives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the refurbishment of 'The Hill' Youth Centre (formerly known as the Willy Freund Centre) and funding of a Youth Worker who is developing a 'whole family approach' to youth work and delivering the "No Place Like Home" programme in four local secondary schools. • commenced the 'Miller Road Project' in partnership with Oxford and Cherwell Valley College, Connexions, Sanctuary Housing and Habitat for Humanity. This project, recognised nationally as good practice engages young people who are NEET in construction experience, life skills training and Level One Training. |
| <p>Poor housing conditions can reduce health outcomes – older housing stock requiring improvements in the Grimsbury ward</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have increased our activity around improving house conditions within the Grimsbury ward. A particular concern is that older housing stock often has poor levels of insulation resulting poor health outcomes. A new housing grant was approved by the Council and heavily promoted to residents in Grimsbury (street cleaners handed out leaflets and door knocked). This new grant provides an affordable warmth/insulation scheme to residents in the Grimsbury ward for £99 (free to those on benefits). • We have taken a proactive approach and undertaken further targeted work to identify blocks of flats in the Grimsbury ward that require works to improve property condition e.g. improved insulation and improvement works such as double glazing, central heating. |

| Issue... | We did... |
|--|--|
| Reduce poor housing conditions e.g. overcrowding, homelessness | <p>We have identified a number of housing need indicators that originate from BFiB wards e.g. a disproportionately higher number of homelessness applications, cases of overcrowding within these wards. To date we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established a working group with Sanctuary Housing, Cherwell HIA to look at new ways of reducing overcrowding, homelessness in social housing stock with targeted work in BFiB wards. • Developed a pilot scheme for BFiB wards that will identify households registered on the Council's housing register as under occupying accommodation. The aims of the pilot are to work with the (mainly elderly) residents under occupying their homes with a view to supporting them to downsize to more appropriate housing e.g. extra care – this will release family sized accommodation for those in urgent housing need. • Future plans are to agree a SLA with Age UK to undertake to work with elderly residents in conjunction with Cherwell's Small Repair Handyperson Scheme, Sanctuary and the Council's Housing Needs Team. |

Areas for Development:

| Issue: | What needs to happen in 2011: |
|---|---|
| Good access to amenities, including shops, health centres and leisure facilities within the BFiB wards – the proposed redevelopment of Orchard Way and Fairway shops and affordable housing has stalled due to HCA decision not to provide funding. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full options appraisal and viability study of this site is currently being undertaken. • Further work on funding options including discussions with HCA and other possible funding opportunities are being considered. • Once this work is completed it will be possible to consider possible outcomes for this much needed scheme. |

Top 3 activities for 2011:

| Issue... | We will... |
|---|---|
| Deliver housing and training opportunities for those in housing need within the BFiB wards. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the development of a district-wide Community Land Trust and Self Build Housing Programme which will deliver housing, education and training opportunities for local people and contribute to local regeneration focusing on bringing empty properties back into use. • This will focus on housing applicants becoming "housing ready" and not just passive members of a housing waiting list. • A number of potential sites within the BFiB wards are being considered as a pilot scheme for this new approach to housing delivery. |

| Issue... | We will... |
|---|---|
| Provision of a Foundation Learning Centre with links to the Foyer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Services are leading on the development of a Foundation Learning Centre (with YMCA Training and Sanctuary Housing) adjacent to the Banbury Foyer. • The project follows on from the work to extend and refurbish the current Banbury Foyer building to improve layout and management and security. • The Centre will have the use of the former Banbury Homes Offices to create a young people's resource with a focus on providing guidance and support on education, training, employment and family relationships. |
| Increase provision of specialist older people's housing with the BFIB wards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of 40 units of extra care housing at Orchard Fields situated in the Ruscote Ward. • This will be the first extra care accommodation in Banbury and in fact the district and will become the largest extra care scheme in the County to date. • As well as giving priority to local residents the scheme will also providing local job opportunities e.g. care workers. |

Further information:

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| Theme Lead: | Gillian Greaves Cherwell District Council |
| Contact details: | Email: gillian.greaves@cherwell-dc.gov.uk Telephone: 01295 221654 |
| Partners: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Government (DCLG), Homes and Communities Agency, Oxfordshire County Council, Banbury Community Church and Sanctuary Housing, Oxford and Cherwell Valley College, Connexions, Housing and Habitat for Humanity, BPHA, Age UK |

6. Health and Wellbeing

Background

This theme aims to improve health and well-being, reducing the clear inequality gaps with low life expectancy and high rates of teenage pregnancy, specifically:

- Increasing life expectancy by improving physical and mental health and well being
- Reducing rates of under 18 conceptions
- Removing system and organisational barriers and improving partnership working.

Top 3 achievements in 2010:

| Issue... | We did... |
|--|---|
| Improve take up of screening programmes by the south Asian community. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Organised a specific session for south Asian women, with relevant professionals presenting on the breast, cervical and bowel screening programmes. ○ The event was held at East St Children's Centre and was promoted by the Health Trainer, who is a key link to the south Asian women's groups in the locality. ○ 39 women attended and a face to face interpreter was available, along with relevant leaflets. ○ Feed back was very positive, with attendees requesting future health information sessions in a similar format. |
| Improve basic cooking skills and awareness of healthy eating to targeted groups. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ North Oxfordshire GP Consortia Healthy Living cookery skills pilot- since Jan 2010 to November 2010, 8 courses have recruited 47 participants, including south Asian women, homeless young people and single mothers. ○ Some positive initial half year outcomes: pre course, 31 participants ate takeaway meals once or more per week, compared to 13 post course; pre course, 34 participants added salt to their cooking compared to 22 post course; pre course, 25 participants added salt to their food plate compared to 7 post course. ○ A young woman from Rachel House who was inspired by the cookery course she attended, entered a competition run by OCVC and got to the finals in Oxford in December and subsequently won! She has also continued to do a literacy course that followed on from the cooking course and has attended every week. |
| Supporting the development of Next Step career advice in GP surgeries. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Worked with Alison Davies and Cherwell District Council customer services to set up pilot sites in GP practices. Approached both Horsefair and Banbury Health Centre, who were willing to host a weekly stand and adviser in each practice. |

Top 3 activities for 2011:

| Issue... | We will... |
|--|---|
| Research potential for CAB outreach in targeted Banbury GP practices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work with CAB managers and a Public Health colleague to scope feasibility of the project. |
| Disseminating information on the carers agenda. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work with a Public Health colleague and Cherwell District Council staff, to facilitate a training session on awareness of carers rights and benefits for Cherwell District Council staff who may either be carers or who can inform carers as part of their role. (Planned for March). |
| Promoting cultural diversity awareness in Grimsbury | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work with Banbury Cherwell Rotary Club and other key partners to put on a food festival in Grimsbury in May. ○ A diverse range of communities are being invited to cook samples of their ethnic foods. There will be other stands and activities and involvement of the two local primary schools. |

Further information:

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| Theme Lead: | Maggie Dent NHS Oxfordshire |
| Contact details: | Email: maggie.dent@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk Telephone: 01865 336874 |
| Partners: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Any voluntary sector group pertinent to a particular issue would be invited onto the theme sub-group, for example the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers will be involved once funding for the “Green Gym” is approved. Several other organisations have been made aware of the programme via the community development network which is facilitated by Graham Ablett from the County Council. Other link agencies/ staff are: ○ Smoking Advice Service; ○ Public Health colleagues; ○ commissioning colleagues from the PCT; ○ Community Health Oxfordshire staff (eg Health Visitors and School Health Nurses); ○ children’s centre staff; ○ Home Start; ○ GP Practice staff; ○ Expert Patient Programme; ○ other NHS Trusts; ○ sexual health services; ○ midwives; ○ Black and Minority Ethnic Groups; ○ Ridgeway Partnership; ○ Smart; ○ Drugs and Alcohol Team (DAAT). |

7. Safe and Strong Communities

Background

The aim of the programme is to build a safer and more connected community, where residents can contribute to where they live and people feel socially included.

Top 3 achievements in 2010:

| Issue... | We did... |
|---|---|
| Reduce levels of crime and disorder in the target areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Intensive tracking and action focusing upon a core group of repeat adult and juvenile offenders who were linked to a large number of crimes in Banbury. Their level of re-offending has reduced by 62% during the year. ○ Increased resources to the neighbourhood teams covering the Brighter Futures areas. Targeted patrols of known hotspots for anti-social behaviour. ○ Upgrade of the CCTV system in the town at a cost of £330,000. ○ Joint actions by partners to deal with anti-social behaviour and criminality. For example, there has been court action against 6 residents in Samuelson Court, which has led to a big reduction in problems. |
| Offer support for families at risk of offending or who were adversely affecting communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Intensive support programme for 20 families in Banbury over the past year. The work of the programme has helped families to help themselves and reduce the cost and impact of their problems on the community and other service providers (at present, the projected cost saving is £55,000 per family per year). ○ Localised support programme (Family Cohesion Project) for 12 school pupils and their families at North Oxfordshire Academy at risk of exclusion. 7 pupils and their families completed the course and none of them have since been excluded. |
| Develop a programme to improve the sense of community and belonging | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Connecting Communities engagement events in Bretch Hill and Grimsbury encouraged residents to share their concerns and celebrate their neighbourhoods. ○ A range of Youth and Community activities have been organised at The Hill, North Oxfordshire Academy, Princess Diana Park, The Town Hall and Bridge Bar to engage young people and bring residents together. |

Areas for Development:

| Issue: | What needs to happen in 2011: |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Community Development programme | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was not possible to undertake a comprehensive Community Development programme linked to the programme during 2010. A more limited proposal has been adopted to improve the engagement with residents and stakeholders and this will be |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>rolled out during 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Local Strategic Partnership is expected to facilitate interactions with the voluntary sector and the programme in 2011 to strengthen links and to identify areas for closer working with the community. |
|--|--|

Top 3 activities for 2011:

| Issue... | We will... |
|--|---|
| Co-ordination of activities for Young People | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop Banbury Youth Partnership to co-ordinate future provision of activities for Young People in the town in the light of changes to service provision. |
| Community engagement activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop additional community engagement opportunities to involve residents in shaping their neighbourhoods, building on the successes to date. |
| Maintain reduction of crime and disorder | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue to focus resources and activity on BFiB areas and focus on continued reductions in crime and disorder notwithstanding the internal reorganisation of key agencies and changes to service delivery. |

Further information:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Theme Lead: | Adrian Thomas Thames Valley Police |
| Contact details: | Email adrian.thomas@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk Telephone 08458 505050; 01295 754540 |
| Partners: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are a number of forums for dealing with prolific offenders, crime and disorder issues, community development objectives and Family Intervention Project involving joint working with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thames Valley Police ○ Thames Valley Probation, ○ Connexions, ○ Oxfordshire County Council: Youth Offending Services, Social Services and Fire Service ○ Cherwell District Council Housing, ASB and Environment, Cleansing and Street Wardens ○ Registered Social landlords <p>Community groups and voluntary providers linked to a range of bodies including the Community Development team of Oxfordshire CC, Cherwell DC, The Hill Youth Centre and the Police Neighbourhood Action Groups.</p> |

Priorities for 2011/12

Financial and Employment Support

1. Support residents affected by Benefit and other Tax and Allowance Changes from April 2011 and look to increase support for those suffering hardship:
 - Work with claimants so they understand the impact of the changes on them.
 - Work with partner agencies to offer a comprehensive network of support and advice.
 - For those without the resources to buy food, introducing a Banbury Food Bank
 - Give residents access to affordable money by developing the business case for a credit union in Banbury.
2. Improve aspiration and employability for young people through mentoring schemes:
 - Look to introduce mentoring opportunities for young people in the 3 Wards working with a number of interested voluntary sector organisations, professional training organisations and employees from local businesses.
3. Get local people into local jobs:
 - Expand the Worklessness/Next Step Project to offer more careers advice sessions to more local people in more local Banbury venues in partnership with local GP surgeries, Children's Centres and the Council's Linkpoint venues
 - Expand the popular special events hosted by the Job Clubs, such as the Health and Social Care events supported by local employers and training providers in the field.

Young People's Aspirations and Attainment

1. Implement delivery of new family learning courses at Children's Centres:
 - Deliver four family learning courses of 12 hours duration at each of the four Banbury Children's Centres beginning with Sunshine Centre in 2011.
 - Ensure the family learning programme includes one Children's Centre worker in attendance on each course in order to assist continuity and sustainability of delivery in future years.
 - Promote lifelong learning by providing participants with access to adult national curriculum courses in numeracy/ literacy at level 1 and 2.
2. Develop further the work of Extended Schools in providing a full range of extended learning opportunities, better parental engagement and home-school links:
 - Aim for more schools to move from Bronze to Silver and Gold awards by providing increased evidence of full core Extended Schools offer encompassing Quality Child Care, Parental Support, Community Access, Varied Menu of Activities, Ease of Access to CAF, and Safe Place to Be.
 - Further share good practice in parental engagement through resources, displays and roadshows, and through staff development and workshops.
 - Support access to a full programme of learning and recreational opportunities for pupils of disadvantaged background including access to breakfast and after school clubs, holiday activities, sports and arts activities, music and drama, homework clubs, and ICT facilities.

3. Further support the work of schools in raising levels of achievement and increase rates of progress in core subjects with specific focus on under-achieving pupils.
 - Develop through the Banbury Initiative for Early Years the delivery of key skills in problem solving, reasoning and numeracy (PRSN) with a focus on language to express observations, ideas and answers.
 - Explore ways to secure the continuation of programmes of individualised learning in maths for targeted children in primary and secondary schools e.g. One to one tuition, ECC
 - Support the work of OCC maths and English consultants with primary and secondary schools.

Housing and Environment

1. Deliver housing and training opportunities for those in housing need within the BFiB wards:
 - Explore the development of a District-Wide Community Land Trust and Self Build Housing Programme which will deliver housing, education and training opportunities for local people and contribute to local regeneration focusing on bringing empty properties back into use.
 - This will focus on housing applicants becoming “housing ready” and not just passive members of a housing waiting list.
 - A number of potential sites within the BFiB wards are being considered as a pilot scheme for this new approach to housing delivery.
2. Provision of a Foundation Learning Centre with links to the Foyer:
 - Housing Services are leading on the development of a Foundation Learning Centre (with YMCA Training and Sanctuary Housing) adjacent to the Banbury Foyer.
 - The project follows on from the work to extend and refurbish the current Banbury Foyer building to improve layout and management and security.
 - The Centre will have the use of the former Banbury Homes Offices to create a Young People’s resource with a focus on providing guidance and support on education, training, employment and family relationships.
3. Increase provision of specialist older people’s housing with the BFiB wards:
 - Provision of 40 units of extra care housing at Orchard Fields situated in the Ruscote Ward.
 - This will be the first extra care accommodation in Banbury and in fact the District and will become the largest extra care scheme in the County to date.
 - As well as giving priority to local residents the scheme will also providing local job opportunities e.g. care workers.

Health and Well-being

1. Research potential for CAB outreach in targeted Banbury GP practices
 - Work with CAB managers and a Public Health colleague to scope feasibility of the project.
2. Disseminating information on the carers agenda.
 - Work with a Public Health colleague and Cherwell District Council staff, to facilitate a training session on awareness of carers rights and benefits for Cherwell District Council staff who may either be carers or who can inform carers as part of their role. (Planned for March).
3. Promoting cultural diversity awareness in Grimsbury

- Work with Banbury Cherwell Rotary Club and other key partners to put on a food festival in Grimsbury in May.
- A diverse range of communities are being invited to cook samples of their ethnic foods. There will be other stands and activities and involvement of the two local primary schools.

Safe and Strong Communities

1. Co-ordination of activities for young people

- Develop Banbury Youth Partnership to co-ordinate future provision of activities for Young People in the town in the light of changes to service provision.

2. Community engagement activities

- Develop additional community engagement opportunities to involve residents in shaping their neighbourhoods, building on the successes to date.

3. Maintain reduction of crime and disorder

- Continue to focus resources and activity on BFIB areas and focus on continued reductions in crime and disorder notwithstanding the internal reorganisation of key agencies and changes to service delivery.

Contact the Brighter Futures in Banbury Theme Leads

| Theme | Theme Lead | Email |
|---|--|--|
| Financial and Employment Support | Alison Davies Cherwell District Council | Alison.Davies@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk |
| Young People's Aspirations and Attainment | Mike Moran Oxfordshire County Council | Mike.Moran@Oxfordshire.gov.uk |
| Health and Wellbeing | Maggie Dent Oxfordshire PCT | Maggie.Dent@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk |
| Housing and Environment | Gill Greaves Cherwell District Council | Gillian.Greaves@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk |
| Safer and Stronger Communities | Adrian Thomas Thames Valley Police | Adrian.Thomas@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk |

Contact the Breaking the Cycle of Deprivation Programme Board

| Representative | Organisation | Email |
|-------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Ian Davies | Cherwell District Council | Community.planning@cherwell-dc.gov.uk |
| Jackie Wilderspin | NHS Oxfordshire | Jackie.wilderspin@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk |
| David Edwards | Oxford City Council | DEdwards@oxford.gov.uk |
| Jan Paine | Oxfordshire County Council | Jan.Paine@Oxfordshire.gov.uk |
| Simon Morton | Thames Valley Police | Simon.Morton@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk |

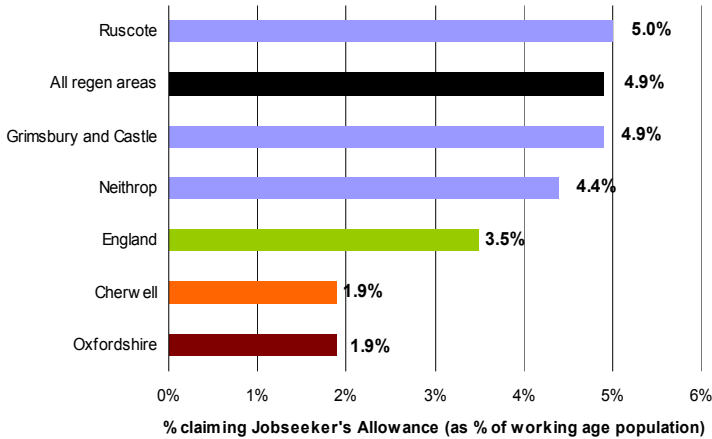
Contact the Cherwell Local Strategic Partnership

| Representative | Organisation | Email |
|--|---|--|
| General Contact Caroline French | Cherwell District Council | Community.planning@cherwell-dc.gov.uk |
| Councillor Barry Wood (Leader) | Cherwell District Council | Councillor.barry.wood@cherwell-dc.gov.uk |
| Ian Davies (Interim Chief Executive) | Cherwell District Council | Community.planning@cherwell-dc.gov.uk |
| Councillor Kieron Mallon | Cherwell District Council | Councillor.kieron.mallon@cherwell-dc.gov.uk |
| Councillor Michael Waine | Oxfordshire County Council | Michael.waine@oxfordshire.gov.uk |
| Jackie Wilderspin (Assistant Director of Public Health) | NHS Oxfordshire | Jackie.wilderspin@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk |
| Superintendent Howard Stone (Cherwell Area Commander) | Thames Valley Police | Community.planning@cherwell-dc.gov.uk |
| Lesley Donoghue | Oxford and Cherwell Valley College | phallam@ocvc.ac.uk |
| Keith Watson | Bicester Chamber of Commerce | keith.watson2@talktalk.net |
| Sam Vaughan | Banbury Chamber of Commerce | s.vaughan@oxin.co.uk |
| Kevin Minns | Kidlington Voice | kevin.minns@mins.co.uk |
| Additional local business representative | To be confirmed | - |
| Rev Jeff West | Faith Communities | curate@stmaryschurch-banbury.org.uk |
| Jim Flux MBE | Cherwell Community and Voluntary Services | jimflux@tiscali.co.uk |
| Bee Myson | Age UK Oxfordshire | banburyoffice@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk |
| Assia Bibi | Sunrise Multi-Cultural Project | Community.planning@cherwell-dc.gov.uk |

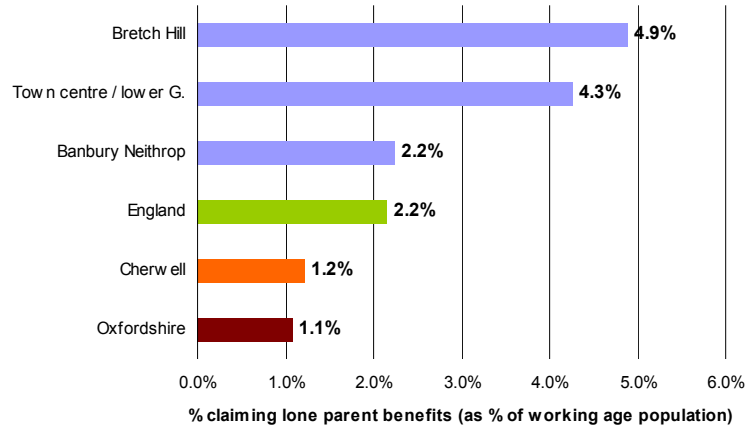
Appendix 1 - Performance Measures: Basket of Indicators

Out of work benefits

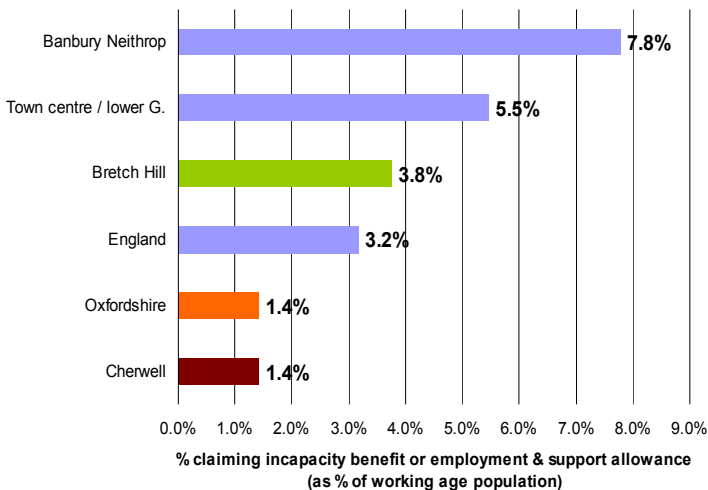
% working age population claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in regeneration areas compared to Cherwell, Oxfordshire and England (May 2010)



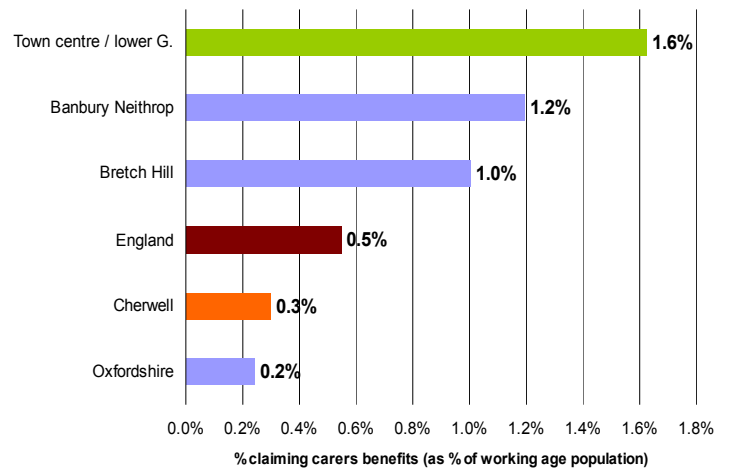
% working age population claiming lone parent benefits in regeneration wards compared to Cherwell, Oxfordshire and Great Britain (May 2010)



% working age population claiming incapacity benefits in regeneration wards compared to Cherwell, Oxfordshire and Great Britain (May 2010)

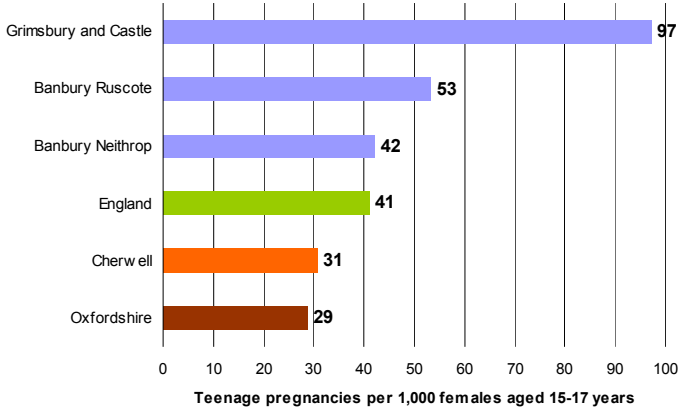


% working age population claiming carer benefits in regeneration wards compared to Cherwell, Oxfordshire and Great Britain (May 2010)

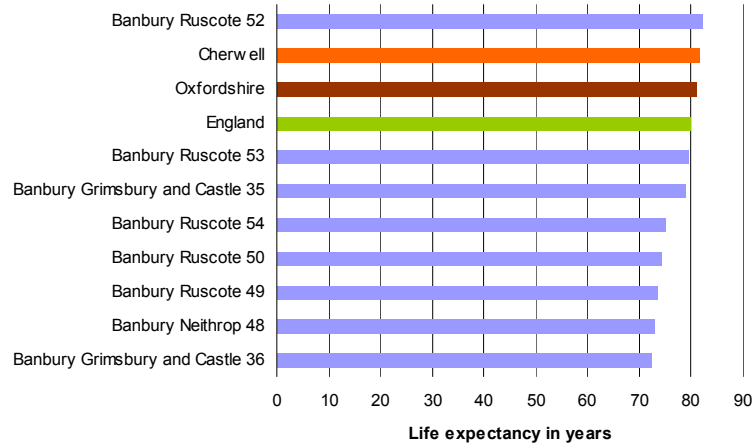


Health

Teenage pregnancies per 1,000 in regeneration wards compared to Cherwell, Oxfordshire and England (2006-2008)
 Note: based on small numbers so differences may not be significant

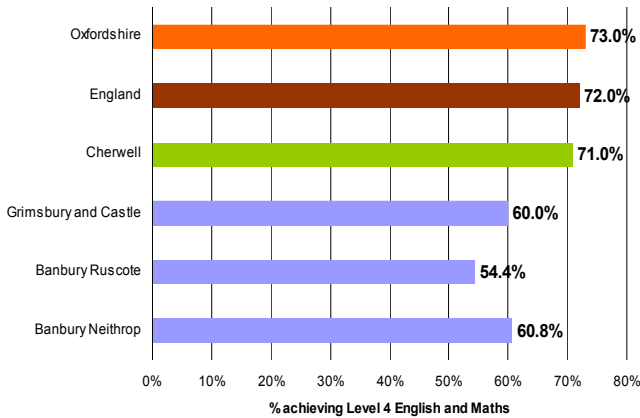


Life expectancy in regeneration SOAs compared to Cherwell, Oxfordshire and England (2003-2008)
 Note: based on small numbers so differences may not be significant

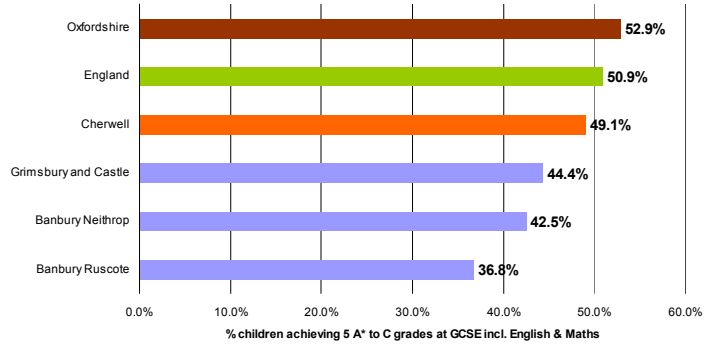


Education

Percentage of children achieving Level 4 in English and Maths at Key Stage 2 in regeneration wards compared to Cherwell, Oxfordshire and England (2009)
 Note: LA figures based on school location, not pupil residence

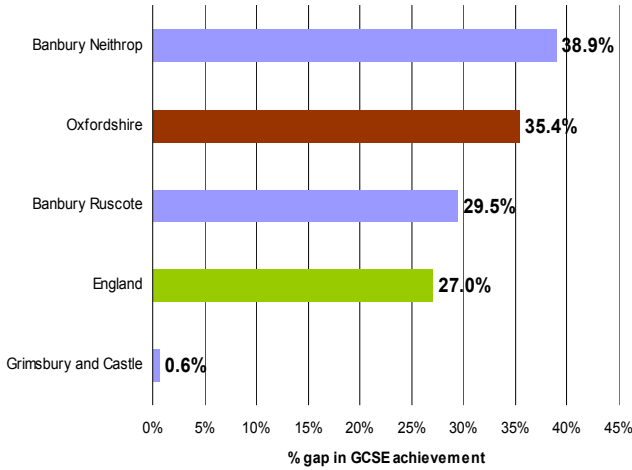


Percentage of children achieving 5 A* to C grades at GCSE (including English and Maths) in regeneration wards compared to Cherwell, Oxfordshire and England (2009)
 Note: LA figures based on school location, not pupil residence



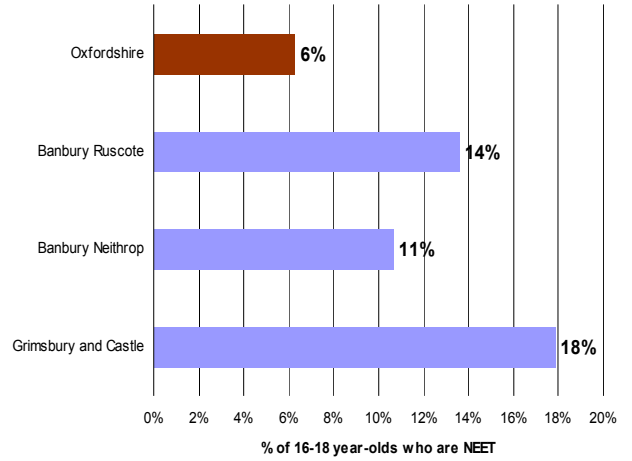
Gap between GCSE achievement rates of children eligible and children not eligible for free school meals in regeneration wards (2009)

Note: based on small numbers so differences may not be significant



Percentage of 16-18 year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) in regeneration areas compared to Oxfordshire (January 2010)

Note: based on small numbers so differences may not be significant

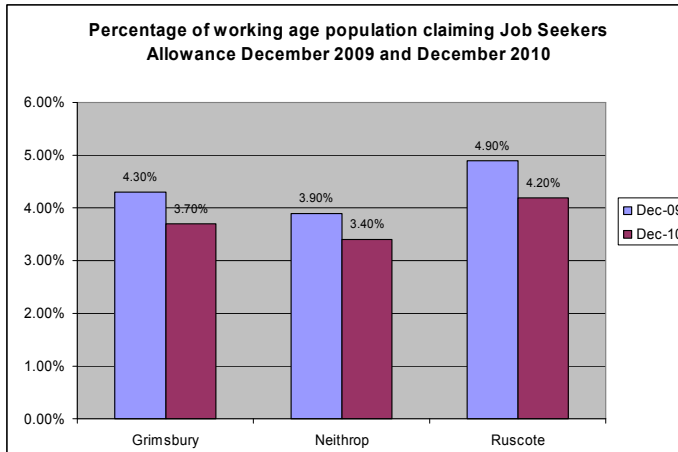


Crime Headlines

| | Percentage Change between 2009/10 - 2010/11 | |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| | Banbury Town | Banbury Ruscote, Hardwick, Neithrop |
| Anti-Social Behaviour | -22.0% | -13.0% |
| Criminal Damage | -18.4% | -16.3% |

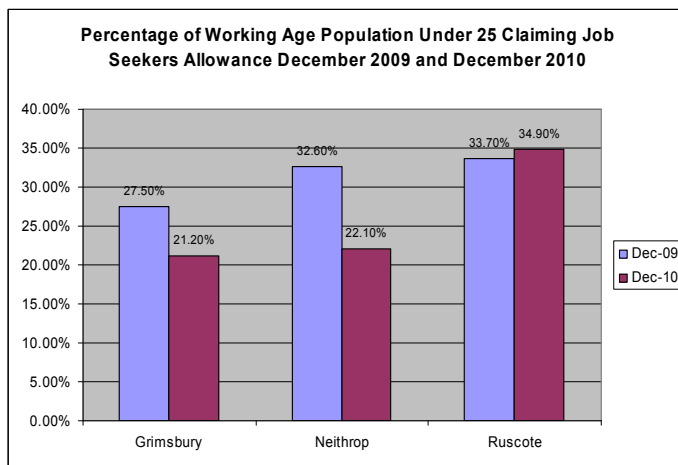
Data Source – Thames Valley Police – Cherwell Area Command

Appendix 2 - Performance Measures: Employment and Skills



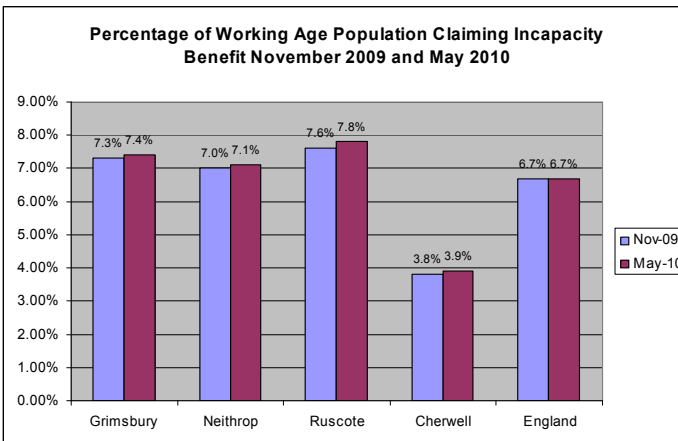
Shows a good reduction in the % of the working population seeking job seekers allowance.

Source: NOMIS



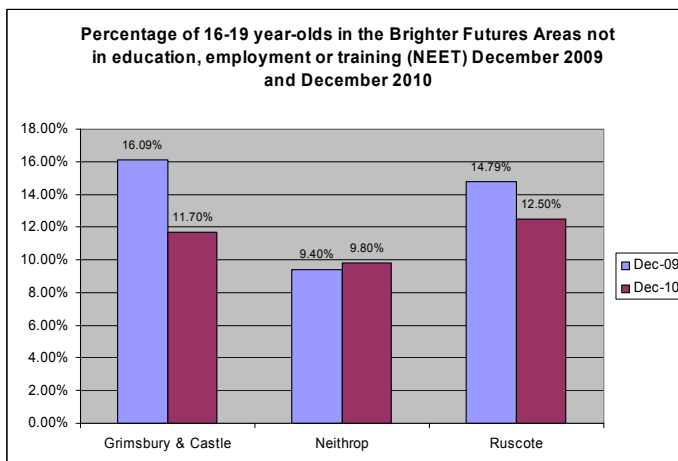
Shows a significant reduction in under 25s claiming job seeks allowance in both Grimsbury and Neithrop wards. Only a slight increase in the Ruscote ward.

Source: NOMIS



Shows a slight increase in incapacity benefit claims, reflecting the overall Cherwell position, but doesn't compare favourably to the national averages or direction of travel.

Source: NOMIS



Whilst Grimsbury and Ruscote show significant declines in NEETs, Neithrop shows a slight increase.

Source: OCC

Executive

Review of Reserves

23 May 2011

Report of Head of Finance

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek endorsement from the Executive, following a review by the Head of Finance – in association with the Portfolio Holder for Resources – of the Councils revenue reserves, to determine whether they are set an appropriate level with regard to purpose, anticipated timing of need, degree of risk and level of potential expenditure.

This report is public

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To consider and endorse the contents of this report.
- (2) To approve the transfers between earmarked reserves and the creation of 1 new reserve detailed in Appendix 1.
- (3) To approve that authority is delegated to the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources, to transfer sufficient funds from earmarked reserves to general fund balances as part of the closedown processes for 2010-11 to avoid general fund balances falling below the minimum amount stated in the medium term financial strategy.

Executive Summary

- 1.1 It is prudent financial management to review all reserves periodically in order to ensure that the reserves are adequate, relevant and set at the right level to guard against known future liabilities.
- 1.2 It is good practice to carry out an annual review of reserves. The reserves were reviewed initially in January 2011 as part of the 2011/12 budget process. Appendix A contains the second review to take account of movements in the final quarter and in conjunction with the year end closing.
- 1.3 There is also a requirement under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 to ensure that the levels of reserves held are reasonable and adequate.
- 1.4 Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the chief financial officer (the Head of Finance) to report on the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.

- 1.5 The Head of Finance is satisfied that the level of reserves set out in Appendix A are adequate, appropriate and prudent.

Background Information

Policy

2. Purpose

2.1 Cherwell District Council is required to maintain adequate financial reserves to meet the needs of the organisation. The purpose of the reserves policy is to set out how the Council will determine and review the level of general fund reserves. The Council's general fund is where all the revenue income and expenditure of the Council is accounted for. It does not include specific funds such as the collection fund or the housing revenue account.

2.2 Sections 32 and 43 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 require local authorities to have regard to the level of reserves needed for meeting estimated future expenditure when calculating the budget requirement. However, there is no specified minimum level of reserves that an authority should hold and it is the responsibility of the Chief Financial Officer to advise the Council about the level of reserves and to ensure that there are key protocols for their establishment and use.

2.3 Earmarked reserves are defined as follows:

*"A means of building up funds to meet known or predicted requirements."*¹

Therefore it is for the Council to determine the purpose of individual earmarked reserves in line with this definition.

2.4 This review of reserves has been carried out in accordance with the following best practice guidance, internal procedures and statutory requirements.

- Local Authority Accounting Practice (LAAP) bulletin 77 – Local Authority Reserves and Balances.

This guidance note was issued in November 2008 and replaces LAAP bulletin 55, which was previously used to inform this report. LAAP bulletin 77 was issued in reaction to the impact several external factors have had on local authority reserves and balances over recent years. Most notable events being the floods of 2007 and 2008 and the problems relating to the economic downturn which started in the latter part of 2008 and continue at the time of writing this report.

2.5 This report has been prepared in accordance with the most recent guidance contained in LAAP 77. A particularly relevant excerpt from LAAP 77 is detailed below:

"Balancing the annual budget by drawing on general reserves may be viewed as a legitimate short-term option. However, it is not normally prudent for reserves to be deployed to finance recurrent expenditure. Where such action is to be taken, this should be made explicit, and an explanation given as to how such expenditure will be funded in the

¹ LAAP77 – Paragraph 16

medium to long term. Advice should be given on the adequacy of reserves over the lifetime of the medium term financial plan, and should also take account of the expected need for reserves in the longer term.”

- 2.6 The Council's financial reserves policy will contribute to the achievement of all of the Council's strategic priorities.

3. Types of reserves

- 3.1 Reserves can be categorised as general (e.g. held to cushion the impact of uneven cash flows or unexpected events) or earmarked (held for a specific purpose).
- 3.2 Earmarked reserves are held for five main reasons:
- Renewals – to enable services to plan and finance an effective programme of vehicle and equipment replacement. These reserves are a mechanism to smooth expenditure so that a sensible replacement programme can be achieved without the need to vary budgets.
 - Trading accounts – In some instances surpluses are retained for future investment.
 - Insurance reserve – to meet the estimate of future claims to enable the Council to meet the excesses not covered by insurance.
 - Carry forward of underspend - some services commit expenditure to projects, but cannot spend the budget in year. Reserves are used as a mechanism to carry forward these resources.
 - Other earmarked reserves will be set up from time to time to meet known or predicted liabilities.
- 3.3 General reserves or working balances are funds which do not have any restrictions as to their use. These reserves can be used to smooth the impact of significant pressures, offset the budget requirement if necessary or can be held in case of unexpected events or emergencies.

4. Earmarked reserves

- 4.1 The Financial Regulations set out the framework for the use and management of reserves, in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom: A Statement of Recommended Practice (CIPFA/LASAAC) and agreed accounting policies.
- 4.2 Earmarked reserves will be established on a “needs” basis, in line with planned or anticipated requirements.
- 4.3 As outlined in the regulations, approval to set up a reserve must be sought from the appropriate Portfolio Holder and the report which seeks this approval must identify the purpose of the reserve and how it will be used.
- 4.4 Expenditure from reserves can only be authorised by the relevant officer, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder of Resources and Chief Financial Officer.
- 4.5 Reserves can only be used once and so should not be held to fund ongoing expenditure. This would be unsustainable as, at some point, the reserves would be exhausted. To the extent that reserves are used to meet short term funding gaps, they must be replenished in the following year. However, earmarked reserves that have been used to meet a specific liability would not

need to be replenished, having served the purpose for which they were originally established.

- 4.6 All earmarked reserves are recorded on a central schedule held by Finance which lists the various earmarked reserves and the purpose for which they are held and shows the estimated opening balances for the year, planned additions/withdrawals and the estimated closing balance. This schedule of earmarked reserves is attached as Appendix 1.
- 4.7 CIPFA guidance on Local Authority Reserves and Balances advises that a statement reporting on the annual review of earmarked reserves should be made to Council, at the same time as the budget is approved.
- 4.8 Currently, the earmarked reserves held are reviewed twice per year by the Portfolio Holder of Resources and Chief Financial Officer. The result of these reviews is reported to the Executive and annually the review is reported to Council as part of the annual service and financial planning process.

Local Government Act 2003

- 4.9 Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the chief financial officer (the Head of Finance) to report on the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
- 4.10 The Head of Finance is satisfied that the level of reserves set out in Appendix 1 are adequate, appropriate and prudent.

5. Working balances

- 5.1 The level of general reserves or working balances is a matter of judgement and so this policy does not attempt to prescribe a blanket level. The primary means of building working balances will be through an allocation from the annual budget. This will be in addition to any amounts needed to replenish reserves that have been consumed in the previous year.
- 5.2 Setting the level of working balances is one of several related decisions in the formulation of the medium term financial strategy and the annual budget. The Council must build and maintain sufficient working balances to cover the key risks it faces, as expressed in its corporate risk register.
- 5.3 For the last 2 years, the level of working balances has been maintained above a minimum level of £1.8m. This is based on an assessment of the possible impact on the Council's finances if a number of risks were to materialise. This level is reviewed annually as part of the Medium Financial Strategy refresh.
- 5.4 If in extreme circumstances general reserves were exhausted due to unforeseen spending pressures within a particular financial year, the Council would be able to draw from its earmarked reserves to provide short-term resources.

6. Changes to Reserves

- 6.1 The following section details the changes to reserves that are recommended as part of this report and gives a brief explanation of what they are being set up for. These movements can be seen in the highlighted column in Appendix 1.

Creation of New Reserves

HS2

- 6.2 In a report to the Executive in February 2011 the Executive agreed to make available up to £50,000 to make a contribution to the fund being formed to campaign against the proposals and to fund consultancy work required to assist in the detailed assessment of the impact upon individual properties and communities along the Cherwell section of the preferred route.

This reserve has been created by transferring £50,000 from the planning reserve. The purpose of the planning reserve is to enable the Council to cover peaks and related fluctuations in expenses arising from variations in workload, major cases and special projects that are difficult to predict accurately. The expenditure must be related to planning issues. In particular the reserve allows for the heavy additional costs arising from major planning appeals, where it is necessary to employ specialist consultants and external legal representation.

Transfers between Earmarked Reserves

Insurance and Legal Claim Reserve

- 6.3 This reserve is used to fund insurance and now to include legal claims that are uneconomical to pursue or below contractual excesses. It has been assessed that a balance of £300,000 is required and the £50,000 increase has been funded from transfers in from Corporate ICT Contingency, Iceland Legal Costs and Corporate Change reserve.

Corporate ICT Contingency Reserve

- 6.4 This reserve is used to fund expenditure outside of the usual base line revenue and capital costs and can be used to fund equipment, specialist technical research and improvement projects. It has been assessed that a balance of £74,000 is required and the residual of £5,330 is transferred to the Insurance and Legal Claim reserve.

Corporate Change Reserve

- 6.5 This reserve is used to fund change initiatives to address either improvement issues, interim capacity or spend to save initiatives. As part of the second review it has been decided to set this at £450,000 and of the residual £39,370 a balance of £17,670 is transferred to the Insurance and Legal Claim reserve and the balance to the Joint Working Implementation Reserve.

Icelandic Legal Cost Reserve

- 6.6 This reserve was set at 1% of the claim - £65,000 – under review of reserves 1 it was thought that an additional top up of £27,000 was required to meet the costs of appeals. We have since received a summary of future costs and these can be covered in the original estimate so £27,000 is released and transferred to the Insurance and Legal Claim reserve.

Icelandic Write Off Reserve

- 6.7 This reserve was set in the first review of reserves and set up to cover the difference between the capitalisation direction received and the worst case value of assets as an unsecured creditor at 29%. This reserve has been reduced by £500 to reflect the final figures and this has been transferred to the Joint Working Implementation Reserve.

Joint Working Implementation Reserve

- 6.8 This reserve was set to fund our share of the implementation costs of the shared management team. It was initially funded through windfall income from the VAT Fleming claim. Budget reductions in 2011/12 will also be required to fund the implementation costs. A request has been made to the Secretary of State to seek to capitalise our share of these costs in order to preserve our level of revenue reserves. A decision is expected in Summer 2011 but pending this the reserve will be earmarked and as a result of this review of reserves a further £22,200 has been transferred in from the Corporate Change Reserve.

Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

The following options have been identified. The approach in the recommendations is believed to be the best way forward

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Option One | To endorse the review of reserves undertaken and the proposed adjustments. |
| Option Two | To reject the recommendation above. |

Consultations - Not Applicable

Implications

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Financial: | The financial implications are outlined in the report in full. Comments checked by Karen Muir, Service Accountant, 01295 221559 |
| Legal: | Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the chief financial officer (the Head of Finance) to report on the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves at least annually. Comments checked by Nigel Bell Team Leader – Planning & Litigation / Interim Monitoring Officer , 01295 221686 |
| Risk Management: | It is prudent financial management to review all reserves periodically in order to ensure that the reserves are adequate, relevant and set at the right level to guard against known future liabilities. Comments checked by Karen Muir, Corporate System Accountant 01295 221559 |

Wards Affected

All

Corporate Plan Themes

An Accessible Value for Money Council

Executive Portfolio

Councillor James Macnamara
Portfolio Holder for Resources and Communication

Document Information

| Appendix No | Title |
|--|--|
| Appendix 1 | Reserves held at 31 March 2011 and Proposed Adjustments |
| Background Papers | |
| LAAP Bulletin 77 – Local Authority Reserves and Balances Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom Financial procedure rules Local Government Act 2003 Budget Report :Executive – February 7 2011 | |
| Report Author | Karen Curtin, Head of Finance |
| Contact Information | 01295 221551 karen.curtin@cherwell-dc.gov.uk 01295 221559 karen.muir@cherwell-dc.gov.uk |

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REVIEW OF SPECIFIC EARMARKED RESERVES MAY 2011

| Cost Centre Number | Balance as at 31 Dec 10 | Projected Spend Jan - Mar 11 | Transfers In Jan - Mar 11 | Review of Reserves 1 - agreed 7th Feb 2011 | Total as per Aggresso | Review of Reserves 2 - for approval 23 May 2011 | Balance as at 31 Mar 11 | Purpose | Proposed Utilisation and Re-allocation | Delegated Officer Responsibility (in conjunction with PFH) |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|--|--|
| | £ | | | £ | | £ | £ | | | |
| INSURANCE RESERVE | | | | | | | | | | |
| Self Insurance / Legal Claims Reserve | (300,000) (300,000) | 0 | 0 | 50,000 50,000 | (250,000) (250,000) | (50,000) (50,000) | (300,000) (300,000) | To cover insurance/legal claims that are uneconomical to fight or below excess | Now includes legal and insurance claims | Head of Finance and Head of People and Improvement |
| BUILDING CONTROL RESERVE | | | | | | | | | | |
| Building Control Reserve | (47,242) (47,242) | 0 | 0 | 0 | (47,242) (47,242) | 0 | (47,242) (47,242) | To be used in establishing joint service with SNC | | Strategic Director PHE |
| REPAIR AND RENEWALS RESERVE | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plant and Transport Renewals Reserve | (605,050) | 290,962 | 0 | 0 | (314,088) | 0 | (314,088) | To fund future capital projects | | Head of Finance |
| Wheeled Bins Replacement Reserve | (331,352) (936,402) | 23,820 314,782 | 0 | 0 | (307,532) (621,620) | 0 | (307,532) (621,620) | To fund future capital projects | | Head of Finance |
| OTHER EARMARKED RESERVES | | | | | | | | | | |
| Corporate IT Contingency Reserve | (79,330) | | | | (79,330) | 5,330 | (74,000) | To supplement the base budget for the planned programme of replacing obsolete IT equipment and to deliver ICT improvements | To be utilised in full in 2011/12 and 2012/13 | Strategic Director EAC |
| Economic Risk Reserve | (35,000) | | | 35,000 | 0 | | 0 | To counter any issues in dealing with recession | No longer required | Head of Finance |
| Planning Policy Reserve | (696,899) | | | | (696,899) | 50,000 | (646,899) | To cover expenditure relating to planning policy decisions - LDF etc | £50,000 to be used to fund creation of Hs2 reserve | Strategic Director PHE |
| Planning Control Reserve | (710,614) | 347,190 | (346,520) | | (709,944) | | (709,944) | To cover expenditure relating to planning appeals CDC's commitment on asbestos/environmental warranties of housing stock runs for a further 14 years | | Strategic Director PHE |
| Environmental Warranties Reserve | (3,281,773) | 42,000 | | 1,384,500 | (1,855,273) | | (1,855,273) | Open Space commitment due to topography of the site affecting the layout of the developed elements but does improve the overall quality of the whole development Contribution to Banbury Town Council for maintenance once developer agreements completed. | Scheme nearly complete and funding required to discharge legal commitment | Head of Finance |
| Hanwell Fields Reserve | (100,000) | | | | (100,000) | | (100,000) | Surplus of income generated from Licensing that is ring fenced for Licensing only, therefore is transferred to an earmarked reserve at the year end for licensing expenditure. | | Strategic Director PHE |
| Licensing Reserve | (25,000) | 3,375 | (23,949) | | (45,574) | | (45,574) | | | Strategic Director EAC |
| Corporate Change Reserve | (826,844) | 331,008 | (220,378) | 226,844 | (489,370) | 39,370 | (450,000) | To fund change initiatives to address either improvement issues, interim capacity or spend to save initiatives | Leave at £450,000 to fund general change initiatives and balance to Joint Working Implementation reserve | Chief Executive |
| Iceland Legal Cost Reserve | (65,000) | 43,489 | | (27,000) | (48,511) | 27,000 | (21,511) | To meet the costs of fighting the legal claim - initially set up at 1% of £6.5m claim | Revert to 1% of claim | Head of Finance |
| Iceland Write Off reserve | 0 | | | (1,385,000) | (1,385,000) | 500 | (1,384,500) | To cover the accounting requirement to write off the Icelandic deposits in 2010/11 ahead of any final legal decision | To match capitalisation request funded from environmental warranties reserve - will be used in finalising 2010/11 accounts | Head of Finance |
| Joint Working Implementation | 0 | | | (484,344) | (484,344) | (22,200) | (506,544) | To fund costs of implementing a shared Senior Management Team with SNC | Further contribution from the 2011/12 Budget. | Chief Executive |
| Interest Rate Risk Reserve | (200,000) (6,020,459) | 767,062 | (590,847) | 200,000 (50,000) | (5,894,245) | 100,000 | (5,794,245) | To manage the volatility of the interest rate reserve | No longer required | Head of Finance |
| NEW RESERVE | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hs2 Reserve | 0 | | | | 0 | (50,000) | (50,000) | To fund campaign against High Speed Rail Link | New reserve | Strategic Director PHE |
| Total | (7,304,104) | 1,081,844 | (590,847) | 0 | (6,813,107) | 0 | (6,813,107) | | | |

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