

Appendix 3 – Cherwell District Council – Latest Leadership Risk Register as at 12/09/2019

Level of risk	How the risk should be managed
High Risk (16-25)	Requires active management to manage down and maintain the exposure at an acceptable level. Escalate upwards.
Medium Risk (10 -15)	Contingency Plans - a robust contingency plan may suffice together with early warning mechanisms to detect any deviation from the profile.
Low Risk (1 – 9)	Good Housekeeping - may require some risk mitigation to reduce the likelihood if this can be done cost effectively, but good housekeeping to ensure that the impact remains low should be adequate. Re-assess frequently to ensure conditions remain the same.

Risk Scorecard – Residual Risks						
		Probability				
		1 - Remote	2 - Unlikely	3 - Possible	4 - Probable	5 - Highly Probable
Impact	5 - Catastrophic			L09		
	4 - Major		L12	L07, L10 & L11		
	3 - Moderate			L01, L02, L04, L05, L14	L03, L08 & L15	L13
	2 - Minor					
	1 - Insignificant					

Risk Definition	
Leadership	Strategic risks that are significant in size and duration, and will impact on the reputation and performance of the Council as a whole, and in particular, on its ability to deliver on its corporate priorities
Operational	Risks to systems or processes that underpin the organisation’s governance, operation and ability to deliver services

Ref	Name and Description of risk	Potential impact	Inherent (gross) risk level (no Controls)			Controls	Control assessment	Lead Member	Risk owner	Risk manager	Residual risk level (after existing controls)			Direct'n of travel	Mitigating actions (to address control issues)	Comments	Last updated
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2019/20																	
L03 -	Lack of Organisational Capacity - Ability to deliver Council priorities and services impacted by increased workload and reduced capacity/resilience following end of joint working arrangements with South Northamptonshire Council.	Financial impact due to use of agency staff, possible impact on customers and frontline service delivery if capacity risks are not managed. Inability to deliver council's plans Inability to realise commercial opportunities or efficiencies Reduced resilience and business continuity Reduced staff morale, increased workload and uncertainty may lead to loss of good people	4	4	16	Weekly HR Vacancy Control process in place to ensure appropriate resourcing decisions are made. Arrangements in place to source appropriate interim resource if needed Ongoing programme of internal communication Programme Boards in place to oversee key corporate projects and ensure resources are allocated as required. CDC Extended Leadership Team (ELT) Meetings established to oversee and provide assurance on key organisational matters including resourcing. Partnership Working Group established with OCC to oversee joint working opportunities.	Partially Fully Fully Fully Partially Partially	Councillor Barry Wood	Yvonne Rees	Claire Taylor	4	3	12	↔	Weekly CEDR and monthly ELT meetings with clear escalation pathways for issues to be resolved. Learning and development opportunities identified and promoted by the Chief Executive. Regular communications from Chief Executive. Quarterly staff briefings from Assistant Directors. External support secured for key corporate projects including CDC/OCC joint working, Growth Deal and IT Transformation Programme.	Separation programme to date delivered without reducing capacity at CDC, however resilience is an issue as teams are no longer shared with SNC. Only HR, Wellbeing and Customer Services left to separate. Monthly separation updates to ELT Opportunities for joint working with OCC being explored for Legal, Finance and Strategic Capability (corporate services). Proposals for two Joint Corporate Directors between CDC and OCC approved.	Risk reviewed 11/09/19 - Mitigating actions and Commentary updated.
L04 -	CDC Local Plan - Failure to ensure sound, up to date local plan remains in place for Cherwell resulting in poor planning decisions such as development in inappropriate locations, inability to demonstrate an adequate supply of land for housing and planning by appeal	Poor planning decisions leading to inappropriate growth in inappropriate place. Negative (or failure to optimise) economic, social, community and environmental gain Negative impact on the council's ability to deliver its strategic objectives, including its commitments within the Oxfordshire Housing & Growth Deal increased costs in planning appeals Possible financial penalties through not delivering forecasted New Homes Bonus (NHB) Reputational damage with investor community of Cherwell as a good place to do business created by uncertainty/ lack of policy clarity	3	5	15	Local Development Scheme (LDS) is actively managed and reviewed, built into Service Plan, and integral to staff appraisals of all those significantly involved in Plan preparation and review Team capacity and capability kept under continual review with gaps and pressures identified and managed at the earliest opportunity. Arrangements in place to source appropriate additional, time-bound resource if needed Delegations to Chief Exec agreed to ensure timely decisions Ongoing programme of internal communication, including Members updates and training programme On-going review of planning appeal decisions to assess robustness and relevance of Local Plan policies Updates on annual NHB payments	Partially Partially Partially Fully Fully Not	Councillor Colin Clarke	Paul Feehily	David Peckford	3	3	9	↔	Regular review meetings on progress and critical path review Regular Portfolio briefings and political review LDS updated as required with programme management approach adopted to ensure progress against plan LDS timeline built into Directorate level objectives (e.g. via Service Plans) and incorporated into SMART targets within staff appraisals Additional evidence commissioned as required. Need to keep under review staff and financial resources to ensure delivery to timetable (LDS) for Local Plan Review. Authority Monitoring Reports continue to be prepared on a regular annual basis Hearings into CDC partial review took place in February 2019.	The latest Local Development Scheme is that approved by the Executive in December 2018. It includes the programmes for the Partial Review of the Local Plan, the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, a Local Plan Review, the Banbury Canalside Supplementary Planning Document and work on a Community Infrastructure Level (CIL). The residual risk score of '9' reflects delay with the Oxfordshire Plan and the review of the Local Plan.	Risk reviewed 09/09/19 - Commentary updated and additional information in LO4 tab.
L05 -	Business Continuity - Failure to ensure that critical services can be maintained in the event of a short or long term incident affecting the Councils' operations	Inability to deliver critical services to customers/residents Financial loss Loss of important data Inability to recover sufficiently to restore non-critical services before they become critical Loss of reputation	4	4	16	Business continuity strategy in place Services prioritised and recovery plans reflect the requirements of critical services ICT disaster recovery arrangements in place Incident management team identified in Business Continuity Strategy All services undertake annual business impact assessments and update plans Business Continuity Plans tested	Fully Fully Fully Partially Fully Partially	Councillor Andrew McHugh	Graeme Kane	Richard Webb	3	3	9	↔	Business Continuity Statement of Intent and Framework agreed by CEDR BC Improvement Plan agreed with CEDR ICT transition to data centre and cloud services have reduced likelihood of ICT loss and data loss Corporate ownership and governance sits at senior officer level BC Impact assessments and BCPs in place for all teams and peer reviewed by OCC's Emergency Planning team Progress report was provided to CEDR in March	A cross-council programme to update all business continuity plans will commence in September to ensure all plans are up to date following separation of the councils. The BC steering group met in August and agreed a support package for BC plan authors to assist them to review their plans.	Risk Reviewed and comments updated 12/09/19

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L07 -	Emergency Planning (EP) Failure to ensure that the local authority has plans in place to respond appropriately to a civil emergency fulfilling its duty as a category one responder	Inability of council to respond effectively to an emergency Unnecessary hardship to residents and/or communities Risk to human welfare and the environment Legal challenge Potential financial loss through compensation claims Ineffective Cat 1 partnership relationships	4	4	16	Key contact lists updated monthly. Emergency Planning Lead Officer defined with responsibility to review, test and exercise plan and to establish, monitor and ensure all elements are covered Added resilience from cover between shared Environmental Health and Community Safety Teams as officers with appropriate skill Senior management attend Civil Emergency training Multi agency emergency exercises conducted to ensure readiness On-call rota established for Duty Emergency Response Co- ordinators Active participation in Local Resilience Forum (LRF) activities	Fully Partially Fully Fully Fully Fully	Councillor Andrew McHugh	Graeme Kane	Richard Webb	3	4	12	↔	Emergency plan contacts list being updated monthly and reissued to all duty managers. OCC Emergency Planning providing expert advice and support under a partnership arrangement. Chief Operating Officer meets with ACO Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue quarterly to oversee shared EP arrangements. Supporting officers for incident response identified in the emergency plan and wallet guide Drop in training session now taking place monthly (from June) covering a range of topics. Senior managers have attended multi-agency exercises and duty manager training with OCC senior managers. On-call rota being maintained Authority represented at the Local Resilience Forum	Active plans are in place to ensure the authority is prepared for a variety of emergencies. Continual improvements are being made as a result of a review of these plans and in partnership with the Local Resilience Forum. An 'on-call' system ensures there is a senior manager available to lead a response to an incident 24/7. Separate Emergency Plans are being created for SNC and CDC. OCC now providing expert advice and support. Active involvement in the LRF Brexit planning arrangements is on-going and a refreshed timetable of risk and impact review is in place starting in September.	Risk Reviewed 12/09/19 and comments updated.
L08 -	Health and safety - Failure to comply with health and safety legislation, corporate H&S policies and corporate H&S landlord responsibilities	Fatality, serious injury & ill health to employees or members of the public Criminal prosecution for failings Financial loss due to compensation claims Enforcement action – cost of regulator (HSE) time Increased sickness absence Increased agency costs Reduction in capacity impacts service delivery	5	4	20	New Health & Safety Corporate H&S arrangements & guidance in place as part of the newly adopted HSG65 Management System Clearly identified accountability and responsibilities for Health and Safety established at all levels throughout the organisation Corporate H&S Manager & H&S Officer in post to formalise the H&S Management System & provide competent H&S advice & assistance to managers & employees. Proactive monitoring of Health & Safety performance management internally Proactive monitoring of Health & Safety performance management externally Effective induction and training regime in place for all staff Positive Health & Safety risk aware culture Corporate Health & Safety meeting structure in place for co-ordination and consultation Corporate body & Member overview of Health & Safety performance via appropriate committee Assurance that third party organisations subscribe to and follow Council Health & Safety guidelines and are performance managed where required	Partially Partially Partially Partially Fully Partially Partially Fully Partially	Councillor Lynn Pratt	Adele Taylor	Ceri Harris	4	3	12	↔	A new Corporate Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy was ratified BPM meeting on 17th June. The Corporate arrangements are in the process of being updated. These will be finalised by end of October 2019. Following the ratification of the new Corporate Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy in July new AD checklists will be issued. The H&S team are conducting health and safety inspections internally across all services and teams, the health and safety inspection program has been reviewed and the programme started its role out in May 2019. To date a total of 7 audits have been carried out. The health and safety internal inspection cover all elements of our overall H&S management system to ensure compliance with our standards. Management of H&S training will now be included within the new eLearning programme which is in the process of being procured. Risk Assessment Workshop training is being developed. Robust training already in place in Environmental Services. Corporate Arrangements are being updated. These will be completed by the end of September 2019. Good awareness in higher risk areas of the business, e.g. Environmental Services. However other areas need improved awareness of risk assessment process. Reviews of leases and performance monitoring to be reviewed to satisfy the Councils providers/ contractors are managing significant risks.	Senior Officer Meeting receives regular updates from Corporate H&S Manager. Relevant updates taken to appropriate committee. Joint Council and Employee Engagement Committee (JCEEC) to be formed by HR in Oct/Nov time. To be in place to ensure robust communication methods are in place for consultation between HR/H&S and TU. HR AD in the process of co-ordinating JCEEC meetings. First JCEEC meeting took place January 2019 The Internal Audit programme has undergone a review due to change in the resources available following separation to carry out the existing 3 year program. A new 2 year schedule has been developed to replace the existing schedule. Roll out of the new audit schedule commenced in May 2019. Final sign off from the HR/Training Manager for training procurement and implementation due. Final tweaks being made prior to launch of eLearning package A review has been undertaken of all CDC owned properties to ensure that fire risk assessments, water hygiene surveys and asbestos surveys have been completed where required.	Risk reviewed 10/09/19 - Mitigating actions updated.

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L09 -	Cyber Security - If there is insufficient security with regards to the data held and IT systems used by the councils and insufficient protection against malicious attacks on council's systems then there is a risk of: a data breach, a loss of service, cyber- ransom.	Service disruption Financial loss / fine Prosecution – penalties imposed Individuals could be placed at risk of harm Reduced capability to deliver customer facing services Unlawful disclosure of sensitive information Inability to share services or work with partners Loss of reputation	4	5	20	File and Data encryption on computer devices Managing access permissions and privileged users through AD and individual applications Consistent approach to information and data management and security across the councils Effective information management and security training and awareness programme for staff Password security controls in place Robust information and data related incident management procedures in place Appropriate robust contractual arrangements in place with all third parties that supply systems or data processing services Appropriate plans in place to ensure ongoing PSN compliance Adequate preventative measures in place to mitigate insider threat, including physical and system security Insider threat mitigated through recruitment and line management processes	Fully Fully Fully Partially Fully Fully Fully Partially Fully	Councillor Ian Corkin	Claire Taylor	David Spilsbury	3	5	15	↔	The cyber-essentials plus certification has now been passed. Cyber-security was reviewed by Internal Audit in May 2017 and a review meeting was held on 30th August 2018. The output has been received and signed off with good progress summary noted. The Regional Police Cyber Security Advisor gave the IT management team two training sessions (full cyber awareness Oct18 and table top DR exercise Nov18) followed by a series of all-Council staff awareness sessions in January 2019. Mop-up on e-learning options now being explored by IT and HR. To complete the implementation of the intrusion prevention and detection system. Agreed Terms of Reference and re-implementation of the security forum as the Information Governance Group, with meetings to be held on a minimum quarterly basis chaired by the Information Governance Manager. Information Governance support is now provided to Cherwell as part of a joint working relationship with Oxfordshire County Council. An action for the next month will be to ensure there are effective partnership working arrangements in place under this new service. Cyber Awareness e-learning available and will be part of new starters induction training. Cyber Security issues regularly highlighted to all staff. External Health Check undertaken April 2019, executive summary gives us a high security posture and no critical security issues.	Cyber security incidents are inevitable. The only way to manage this risk is to have effective controls and mitigations in place including audit and review.	Risk Reviewed 02/09/19 - Mitigating actions updated.
L10 -	Safeguarding the vulnerable (adults and children) - Failure to follow our policies and procedures in relation to safeguarding vulnerable adults and children or raising concerns about their welfare	Increased harm and distress caused to vulnerable individuals and their families Council could face criminal prosecution Criminal investigations potentially compromised Potential financial liability if council deemed to be negligent	4	4	16	Safeguarding lead in place and clear lines of responsibility established Safeguarding Policy and procedures in place Information on the intranet on how to escalate a concern Mandatory training and awareness raising sessions are now in place for all staff. Safer recruitment practices and DBS checks for staff with direct contact Action plan developed by CSE Prevention group as part of the Community Safety Partnership Data sharing agreement with other partners Attendance at Children and Young People Partnership Board (CYPPB) Annual Section 11 return compiled and submitted as required by legislation. Engagement with Joint Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating Group (JATAC) and relevant Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) safeguarding sub group Engagement at an operational and tactical level with relevant external agencies and networks	Partially Fully Fully Fully Partially Partially Fully Fully Fully Fully	Councillor Barry Wood	Graeme Kane	Nicola Riley	3	4	12	↔	Ongoing internal awareness campaigns Ongoing external awareness campaigns Annual refresher and new training programmes including training for new members Continue to attend groups focused on tackling child exploitation	Vacant Safeguarding post has necessitated temporary changes with services making their own referrals directly and sending notification to Safeguarding inbox. Discussions with colleagues at OCC have provided insight but no clear way forward as yet. Software purchase proving time consuming.	Risk Reviewed 04/09/19 - No changes

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L11 -	Sustainability of Council owned companies and delivery of planned financial and other objectives - failure of council owned companies to achieve their intended outcomes of fail to meet financial objectives	Unclear governance leading to lack of clarity and oversight in terms of financial and business outcomes Non achievement of business and finance outcomes directly or indirectly impacting on other council services Lack of understanding at officer and member level about the different roles of responsibilities required when managing council owned companies	3	4	12	Annual business planning in place for all companies to include understanding of the link between our objectives being delivered and financial impact for the council Financial planning for the companies undertaken that will then be included within our own Medium term financial plan Ensure strong corporate governance mechanisms are in place Sound monitoring in place of both business and financial aspects of the companies and the impact on overall council performance Training in place for those undertaking roles relating to the companies	Fully Fully Partially Fully Partially	Councillor Tony Illot	Adele Taylor	Dominic Oakeshott	3	4	12	↔	Changes in the shareholder support side line management been put in place. Additional oversight and capacity from senior managers including performance dashboards at CEDR Resilience and support being developed across business to support and enhance knowledge around council companies Skills and experience being enhanced to deliver and support development, challenge and oversight.	Knowledge and experience building take place with training and support as required. Company dashboard now being reviewed by CEDR to understand the impact of what is happening at company level on the council. Review of company governance being undertaken to ensure that we are adhering to best practice	Risk reviewed - 04/09/19 - No changes
L12 -	Financial sustainability of third party suppliers including contractors and other partners - the failure of a key partner of supplier impacting on the business of the council	The financial failure of a third party supplier or partner results in the inability or reduced ability to deliver a service to customers. Failure to ensure the necessary governance of third party relationships (council businesses, partners, suppliers) are in pace to have sufficient oversight of our suppliers	3	4	12	Ensure contract management in place review and anticipate problems within key service suppliers and partners Business continuity planning arrangements in place in regards to key suppliers Ensuring that proactive review and monitoring is in place for key suppliers to ensure we are able to anticipate any potential service failures	Partially Partially Partially	Councillor Tony Illot	Adele Taylor	Wayne Welsby	2	4	8	↔	Meetings take place when required with suppliers to review higher risk areas. Some review of appropriate information in regards to key supplier performance through trade press, information from networks in place.	The Council continues to monitor suppliers financial stability and meets with suppliers when required. Financial company insight being gained through use of monitoring tools and financial advice.	Risk reviewed - 12/09/19 - No Changes.
L13 -	Separation and Joint Working - Separation of joint services with SNC and development of joint working partnership with OCC impacts on the provision of services to residents and communities.	Inability to deliver Council priorities and plans, impacting on quality of services delivered to residents and communities. Reduced resilience and business continuity Reduced staff morale, increased workload and uncertainty may lead to loss of good people Opportunities for joint working with OCC take longer to develop than planned delaying potential service improvements for residents and communities. Northamptonshire re-organisation impacts on services being delivered to SNC from CDC, impacting on the quality of services delivered to residents and communities.	5	4	20	Agreed programme of separation in place between CDC and SNC Programme Board and Project Team established to deliver separation. S113 agreement in place with Oxfordshire County Council Partnership Working Group established with OCC to oversee the development of joint working proposals. On-going service delivery arrangements to SNC set out clearly and underpinned by the Collaboration Agreement with protocols in place for dealing with any emerging issues. Regular review and sharing of partnership activity / engagement at senior officer meetings	Fully Fully Fully Partially Partially	Councillor Barry Wood	Yvonne Rees	Claire Taylor	5	3	15	↔	Standing item at senior officer meetings - regular review of risk and control measures. Legal advice sought with regards to the employment implications of re-organisation and separation proposals. Separation tracker and risk register to be circulated at all senior management meetings. Collaboration Agreement to underpin joint working with SNC following the end of the s113 in place. Changing Times staff magazine issued on monthly basis. Regular communications plan with cascade briefings from Assistant Directors planned quarterly.	All services have now either been separated or had proposals approved with implementation underway. Only HR, Customer Services and Wellbeing left to implement. There has been some delay in implementing separated services due to recruitment issues at SNC. Service delivery models in place for some services e.g. Payroll where separation is not possible within current timetable. All service delivery arrangements to be reviewed in Strategic Capability proposal considered by Partnership Working Group in August. Proposals for two Joint Corporate Directors between CDC and OCC approved in July.	Risk reviewed 11/09/19 - Mitigating actions and Commentary updated.

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L14 -	Corporate Governance - Failure of corporate governance leads to negative impact on service delivery or the implementation of major projects providing value to customers.	Threat to service delivery and performance if good management practices and controls are not adhered to. Risk of ultra vires activity or lack of legal compliance Risk of fraud or corruption Risk to financial sustainability if lack of governance results in poor investment decisions or budgetary control. Failure of corporate governance in terms of major projects, budgets or council owned companies impacts upon financial sustainability of the councils.	4	4	16	Clear and robust control framework including: constitution, scheme of delegation, ethical walls policy etc. Clear accountability and resource for corporate governance (including the shareholder role). Integrated budget, performance and risk reporting framework. Corporate programme office and project management framework. Includes project and programme governance. Internal audit programme aligned to leadership risk register. Training and development resource targeted to address priority issues; examples include GDPR, safeguarding etc. HR policy framework. Annual governance statements	Partially Partially Partially Partially Partially Partially	Councillor Barry Wood	Yvonne Rees	Nick Graham	3	3	9	↔	Standing item at senior officer meetings – regular review of risk and control measures Review of constitution to take place 2018/19 Implementation of corporate programme office – May 2018 Full review of HR policy to be undertaken during 2018/19 Monitoring Officer to attend management team meetings	S113 Agreement terminates on 16 January 2019. Collaboration Agreement being developed. Executive and Cabinet will consider its adoption on 7 and 14 January 2019 respectively. Service schedules are being developed for all services that require ongoing joint working - and these are programmed to be in place by 16 January 2019.	Risk reviewed 12/09/19 - No changes.
L15 -	Oxfordshire Growth Deal (contract with HMG) As a result of a lack of experience of this scale and nature of partnership delivery there is a risk that inadequate levels of control will be applied by the Partnership to Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal governance, resourcing and delivery and that CDC (and its partners) will fail to meet its publicly stated Contractual commitments to its Partners and Government over the 5-year term.	Failure to meet its obligations as a partner within the Growth Deal could see Cherwell as a factor in Government holding back some or all of its funding and/or cease to extend the arrangement beyond 2023. Infrastructure milestone delivery late (for infrastructure linked to accelerated housing) Accelerated housing numbers delivered to plan late Cost of infrastructure to accelerate circa 6500 homes within 5-year term significantly beyond 2018 budget cost estimate DC GVA: no defined metrics in HGDDP but linked to homes accelerated/infrastructure/affordable homes delivered/JSSP progress and delivery JSSP Affordable Houses Productivity	5	5	25	Appointment of an interim advisor to guide and support delivery of the GD programme and risk management controls Recognition of issues in CDC GD arrangements and delivery of a 6-week review to identify and propose an action plan to manage and bring the issues within control (see 6-week plan) Establish CDC organisational fit of GDC GD as a programme capability reporting to CEDR through the Place Board Secured approval for CDC GD next stage plan at CEDR 17/12/18 which targets setting up CDC GD programme board, work stream capability and leadership supported by CDC Transformation PMO by end March 19 (see Board paper and Next stage Plan Proposal) Built on CDC PMO RAID principles and developed initial RAID logs for each work stream (capture risks, issues, dependencies and assumptions) to help define "gives and gets" as a basis for holding all to account for defined and transparent baseline delivery.	Fully Partially Fully Fully Fully	Councillor Barry Wood	Robert Jolley	Jonathan MacWilliam	4	3	12	↔	A CDC GD programme and programme board capability Work stream plans of work (work stream brief, schedule, RAID log) Appropriate engagement with members in support of their advisory/scrutiny at GD Board level Governance and performance management Improved collaboration working with partners to hold them to account for their part of delivery Securing approval of a resourced GD Y2 plan to be delivered in a collaborative partnership environment Extending support from interim advisor to end March 19	There has been a change of SRO this month with the previous deputy SRO Robert Jolley assuming the senior role. The resulting vacant deputy SRO role now needs to be filled. This change in Board membership is not seen as impacting the overall Risk assessment. CEDR have approved the Year 2 Plan for Growth Deal delivery. Included in the decision was the agreement in principal to deliver the resources required by the Plan. Having the resourced plan in place will enable the residual risk to be managed downwards. However until the resources are available we consider it appropriate that the risk remains unchanged in this period. The programme is now working to the approved Year 2 Plan with the Programme Board providing appropriate governance and oversight. Whilst confidence is improving the overall low maturity level of the programme means that the Risk level remains at Amber. It is anticipated that should the current trajectory for the programme be maintained the residual risk will improve to GREEN (low risk) within the current quarter.	Risk reviewed 09/09/19 - Risk owner and commentary updated.

L04 - Local Plan Risk

The latest Local Development Scheme is that approved by the Executive in December 2018. It includes the programmes for the Partial Review of the Local Plan, the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, a Local Plan Review, the Banbury Canalside Supplementary Planning Document and work on a Community Infrastructure Level (CIL).

Partial Review

A Partial Review of the Local Plan, to assist Oxford with its unmet housing need, was submitted to Government for Examination on 5 March 2018. A preliminary public hearing was held on 28 September 2018. On 29 October, the Inspector advised that the Council could proceed to main hearings. Main hearings were held during the weeks commencing 4 and 11 February 2019. On 13 July 2019, the Council received the Inspector's Post-Hearing Advice Note setting out his preliminary conclusions. In principle, the Inspector is satisfied that the Plan's housing requirement and strategy are appropriate and that there are exceptional circumstances for alterations to the Green Belt. However, he has concerns about proposed development next to Woodstock and suggested that the Council prepare Main Modifications to address this. Officers will need to progress technical work, consult on modifications and submit them following the Council's approval. The Examination will then continue until the Inspector's final report is received. The Planning Policy team is progressing the technical work with a view to sending information to the Inspector on 20 September ahead of a six week public consultation.

Oxfordshire Plan 2050

A Growth Deal commitment. The Plan is being prepared by a central Plan team appointed through the Oxfordshire Growth Board. It must be submitted to Government for Examination by March 2020 to meet the existing terms of the Deal. The Council contributes to the plan-making process as a partner with a view to it being adopted as part of the Development Plan upon completion.

Public consultation on an Issues Paper ended on 25 March 2019. A public 'call for location ideas' ended on 12 April. The central Plan team is evidence gathering and scoping 'spatial options' for Plan development. An Options Paper is to be prepared by the team for consultation as soon as possible (subject to the approval of each Council). The dates for consultation have yet to be confirmed. The overall programme is very tight and may be affected by a future Government announcement on a proposed route for the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway and associated discussions with MHCLG.

Local Plan Review

Work programming and initial preparatory work commenced in Spring 2019 but has had to be put on hold while further work on the Partial Review is pursued. There is a statutory requirement to review Local Plans within five years from adoption (the adopted Local Plan having been adopted in July 2015). The Plan will need to take account of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and consequently there are dependencies between the two work programmes.

Banbury Canalside SPD

Work has been stalled due to the need to review the work undertaken to date, particularly in the context of wider business plan objectives, and due to capacity issues within the Planning Policy team. A scope of work has been drafted.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Not a Local Development Document but a potential means of securing funding for infrastructure to assist overall delivery (should the Council decide to implement CIL). Work on a potential charging levy was paused due to a Government review of how CIL operates but could be recommenced subject to resourcing.