

Cherwell Local Plan 2006 - 2031

**DRAFT Statement of Compliance with the Duty to
Cooperate (October 2013)**

***Cherwell District Council Local Plan Duty to Cooperate –
Full Council Version (21 October 2013)***

The Cherwell Local Plan – The Duty to Cooperate

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This paper reviews how the Cherwell Local Plan has taken account of the Duty to Cooperate.
- 1.2 Cherwell has a long history of joint working and co-operation with its neighbouring authorities and key stakeholders to achieve better spatial planning outcomes. The Cherwell Local Plan is no exception. On-going and constructive engagement with neighbouring authorities and relevant organisations has taken place since work on the Local Plan began in 2007. It is important to note that also took place as part of wider planning arrangements at the regional levels through the development of the South East Plan.
- 1.3 Preparation of the Cherwell Local Plan began in line with Government guidance in Planning Policy Statement 12 and the Local Development Scheme, prior to the new requirements of a Duty to Co-operate being established in the Localism Act and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). However, the Cherwell Local Plan will be tested against these new requirements. The Inspector will consider, alongside legal compliance and soundness, whether the Cherwell Local Plan has complied with the Duty to Co-operate throughout the plan-making process.
- 1.4 The Localism Act requires that local planning authorities demonstrate wider co-operation in plan making with adjoining or nearby authorities and other organisations in relation to cross boundary issues. The Planning Inspectorate has indicated that this requirement must be satisfied when the Cherwell Local Plan is submitted to the Secretary of State for examination and cannot be remedied through the examination process.
- 1.5 This paper represents an analysis of how the joint working undertaken by Cherwell District Council satisfies the current requirements of the Duty to Co-operate.
- 1.6 Cherwell District Council benefits from possessing a series of very well developed, interlocking relationships with neighbouring Councils and a particularly close engagement with Oxfordshire County Council and South Northamptonshire District Council. Through the various forums regular debate and coordination takes place on strategic planning, growth strategies, transport and economic development issues facing the sub-region, Oxfordshire County and Cherwell in relation to its neighbours.
- 1.7 The actions undertaken to fulfil the Duty to Co-operate by Cherwell District Council are described in this paper.
- 1.8 Section 3 concerns formal strategic joint working arrangements and joint commissions between Cherwell and other Councils. It includes working within Countywide organisations, on-going liaison with Oxfordshire County Council, the wider coordination with other Local Authorities within Oxfordshire and other liaison with neighbouring local authorities on specific projects when required.
- 1.9 Section 4 details consultation techniques used since the start of the preparation of the Local Plan, through formal and informal consultation events and the results of engagement with key stakeholders and Prescribed Bodies.
- 1.10 In terms of future co-operation it is anticipated that the joint working established by Cherwell since 2007 with its neighbours will continue well into the future.

2. National Context and the Requirements of the Duty To Cooperate

- 2.1 This section sets out the national context in terms of the requirements of the Duty to Co-operate including the statutory details in the Localism Act (2011) and the further details described in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, March 2012).

Localism Act

- 2.2 Section 110 of the 2011 Localism Act inserts the Duty to Co-operate as a new Section 33A into the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended. Section 33A came into effect on 15 November 2011. It is not retrospective.

- 2.3 Section 110 of the Localism Act sets out the new 'Duty to Co-operate'. The new Duty:

- Relates to sustainable development or use of land that would have a significant impact on at least two local planning areas or on a planning matter that falls within the remit of a County Council;
- Requires that councils set out planning policies to address such issues;
- Requires that councils and public bodies engage **constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis** to develop strategic policies; and
- Requires councils to consider joint approaches to plan making.

- 2.4 Section 33A (1) and (3) of the 2004 Act, as amended impose a duty on a local planning authority to co-operate with other local planning authorities and other prescribed bodies when it undertakes certain activities, including the preparation of development plan documents, activities that can reasonably be considered to prepare the way for such preparation and activities that support such preparation so far as they relate to a strategic matter. This is to maximise the effectiveness of those activities.

- 2.5 Section 33 A (4) states that a strategic matter is: "sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, including (in particular) sustainable development or use of land for or in connection with infrastructure that is strategic and has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas."

- 2.6 Section 33A (2) requires a local planning authority "to engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis" in respect of the activities that are subject to the duty.

- 2.7 For Cherwell the relevant local planning authorities are:

- South Northamptonshire Council
- Northamptonshire County Council
- Aylesbury Vale District Council
- Buckinghamshire County Council
- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Oxford City Council
- West Oxfordshire District Council
- Oxfordshire County Council
- Stratford upon Avon District Council
- Warwickshire County Council

2.8 A map (Figure 1) showing the authorities listed above is included in this Statement as Appendix 1.

2.9 Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended, sets out the prescribed bodies for the purposes of implementing Section 33A of the 2004 Act, as amended. Of those bodies listed in the Regulations it is considered that the following bodies are relevant to Cherwell:

- Environment Agency
- Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (English Heritage)
- Natural England
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Homes and Communities Agency
- NHS Oxfordshire
- Office of Rail Regulation
- Highway Authority – Section 1 of the Highways Act 1980:
 - Oxfordshire County Council Highways
 - Highways Agency
- Local Enterprise Partnerships:
 - Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
 - South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership
- Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership

2.10 The engagement with these bodies is detailed in Sections 3 and 4. (Note: The relationship with Oxfordshire County Council Highways, Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership and the Local Enterprise Partnerships (OLEP and SEMLEP) is covered in section 3):

The prescribed bodies listed below are not relevant to Cherwell as it is not in London nor does it have an integrated transport authority. Cherwell is also not in a coastal area:

- The Mayor of London
- Transport for London
- Integrated Transport Authority
- The Marine Management Organisation.

Three maps are included in this Statement at Appendix 2 (Figures 2 - 4) showing the boundaries of:

- Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OLEP) area
- Map of South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (OLEP) area
- Map of Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership area.

The National Planning Policy Framework

2.11 Paragraphs 178 - 181 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2012) set out further details on how the provisions of the Localism Act should be implemented. The NPPF states that:

- a) Public bodies have a duty to co-operate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, particularly those that relate to the strategic priorities

for the area, including as set out in paragraph 156 of the NPPF, strategic policies to deliver the following:

- The provision for new housing across a major conurbation or wider housing market area
 - The provision of major retail, leisure, industrial and other economic development across a travel to work area
 - The provision of infrastructure for transport, waste treatment, energy generation, telecommunications, water supply and water quality
 - Requirements for minerals extraction
 - The provision of health, security, and major community infrastructure facilities
 - Measures needed to address the causes and consequences of climate change, including managing flood risk and coastal change
 - Protection and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including townscape.
- b) Local planning authorities should work collaboratively with other bodies to ensure that strategic priorities across local boundaries are properly co-ordinated and clearly reflected in individual Local Plans.
- c) Undertake joint working on areas of common interest for the mutual benefit of neighbouring authorities.
- d) Joint working should enable local planning authorities to work together to meet development requirements which cannot wholly be met within their own areas. As part of this process, local planning authorities should consider producing joint planning policies on strategic matters and informal strategies such as joint infrastructure and investment plans.
- e) Local planning authorities should take account of different geographic areas, including travel-to-work areas. In two tier areas, county and district authorities should co-operate with each other on relevant issues. Local planning authorities should work collaboratively on strategic planning priorities to enable delivery of sustainable economic growth in consultation with Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships. Local planning authorities should also work collaboratively with private sector bodies, utility and infrastructure providers.
- f) Local planning authorities will be expected to demonstrate evidence of having effectively co-operated to plan for issues with cross-boundary impacts when their Local Plans are submitted for examination. This could be by way of plans or policies prepared as part of a joint committee, a memorandum of understanding or a jointly prepared strategy which is presented as evidence of an agreed position. Co-operation should be a continuous process of engagement from initial thinking through to implementation, resulting in a final position where plans are in place to provide the land and infrastructure necessary to support current and projected future levels of development.

2.12 Paragraph 182 of the NPPF states that the local plan will be examined by an independent inspector whose role is to assess whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Co-operate, legal and procedural requirements, and whether the local plan is sound. The NPPF sets out the four tests of soundness, two of which relate directly to the Duty to Co-operate as follows:

- “Positively prepared – The plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure

requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development;” and;

- “Effective – The plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross - boundary strategic priorities”.

Planning Advisory Service Guidance

2.13 Government guidance on the Duty to Co-operate has not been provided but the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) has released a guide on its website as to the implementation of the Duty. This guidance is useful in helping to establish arrangements for strategic planning work and deliver positive outcomes. The PAS guidance contains ten golden rules for strategic planning which assist in setting up working arrangements in the absence of regional plan making.

Compliance with the Duty to Co-Operate

2.14 The Duty to Co-operate is thus a legal requirement of the plan preparation process and in order for the plan to be examined by the Planning Inspectorate (PINs); councils need to demonstrate that the Duty has been undertaken appropriately.

2.15 It is considered that the requirements of the Duty to Co-operate can be split into two main components - the process of co-operation and the outcomes of co-operation. Consequently there is a need to demonstrate the following:

a) That Cherwell District Council has striven to co-operate with neighbouring authorities and prescribed bodies i.e. that constructive engagement has occurred, actively and on an on -going basis in line with Section 33A of the Planning Act 2004. In other words the process of co-operation, covered in Section 3 of this Statement; and;

b) That the basis and results of this cooperation have been positively prepared and are effective i.e. that the relevant cross-boundary issues have been identified and addressed within the Cherwell Local Plan, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework. In other words the outcomes of co-operation, covered in Section 4 of this Statement.

2.16 The regulations underpinning the development of Local Plans now state that Councils need to report how the Duty to Co-operate is being taken forward on an on-going basis through the Annual Monitoring Report. The Cherwell District Council AMR 2012 begins this annual reporting.

3. Strategic Cooperation to date

Countywide Structured Collaboration

Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Partnership (SPIP)

- 3.1 The Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Partnership (SPIP) considers the relationship between the Development Plans prepared across the County and their strategic/cross border impacts. This role is to increase awareness, provide an overview and assist in identifying issues of further interest or concern and inform and focus more detailed officer discussions. SPIP is supported by meetings of the lead planning officers (OPPO providing a technical overview and input).
- 3.2 Membership is at the Leader and Chief Executive level of the County and each District Council in Oxfordshire.
- 3.3 Of note has been collaboration between SPIP member Councils on:
- Discussion on the development of each other's Local Plans, including a presentation on the revised Cherwell Plan (2012 version) at Thame on 7th September 2012.
 - Development and maintenance of the Local Investment Plan (LIP) in 2011, 2012 and 2013 which brings together all the infrastructure plans in Oxford, each District and Oxfordshire as a whole. Includes transport projects, housing growth locations, economic analysis, rural housing and gypsy and traveller assessments on a joint basis. It has informed the development of each Local Infrastructure Plan including the Cherwell IDP.
 - A joint seminar was organised on Infrastructure Planning and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on 29th October 2012.
 - Jointly Commissioning the Oxfordshire SHMA (2007).

Future joint working by SPIP.

- 3.4 SPIP has recently commissioned an update to the 2007 SHMA which is due to report in autumn 2013.
- 3.5 Officers from all authorities met on 17th May 2013 and discussed a policy approach to be incorporated in emerging plans to address the Duty to Cooperate. Officers considered wording that is already included within South Oxfordshire's adopted Core Strategy and how this could be adapted and brought up to date for emerging plans.
- 3.6 The following wording was proposed: *'A new joint Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) for Oxfordshire is currently underway. If following the SHMA, any of the Oxfordshire authorities are agreed, identify that any of the authorities they cannot accommodate their objectively assessed housing need, the council will fulfil its statutory 'duty to co-operate' in partnership with all the other necessary authorities. As part of this, the council would participate in any necessary joint work to identify and assess options in accordance with national policy and SEA regulations to establish where any unmet need might can be accommodated within the housing market area'.*

3.7 Officers also discussed whether the policy or text should also refer to how, in terms of plan making, any unmet housing requirements would be incorporated. All officers agreed that the aim would be to ensure that it was made clear that a highly focussed review of the Local Plan would be implemented or any land requirements would be made available through a subsequent development plan document. The following text could therefore also be incorporated:

'If following subsequent joint work it is identified and agreed that any unmet housing need is required to be accommodated within this district one of the following approaches would be undertaken:

- *a highly focussed, partial review of the Local Plan; or*
- *appropriate land allocations would be made through a subsequent development plan document.*

3.8 The appropriate approach will depend on the scale of the provision required'.

3.9 It was identified that in terms of structure it would sit comfortably within emerging housing distribution policies. Officers agreed that due to the likely prominence of this issue text within each authorities housing distribution policy would be the recommended approach.

3.10 In addition to the proposed policy, officers recommended that SPIP consider establishing a Memorandum of Understanding on this issue. It was considered that this would provide transparency on the process to be undertaken for a Planning Inspector when considering emerging Local Plans. This approach is recommended by the Planning Advisory Service on their website. It has also been used by other authorities who face similar issues relating to the Duty to Cooperate in recent months. Some examples include a MoU between the north eastern councils including South and North Tyneside, Newcastle, Gateshead and Sunderland and another between authorities that make up the Gatwick Diamond.

The Oxfordshire Transport Board (OTB).

3.11 The Oxfordshire Transport Board is being established to oversee transport matters affecting the County and to administer funding devolved from the Department for Transport.

3.12 Currently in the preparatory phase, full establishment is due by 2014.

3.13 The purpose of the OTB is to inform the development and implementation of the Local Transport Plan.

The Oxfordshire Enterprise Partnership (OLEP).

3.14 For full details see Appendix 3.

3.15 The Oxfordshire Enterprise Partnership (OLEP) has been established to oversee the development of the economy of Oxfordshire. It works to address four issues:

- **Business Leadership:** To provide strategic leadership at an international, national and local level that enables Oxfordshire's economic potential to be realised.
- **Addressing Skill Deficiencies:** To keep the skills needs of the local economy under review and produce an annual local statement of skill needs.

- Supporting Innovation and Growth, including Access to Finance and Inward Investment: To develop a portal that provides businesses with a single point of access to business advice; To address barriers that restrict businesses gaining access to timely finance: To actively market Oxfordshire as a location for investment, including inward investment; To support the promotion of the visitor economy through Visit Oxfordshire and alignment with inward investment.
 - Securing Investment for Infrastructure Priorities: To ensure that strategic opportunities for economic development are identified and brought forward. To ensure that the infrastructure requirements to realise the strategic opportunities are identified and taken forward as part of the Infrastructure Framework for Oxfordshire.
- 3.16 Cherwell collaborates with OLEP partners in the development of a number of showcase sectors:
- Performance engineering.
 - Life sciences
 - Space technologies.
- 3.17 Membership is the Chief Executive of the County and each District Council in Oxfordshire. Officer support groups include:
- Oxon LEP EDOs quarterly meeting and day-to-day liaison
 - Invest in Oxfordshire service (OCC) working closely with CHIP (CDC) on business development & inward investment
 - Oxon Tourism officer liaison group
- 3.18 Of note has been collaboration between OLEP members on:
- Collaboration on Inward Investment into the County, through 'Invest in Oxfordshire', a practical day-to-day service run in conjunction with CHIP in promoting Cherwell and Oxon, providing details of available commercial property and assisting potential investors to move into or grow within Cherwell. Collaboration includes a shared property database, accessible from both Oxon and CHIP's websites and joint meetings with investors and businesses.
 - Skills promotion
 - Development of City Deal (2013) including the development of Graven Hill (Cherwell Local Plan Policy Bicester 2) as a major growth point at Bicester supporting the economy of Oxford and its wider sub-region.

The South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP)

- 3.19 For full details see Appendix 4.
- 3.20 SEMLEP is the economic development partnership, operated jointly by the private and public sectors in the area, to promote the South East Midlands as a prime growth location for business, investors and visitors. SEMLEP was set up to play a central role in determining local economic priorities and to undertake activities that drive economic growth and the creation of local jobs. Cherwell is particularly engaged in the development of showcase sectors for Performance Engineering and Green Technologies in collaboration with the other SEMLEP partners.

3.21 The following Councils are members – South Northampton Council, Milton Keynes Council, Bedford Borough Council and Northampton Borough Council. There are officers sub groups for Inward Investment, Tourism and a quarterly meeting of Economic Development Officers, which involve Cherwell District Council.

Other Countywide Joint Working

3.22 Other joint working across Oxfordshire includes:

- The Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership (established following the Government's Natural Environment White Paper in 2011) which with District Council input is developing the Oxfordshire Green Infrastructure Strategy. Cherwell District Council works with the Oxfordshire LNP as 'bodies bound by the Duty to Co-operate should cooperate with and have regard to the views of Local Nature Partnerships in the planning of sustainable development' (The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012).
- Cherwell District Council has also worked with the County Council, other Districts and TVERC (Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre) to develop a set of common indicators to monitor biodiversity.
- To ensure the design of proposed development is as good as possible (Cherwell Local Plan Policy ESD 16) Cherwell District Council uses BOBMK to provide a peer review assessment service of site design proposals. BOBMK works across Oxfordshire, Buckingham and Milton Keynes with members drawn from the public and private sectors and works to improve the quality of urban design across the region.
- In 2008, all Oxfordshire Councils jointly commissioned and signed off a Needs Assessment for Travelling Show people. The study included an analysis of accommodation needs at County and District level. The project was managed by a joint officer working group and full agreement was reached on the study's conclusions.
- The formation of a Memorandum of Understanding in 2007 between the County Council and the District Councils to enable the regular production of local demographic projections and other data by the County Council. The information provides evidence base for the Local Plan and other Council projects. Each District provides the County with data relating to housing completions and its residential growth strategy on an annual basis to inform this work.
- A monitoring arrangement between the County and the District Councils to allow for the monitoring and presentation of residential and non-residential information for the District Council's AMR. Information is collected by the District Council, exchanged and agreed with the County Council and stored on a database (CPD Smart, which is hosted by the County Council). The monitoring informs the Cherwell Local Plan including Policies BSC1 and the housing trajectory.
- Joint working on Housing policy matters across Oxfordshire is extensive and includes:
 - The Countywide Disability and Housing Strategy which Cherwell led on behalf of all Districts and is being implemented by a joint steering group.

- Joint working on supported housing provision for Physical Disability, Learning Disability and mental health whereby the County have mapped necessary provision and are working with the Districts to provide. In Cherwell, this forms part of our deal with the purchase of a number of County sites where in return we are meeting needs for this provision. Specialist accommodation can significantly reduce support costs for the County. Cherwell recently completed a joint general needs and LD project at Dashwood School.
- Joint District/County steering group with local implementation groups at District level for Extra Care Housing.
- Oxfordshire Rural Housing Partnership from which Cherwell (and other districts and local RPS) fund rural housing enabling and use a District Implementation Group (DIG) to deliver rural affordable housing, particularly exception sites.
- Collaboration is also well developed on sports and cultural matters through:
 - The Oxfordshire Sports Partnership which comprises local authorities and interested groups/organisations. The partnership meets annually to formulate and progress a strategy and has meetings on specific initiatives throughout the year.
 - Thames Valley Cultural Forum meets on a quarterly basis.
- Joint officer working groups also meet regularly to discuss Conservation and Heritage and Finance issues.

Two tier joint working

Oxfordshire County Council

3.23 Collaboration with Oxfordshire County Council is particularly close. A number of joint planning documents have been commissioned that bring together the respective roles of the two Councils in considering the future development of the District and ensuring that the appropriate level of infrastructure is provided.

3.24 Key commissions include:

- Jointly commissioned the draft Bicester Masterplan (2012) in 2011. The Bicester Masterplan has informed the consideration in the Local Plan of Development sites in an integrated and coordinated manner, considering the implications for the town as a whole. The Bicester Masterplan enabled consideration of how the town might grow beyond that proposed in the 2010 Local Plan, in particular how delivery might be speeded up, additional employment land released and the MoD site Graven Hill and other development sites considered and where appropriate brought into the ambit of the Plan. The Plan has been developed with the active input of local stakeholders, including the developer industry and Town Councils and local Business groups such as Bicester Vision and Chamber of Commerce. A series of workshops have been held.
- Jointly Commissioned the draft Banbury Masterplan (2013) in 2012 to assess how the development areas proposed in the Local Plan might be brought forward in an integrated and coordinated manner, considering the implications for the

town as a whole. The Banbury Masterplan has been developed with the input of local stakeholders, including the developer industry and Town Councils and local Business groups such as the Chamber of Commerce. A series of workshops have been held.

- Commissioned the Bicester Movement Study (2013) in 2012, to assess the transport implications from the proposed Local Plan growth and to inform the development of the Local Plan (Cherwell Local Plan Policy SLE 4).
- Commissioned the Banbury Movement Study (2013) in 2012, to assess the transport implications from the proposed Local Plan growth and to inform the development of the Local Plan (Cherwell Local Plan Policy SLE 4).
- OCC propose to use the two town movement studies and development of the Neighbourhood Plans (Cherwell Local Plan para C.219) for Bloxham, Cropredy, Hook Norton and Stratton Audley to inform the preparation of the next Local Transport Plan for Oxfordshire.
- BANITLUS (2010) and BICITLUS (2009) (produced by the County Council's retained consultants) were commissioned to determine, in transport terms, the most sustainable location(s) for development at Banbury and Bicester. This was a joint commission by Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council.
- CRAITLUS (Cherwell Rural Areas Integrated Transport and Land Use Study), also produced by the County Council's retained consultants in 2010, in order for the Council to understand the accessibility and sustainability of Cherwell's villages. The Commission was undertaken by the District Council, and the County Council provided inputs to the work. The study informed the development of the Local Plan (Cherwell Local Plan Policies Villages 1, 2 and 3.)
- Commissioning of the Greater London Authority (GLA) Intelligence Unit in 2011 to produce demographic projections for the District to inform the Local Plan. The County Council have worked with the GLA for a number of years to produce local demographic projections for Oxfordshire. However, the GLA Intelligence Unit no longer provides this service. The work produced for the District has recently been updated using alternative demographic modelling and, alongside other evidence, has informed Cherwell Local Plan Policy BSC1.
- The Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2009 (SFRA) was commissioned jointly by Cherwell District Council, Oxfordshire County Council and West Oxfordshire District Council, with Cherwell District taking the co-ordinating role. The Assessment was commissioned to inform the District Councils' Local Development Framework and the County Council's Minerals and Waste Development Framework.

3.25 Joint policy and project development with Oxfordshire County Council includes:

- Joint presentations to Minister Mark Prisk MP with external agencies on 23rd April 2012 on the potential growth of Bicester.
- Joint presentations to HCA chairman and external agencies on 24th May 2012 on the potential growth of Bicester.
- Successful bids for Pinch Point Programme funding in 2012 for Motorway junction improvements to increase the capacity of Junction 9 and 10 of the M40

to absorb the projected growth of Bicester in Cherwell and Brackley, Silverstone and Towcester in South Northants.

- East-West Rail scheme (For full details see Appendix 2) to improve the service links between Oxford, Bicester (Cherwell Local Plan Policy SLE 4), Milton Keynes and Bedford. It is anticipated that the completion with new services underway will be from 2017. This project involves local authorities from Buckinghamshire County Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedford Borough Council and Milton Keynes Council Councils. The project reinforces the strategic location of Bicester and acts as the next critical step to strengthen the role of the town centre (Cherwell Local Plan Policy Bicester 5) by improving access following the investment in the Bure Place regeneration area which has brought new retail investment to the town and on completion will include a new civic centre for the town (Cherwell Local Plan Policy Bicester 6).
- SPD development for the development sites at Canalside (Cherwell Local Plan Policy Banbury 1), Bolton Road (Cherwell Local Plan Policy Banbury 8) and Spiceball (Cherwell Local Plan Policy Banbury 9).
- Fortnightly on development of NW Bicester (Cherwell Local Plan Policy Bicester 1) since 2009.
- The Eco Bicester Strategic Delivery Board includes representatives from Cherwell District Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Bicester Town Council, Environment Agency, Bicester Chamber of Commerce, Bicester Vision and HCA meets regularly.
- Joint development of Graven Hill (Cherwell Local Plan Policy Bicester 2).
- The Banbury development team which brings together officers from CDC and OCC, meets periodically to consider the development progress of Sites Banbury 7, 8, 9 & 10.

Neighbouring Authorities joint working

West Oxfordshire District Council

3.26 A joint Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Housing Needs Assessment was commissioned in 2012 and published in January 2013. The study informs the Cherwell Local Plan (Cherwell Local Plan Policy BSC 6). The report states:

- 'Allocation of sites for Gypsy and Traveller communities is generally a contentious issue across localities, and tensions between neighbouring local authorities around provision of accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers is not uncommon. The Duty to Co-operate makes it essential for local authorities to resolve outstanding issues in relation to new provision or risk local plans being found unsound, at which point the presumption in favour of sustainable development would come into effect' (para' 3.15).
- 'As part of this programme of research, a meeting was convened on the 18th July 2012 with representatives from the neighbouring local authorities of Vale of the White Horse, South Oxfordshire, Oxford and West Northamptonshire to discuss the emerging findings of this research and for the local authorities to

discuss their current provision and evidence base. The three authorities of Vale of White Horse, South Oxfordshire and Oxford were planning to commission a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment during 2012 to update their evidence base, while West Northamptonshire were similarly planning to commission an assessment for the areas of Daventry District Council and Northampton Borough Council. These neighbouring authorities were all asked if there were any particular cross-boundary issues that needed to be reflected on in this study. No issues were raised by any of the participating local authority officers. Several authorities provided a brief summary of their site provision. Currently:

- Oxford City has no sites but would view sites as residential provision in their Core Strategy.
 - Vale of the White Horse have three sites – 2 public and 1 private plus one travelling showperson site.
 - South Oxfordshire have three authorised sites operated by the County Council and have one unauthorised site.’ (para’s 3.16).
- The study also included consultation with other key stakeholders (para’ 2.5).

3.27 Cherwell District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council jointly commissioned the Renewable Energy and Sustainable Construction Study 2009, undertaken by CAG Consultants. The study was commissioned to provide an evidence base for understanding the local feasibility and potential for decentralised, renewable and low carbon technologies, local targets for decentralised and renewable or low carbon energy, and local requirements for sustainable construction, to inform the authorities’ Local Development Framework.

3.28 As indicated above, Cherwell District Council also worked with West Oxfordshire District Council together with Oxfordshire County Council to commission the Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2009.

The West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit

3.29 A meeting on 27th September 2012 was arranged by West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit which Cherwell District Council had attended. The meeting was to discuss the duty to cooperate in relation to the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy which covers the Districts of Daventry, Northampton and South Northamptonshire.

3.30 The meeting discussed cooperation to date, the examination into the Joint Core Strategy which was to begin on 16th April and future cooperation arrangements.

3.31 Future cooperation arrangement with neighbouring local authorities was discussed at the meeting and it was suggested that future focused discussions could be arranged when needed, in which Cherwell District Council will participate.

South Northamptonshire Council

3.32 South Northamptonshire Council and Cherwell District Council have Shared Management. Development and Local Plan issues are regularly discussed between Cherwell and South Northants Councils through a Place Board with elected members and between the Chief Executive, Director of Development, Head of Strategic

Planning and the Economy, Head of Development Management and Regulatory Services and Head of Regeneration and Housing. Senior managers meet as JMT fortnightly and Directorate Management Team meets monthly.

3.33 Collaboration and joint working has included:

- Jointly commissioned the conservation study of Oxford Canal (Cherwell Local Plan Policy ESD17) between CDC and SNC in 2012. Adopted in 2013. Discussed in detail with Rivers and Canal Trust and local stakeholders through consultation events.
- A joint Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Housing Needs Assessment was commissioned in 2012 and published in January 2013. The study informs the Cherwell Local Plan (Cherwell Local Plan Policy BSC 6), following a stakeholders' workshop on 18th July 2012.
- Joint collaboration on:
 - Collaboration through SEMLEP on economic development and transport matters.
 - The assessment of individual development sites, such as Central M40 (Cherwell Local Plan Policy Banbury 6).
 - The implications of HS2 (Cherwell Local Plan Policy SLE 5), with Oxfordshire County Council and Northamptonshire County Council. Considered the long term implications for the growth of Bicester and the villages of Fringford and in Cherwell, together with Brackley and other villages in South Northants, as well as an assessment of strategic highways and ecological impacts.

Buckinghamshire Duty to Cooperate Forum

3.34 Buckinghamshire County Council and its District Council partners have prepared a number of Duty to Cooperate engagement exercises which are being supported and facilitated by the Planning Advisory Service. The purpose of these exercises is to identify and agree the strategic issues and priorities to be addressed across the Districts and at a County-wide level, and identify mechanisms to address the issues and priorities through both the preparation of Local Plans and other joint-working initiatives. This is similar to the working within Oxfordshire through SPIP and West Northants (Section 2).

3.35 Neighbouring local authorities outside Buckinghamshire were invited to the first workshop which was held on 30th April 2013. The identification of strategic issues was covered by the workshop. Unfortunately Cherwell District Council could not attend the workshop due to resources at the time being focused on Cherwell's Local Plan. The next workshop will be held in June 2013 and it is envisaged that Cherwell District Council will be attending.

3.36 Member bodies include:

- Aylesbury Vale Clinical Commissioning Group
- Aylesbury Vale District Council
- Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Board (once established)

- Buckinghamshire County Council
- Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership
- Bucks and Milton Keynes Local Nature Partnership (once established)
- Bucks Health and Wellbeing Board
- Central Bedfordshire Council
- Cherwell District Council
- Chiltern Clinical Commissioning Group
- Chiltern District Council
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Dacorum Borough Council
- English Heritage
- Environment Agency
- Greater London Assembly
- Hertfordshire County Council
- Highways Agency
- Homes and Community Agency
- London Borough of Hillingdon
- Marine Management Organisation
- Mayor of London
- Milton Keynes Council
- Natural England
- Northamptonshire County Council
- Office of Rail Regulation
- Oxfordshire County Council
- Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
- Slough Borough Council
- South Bucks District Council
- South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership
- South Northamptonshire Council
- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Three Rivers District Council
- Transport for London -London Streets
- Wokingham Borough Council

Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC)

- 3.37 Aylesbury discussed the development of Bicester and the western development of Aylesbury at Westcott Park with staff from Oxfordshire County Council, Cherwell District Council and WYG on 22nd January 2013. This helped inform the development of the Bicester Movement Study (2013).
- 3.38 AVDC have also prepared a substantial document of areas of interest between the Aylesbury Draft Local Plan and the Cherwell Draft Local Plan, which is included in Table 1.

Table 1: Areas of interest between the Aylesbury Draft Local Plan and the Cherwell Draft Local Plan

Aylesbury Vale District Council			
DISTRICTS	What Co-operation Involves	When This Takes Place	How This Takes Place
Strategic Issue			
Housing Needs in Both Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking Account of Wider Housing Needs to consider if there is a need to make an allowance for provision in either district DPDs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer 2012 • Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue on the AVDC Strategic Housing Market Assessment study 2012 and any housing needs updates undertaken in Cherwell/Oxfordshire • Dialogue as necessary regarding the Cherwell Core strategy (now Local Plan)
Retail and economic development in both districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking account of cross boundary implications of retail and economic development in the main service centres of the two districts in the plan making process and in consideration of planning applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence base studies commissioned by each District, such as Retail Studies, to consider cross boundary issues
Growth and Role of Bicester particularly, and also the villages surrounding Bicester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of housing and employment at Bicester and locations of development • Role of Bicester as a service centre that is used by rural communities in western Aylesbury Vale • Role of the larger villages within Aylesbury Vale surrounding Bicester that are used for service provision by rural communities in Cherwell, and vice versa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cherwell Local Plan Proposed Submission DPD and Bicester Masterplan SPD Consultation commenced 29 August 2012 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue as necessary regarding the Cherwell Core strategy (now Local Plan), the Bicester Masterplan SPD, and the Local Neighbourhoods DPD

East West Rail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options for the provision of local funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Member Delivery Board Membership with each relevant Council Initial Officer Discussion on detailed design and network issues with Network Rail and the East-West Rail Consortium
Rail and Road improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chiltern Mainline, Evergreen 3 and M40 Motorway improvements in western Aylesbury Vale and eastern Cherwell as well as strategic transport improvement proposals at Bicester including the South East relief road, and rail freight associated development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Network Rail and Chiltern Railways on planned improvements to the national rail network Working with the Highways Agency on improvements to the M40 Ensuring infrastructure proposals are reflected in each district's development plans and through planning applications
High Speed 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposition to the HS2 project Planning for mitigation in response to the impacts of the route on local communities and landscapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2012 ongoing work for the foreseeable future Two consultations per year until 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both districts are members of the 51m group of Local Authorities and other HS2 Groups. Both are party to a legal challenge to the Government's decision on this project Response to the Government's consultation on detailed route and infrastructure proposals

Traffic management and promoting Sustainable Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main area of impact with Aylesbury Vale would be the A41 and local routes between Bicester, Waddesdon and western Aylesbury Vale, in the context of new housing and employment development in the two districts and also in the context of the proposed Strategic Waste Complex at Calvert 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring 2013 onwards / Ongoing? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation on the VAP Delivery DPD on sustainable transport policies and those affecting road infrastructure Consultation on the Cherwell Core Strategy (now Local Plan) and the Bicester Masterplan SPD
Landscape character and sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking account of technical evidence on the particular character and sensitivity of landscapes in Aylesbury Vale and Cherwell districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of the Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment and Areas of Sensitive Landscape studies to inform the Cherwell Core Strategy (now Local Plan) and site allocations in the Local Neighbourhoods DPD, and on planning applications And, similarly, use of the Cherwell District Landscape Assessment work in plan preparation and in determining planning applications in Aylesbury Vale
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking account of evidence and research into the priorities for biodiversity restoration and conservation where identified priority areas overlap district boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing through plan preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regard to the Conservation Target Area designations mapped by the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre

3.39 The identified and agreed issues for Cherwell and Aylesbury Vale districts are:

- Establishing the full locally-assessed housing needs to 2031 for Cherwell and Aylesbury Vale districts and taking account of this in emerging development plans, recognising the strategic overlap in housing markets.
- The cross boundary implications of retail development at Bicester town, Bicester Village retail park and Aylesbury (in the plan making process and planning applications).
- The cross boundary economic development implications of growth around Bicester, Aylesbury and Westcott Venture Park in the plan making process and in consideration of planning applications.
- The on infrastructure of planned growth of Bicester in the Cherwell Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Document Masterplan on Bicester – AVDC has raised an issue of both County Councils needing to work together to ensure housing and employment growth does not harm traffic flows, capacity and highway safety on the A41 and impact on villages on the route.
- To plan effectively for the East-West Rail scheme including station and railway infrastructure growth needs. This will involve a co-ordinated response in planning policy documents and sharing of information.
- Liaising with the relevant infrastructure providers and County Councils on the following transport projects and ensuring a co-ordinated and consistent response. The Chiltern Rail Mainline route (including stations at Haddenham and Thame Parkway and Bicester North), The Chiltern Rail Evergreen 3 Project (a rail connection from Oxford to London via High Wycombe) and M40 Motorway improvements in western Aylesbury Vale and eastern Cherwell as well as strategic transport improvement proposals at Bicester including the South East relief road, and rail freight associated development.
- Opposition to the High Speed 2 proposals but also working with partner organisations (through the 51m group of local authorities) including relevant adjoining District and County Councils to minimise the impact it will have if the project does go ahead.
- Sharing and contributing to evidence bases on gypsy and travellers needs assessments.
- Planning for Biodiversity Assets - Taking account of evidence and research into the priorities for biodiversity restoration and conservation where identified priority areas overlap district boundaries (including sites in proximity to Piddington, Marsh Gibbon and Brill), ensuring a co-ordinated and consistent approach in development plans.
- To share information and have a consistent and co-ordinated policy response in development plans to strategic green infrastructure and on valued landscapes.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

3.40 Stratford-on-Avon Council has a good working relationship with Cherwell District Council through a three-way forum with South Northamptonshire Council (SNC), which meets regularly to discuss joint working issues and arrangements. This includes matters relating to Economic Development in particular the Formula One, the High Performance Engineering Sector, Tourism and coordination on LEP matters.

3.41 Local Plan housing growth and town centre renewal and retail strategies for each District have been discussed in correspondence and meetings between January and

June 2013, including consideration of the potential impact of the proposed Gaydon new settlement.

Prescribed Bodies

Environment Agency

- 3.42 The Environment Agency's (EA) principal aims are to protect and improve the environment, and to promote sustainable development. It plays a central role in delivering the environmental priorities of central government through its functions and roles.
- 3.43 Cherwell District Council has worked closely with the EA throughout the preparation of the Local Plan including advising on the drafting of policies, and the supporting evidence base including the Strategic Flood Risk Assessments. The EA has provided valuable advice and support to Cherwell District Council, particularly in relation to water matters and the Sustainability Appraisal.

Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (English Heritage)

- 3.44 English Heritage is the Government's advisor on the historic environment and heritage assets. Its responsibilities include:
- Managing the national collection of sites, monuments, archive records and photographs taken into state care;
 - Giving grants to national and local organisations for the conservation of historic buildings, monuments and landscapes;
 - Advising government on which English Heritage assets are nationally important and should be protected by designation (i.e. listing, scheduling etc.);
 - Administering and maintaining the register of England's listed buildings, scheduled monuments, registered battlefields, conservation areas and protected parks and gardens;
 - Advising local authorities on managing changes to the most important parts of heritage;
 - Providing expertise through advice, training and guidance to improve the standards and skills of people working in heritage, practical conservation and access to resources;
 - Consulting and collaborating with other heritage bodies, local and national planning organisations; and
 - Commissioning and conducting archaeological research.
- 3.45 English Heritage have been involved in all the preparation stages of the Cherwell Local Plan.

Natural England

- 3.46 Natural England is the Government's adviser on the natural environment. They provide practical advice, grounded in science, on how best to safeguard England's natural wealth for the benefit of everyone. Natural England's responsibilities include:
- Managing England's green farming schemes;
 - Increasing opportunities for everyone to enjoy the natural world;

- Reducing the decline of biodiversity and the licensing of protected species across England;
- Designating National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and
- Managing most of the National Nature Reserves and notifying the Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

3.47 Natural England have been involved in all the preparation stages of the Cherwell Local Plan including the development of the Sustainability Appraisal.

Civil Aviation Authority

3.48 The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is the public corporation which oversees and regulates all aspects of aviation in the United Kingdom. The CAA's functions include the development of aviation policy, both within the UK and Europe-wide. The Civil Aviation Agency has been consulted at each stage of the Local Plan's preparation. CAA have been invited to comment on the Local Plan consultations.

Homes and Communities Agency

3.49 The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) was established in December 2008 as the national housing and regeneration delivery agency for England, incorporating functions previously undertaken by English Partnerships (EP) and the Housing Corporation.

3.50 The HCA and its predecessors have been involved in the development of the Cherwell local Plan through the statutory consultation process and the development of the Oxfordshire Local Infrastructure Plan and in the development of the NW Bicester EcoTown proposal.

NHS Oxfordshire

3.51 The National Health Service is currently undergoing extensive re-organisation. As part of these changes new area clusters are being established. PCT clusters work with local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to commission, or buy, a range of services such as hospital and dental services, optometry, pharmacy, mental health services, the Ambulance Service and community services such as district nurses and health visitors.

3.52 In July 2010, the Health White Paper, 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' outlined plans to transfer NHS commissioning responsibilities from PCTs to groups of general practitioners. Until the transition to CCGs in 2013 is complete, PCTs are pooling resources under new Cluster working arrangements to ensure capacity and capability is maintained. Each PCT will continue as statutory organisations in their own right.

3.53 Cherwell District Council has engaged with the local healthcare providers throughout the development of the Plan to understand the implications of the development proposed in the Local Plan for healthcare provision of all types.

Office of Rail Regulation

3.54 The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) is the economic and safety regulatory authority for Great Britain's railway network. Functions include i) Control and allocation of capacity of railway assets and ii) Independent health and safety regulation for the railway industry.

3.55 Cherwell District Council has also liaised with Chilterns Rail, the Train Operating Company that operates in Cherwell and Network Rail.

Highways Agency

3.56 The Highways Agency (HA) is responsible for managing, maintaining and improving England's motorways and trunk roads (known as the Strategic Road Network or SRN). The Cherwell area contains notable strategic roads and junctions including sections of the M40, A34, A41, A422, A361 and A4260.

3.57 The Cherwell Local Plan takes account of the need to address the impact of development on the SRN through considering with Oxfordshire Highways Authority, i) Mitigation measures required and ii) How these measures will be funded.

(Note: The relationship with Oxfordshire County Council Highways, Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership and the Local Enterprise Partnerships (OLEP and SEMLEP) are all covered in section 3):

4. Strategic Issues and Outcomes from Cooperation

Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1 The Council has undertaken significant consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, from the general public, Parish Councils to National organisations and statutory bodies.
- 4.2 The District Council has consulted the general public and other groups as required by the Regulations and as set out in the Councils adopted Statement of Community Involvement. The Council has also contacted all those that have been registered on our consultation database, which now includes over 2000 bodies and individuals and is regularly updated on request and as required. This includes the following bodies:
- *Prescribed Consultation Bodies* - These are those we have to consult to meet the statutory requirements such as adjoining councils and agencies such as the Environment Agency, English Heritage, Natural England and utility providers.
 - *General Consultation Bodies* - These include voluntary bodies and groups representing the interests of different religious, racial, ethnic or national groups, local business groups and organisations that represent the interests of the disabled.
 - *Other Consultees* - These are those that have expressed a desire to be involved such as agents, developers, landowners and individuals (on the consultation database) and clubs and societies, charities and special interest groups.
- 4.3 The Council has also published and consulted on many documents in the preparation of the Local Development Framework, the Local Plan and undertaken wider consultation on them.
- 4.4 As stated in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, documents need to be made available for inspection at the Council's principal office and such places within their area as the local planning authority considers appropriate, during normal office hours and published on the website. The consultation documents for the above consultations were made available at Deposit Locations which includes libraries, Council Offices and One Stop Shops.
- 4.5 Table 2 below identifies the documents forming part of each consultation.

Table 2: Public Consultation Documents

Date	Consultation
December 2005	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Paper
27/02/2006 – 10/04/2006	Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper, Core Strategy Spatial Report, Initial Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Paper and Housing Technical Paper 1
29/09/2008 – 24/11/2008	Core Strategy Options for Growth – Consultation on Directions of Growth and Strategic Sites; Supporting Report; Identification of Reasonable Alternatives for Directions for Growth and Strategic Sites
22/02/2010 – 19/04/2010	Draft Core Strategy & Draft Sustainability Appraisal
29/08/2012 – 10/10/2012	Proposed Submission Local Plan, Sustainability Appraisal, Statement of Consultation, Equalities Impact Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment Stage 1 – Screening,

	Statement of Representations Procedure
28/03/2013 – 23/05/2013	Proposed Changes to the Proposed Submission Local Plan, Sustainability Appraisal, Statement of Consultation, Equalities Impact Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment Addendum, Statement of Representations Procedure.

Issues and Options Consultation

- 4.6 The first consultation on Core Strategy (now Local Plan) Issues and Options took place in February – April 2006. The document set out the strategic issues facing Cherwell 20 2026 and a range of options to address them. The consultation invited comments to help inform the Council’s “Preferred Options”. A total of 82 responses were received.
- 4.7 In September 2008 the Council undertook consultation on the Options for Growth document. This document sought opinions on the best ways to accommodate future housing development in Cherwell. The consultation document invited comments to help decide what the “reasonable alternatives” were.
- How might development be distributed across the District?
 - Where might development go at Banbury and Bicester?
 - How might development be distributed to the villages?
- 4.8 This included a variety of different consultation methods including a questionnaire, exhibitions, a summary leaflet, a newspaper wrap, and meetings. A total of 343 responses were received.

Draft Core Strategy

- 4.9 In early 2010 the Council consulted on its draft Core Strategy. As part of its preparation, the draft Core Strategy set out and sought opinions 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.
- 4.10 This again included a variety of consultation methods including exhibitions, meetings, leaflets and questionnaires. A total of 592 responses were received.

Proposed Submission Local Plan

- 4.11 The Council consulted upon the Proposed Submission Local Plan in August 2012 and invited comments on whether the Plan was considered legally compliant and sound: Positively Prepared, Justified, Effective and Consistent with National Policy. A total of some 204 responses were received.

Proposed Changes to the Proposed Submission Local Plan

- 4.12 The Council consulted upon a schedule of Proposed Changes to the Proposed Submission Local Plan in March 2013. These ‘Focused Changes’ sought to respond to further evidence prepared by the Council and to the representations to the Proposed Submission draft August 2012. A number of necessary major changes had been identified leading to the need to re-consult. Major changes included amending the proposed Green Boundaries to Growth outlined by Policy ESD15 to reflect new landscape evidence, some changes to the capacity of strategic housing sites,

revising Policy BSC4 Housing Mix to provide for more market flexibility and clarifying the purpose of the proposed 'area of search' for an expanded Bicester Town centre set out in Policy SLE2: Securing Dynamic Town Centres and Bicester 5: Strengthening Bicester Town Centre. As there was a need to consult, other minor changes were included in the consultation. Over 300 responses were received.

Who have we consulted during formal consultations?

4.13 The Council has consulted the general public and other groups as required by the Regulations and as set out in the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement. The Council has also contacted all those that have been registered on our consultation database, which now includes over 2000 bodies and individuals and which is regularly updated on request and as required. This includes the following bodies:

Specific Consultation Bodies

4.14 These are those we have to consult to meet the statutory requirements such as adjoining Councils and agencies such as the Environment Agency, English Heritage, Natural England and utility providers.

General Consultation Bodies

4.15 These include voluntary bodies and groups which represent the interests of different religious, racial, ethnic or national groups, local business groups and organisations that represent the interests of those with disabilities.

Other Consultees

4.16 These are those that have expressed a desire to be involved such as agents, developers, landowners and individuals (on the consultation database) and clubs and societies, charities and special interest groups.

What other consultation has taken place in preparing the Local Plan?

4.17 In addition to periods of formal consultation, the Council has consulted on an on-going basis and to varying levels with a wide range of stakeholders including developers, Parish Councils, local organisations, national organisations and statutory bodies.

Forms of Additional Consultation

Meetings with Town and Parish Councils

4.18 The Council held a series of structured workshops in 2007 / 2008 to discuss a range of subjects in the interest of developing planning policy. Subjects included: directions of growth, village sustainability and clustering; settlement boundaries; the location of development within/on the edges of villages; affordable housing; employment; tourism and design.

4.19 The Council hosts biannual Parish Liaison Meetings where all Town and Parish Councils are invited to hear the latest work being undertaken by the District Council and to ask questions. The Local Plan has featured regularly at these meetings with the most recent being on 12 June 2013. Officers have at times held "surgeries" for attendees to come and ask any specific questions.

4.20 Additionally, Council officers have met with Parishes on an individual basis to discuss issues arising. Recently, with some Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Planning and the links to the Local Plan has become a focus of discussion.

Stakeholder Events

4.21 The Council has held a number of stakeholder events that informed early Plan preparation.

- 17th May 2007 – Sustainability Appraisal – Key Stakeholders only such as EA, English Nature etc
- 4th September 2007 – Directions of Growth Workshop – Cherwell District Council, Oxfordshire County Council and Town and Parish Councils.
- 13th September 2007 – Two Directions of Growth Workshops facilitated by Adams Hendry (1 afternoon and one evening) – afternoon had 58 attendees plus Cherwell District Council and Adams Hendry staff; evening had 12 attendees plus CDC staff. Key stakeholders in attendance included the development industry, local organisations, statutory organisations and local organisations.
- 7th October 2007 – Design and Heritage Workshop - Thirty stakeholders with expertise in design and conservation fields were invited with 12 attending

Key Stakeholder Meetings

4.22 Consultation with stakeholders has included formal one to one meetings, topic meetings and joint working to inform preparation of the Core Strategy / Local Plan and, on occasions, the respective plans and policies of the other organisations. This has included but is not restricted to meetings and dialogue with the stakeholders listed in Table 3:

Table 3: Key Stakeholder Meetings

Key Stakeholders	
Parish and Town Councils	Oxfordshire County Council
Environment Agency	Oxford City Council
Natural England	West Oxfordshire District Council
Cotswold Conservation Group	South Oxfordshire District Council
Highways Agency	Vale of White Horse District Council
SEEDA	BBOWT
Thames Valley Police	Chiltern Railways
English Partnerships	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Oxfordshire Economic Partnership	Homes and Community Agency
Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Services	Defence Infrastructure Organisation
Thames Valley Police	(formerly Defence Estates)
South Northamptonshire District Council	British Waterways
Aylesbury Vale District Council	
Registered Providers (Housing Associations)	
Thames Water	

4.23 Attendance at the consultation events of other organisations has also been informative. Examples included those for the Northamptonshire SHMA and the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Forum.

The Local Strategic Partnership

4.24 There have been regular meetings with the Cherwell Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). Six were held in June/July 2007 linking the LSP and the early development of the Local Development Framework and again in November 2007 and July 2012. The topics covered have included:

- The need to promote and enhance the role of the town centres and local shopping facilities.
- The need to ensure convenient access to services and facilities.
- The need to enhance and protect Cherwell's built and natural environment.
- The need to ensure the full and timely provision of housing including affordable housing.
- The need to promote prosperity and a sustainable economy.

4.25 Senior Planning Officers have also attended two meetings with the Oxfordshire LSP.

Parish Meetings

4.26 The Cherwell District Council Planning Policy team held a series of LDF workshops in 2007 / 2008 and met with Parishes on an individual basis to discuss issues for the Parish including in June 2008 and during 2012.

4.27 Some Parish Council's provided information about services and facilities in response to questionnaires produced by the Planning Policy team. This information has informed Cherwell Local Plan Policies Villages 1, 2 and 3.

4.28 Cherwell District Council host Bi-Annual Parish Liaison Meetings where all Parish Councils are invited to hear the latest work being undertaken by the District Council and to ask any questions. The Local Plan has featured regularly at these meetings, as recently as 13th June 2012 and 12th June 2013.

Key Stakeholder Events and Meetings

4.29 A number of formal one to one meetings with key stakeholders and prescribed bodies have been undertaken in the preparation of the Cherwell Local Development Framework. These meetings are listed separately from the strategic engagement and joint commissions set out in section 3 above.

These include:

Date	Key Stakeholder
15th March 2007	Environment Agency
3rd April 2007	Natural England
16th May 2007	Cotswold Conservation Group
17th May 2007	Sustainability Appraisal Stakeholder Event with key Stakeholders only such as EA, English Nature etc
21st June 2007	Highways Agency
27th June 2008	Cherwell District Council and RSL"s
5th July 2007	SEEDA
17th July 2007	Thames Valley Police (Strategy)
19th July 2007	English Partnerships
24th July 2007	Oxfordshire County Council (Education)
26th July 2007	Oxfordshire Economic Partnership

13th August 2007	Fire and Rescue Meeting – Attended by Oxfordshire County Council, West Oxfordshire District. Thames Valley Police and the Fire and Rescue Team
4th September 2007	Directions of Growth Workshop – Cherwell District Council, Oxfordshire County Council and Town and Parish Councils.
13th September 2007	2 Adams Hendry Directions of Growth Workshops (1 afternoon and one evening) – afternoon had 58 attendees plus Cherwell District Council and Adams Hendry staff; evening had 12 attendees plus CDC and Adams Hendry staff. Consisted of key stakeholders including industry, local organisations, Parishes, statutory orgs and national orgs.
1st October 2007	Thames Valley Police (Secure by Design)
2nd October 2007	Local Councils and Environment Agency - Planning and Conservation Target Areas
7th October 2007	Design and Heritage Workshop - Thirty stakeholders with expertise in design and conservation fields were invited with 12 attending
25th Feb 2008	English Partnerships
21st August 2008	Thames Water
3rd December 2008	Thames Valley Police
17th February 2009	Environment Agency
18th August 2009	Environment Agency & HCA
21st September 2009	Environment Agency
8th December 2009	British Waterways
17th December 2009	Environment Agency
16th March 2010	Environment Agency
19th May 2010	Defence Estates
25th May 2010	Natural England & Atkins (HRA)
27th January 2011	Natural England & Atkins (HRA)
17th & 18th November 2011	Oxfordshire County Council
13th December 2011	Oxfordshire County Council
13th December 2011	RSL Developer Group
3 rd July 2012	Bicester Vision
12th October 2012	Oxfordshire County Council
7 th November 2012	Environment Agency
6th February 2013	Environment Agency

4.30 As Section 3 of this paper notes there are a substantial range of other partnership meetings between Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council, District Councils within Oxfordshire, neighbouring Council's and with other stakeholders on matters relating to the context of the Local Plan, specific infrastructure and other policy matters.

Co-operation with Stakeholders and Prescribed Bodies

4.31 Issues identified from representations with the bodies set out in the Local Plan regulations are included in Appendix 5 Section 2 of the Statement of Consultation (Oct 2013). How these issues have been addressed are included in Section 3 of the Statement of Consultation.

5. Future Joint Working and Collaboration

- 5.1 Cherwell District Council is committed to working through the 'Duty to Cooperate' with its neighbouring Councils and key stakeholders.
- 5.2 As Sections 3 and 4 of this paper illustrate existing engagement is extensive on both strategic planning and local assessments.
- 5.3 Of particular note are the mechanisms established to structure the forward dialogue with neighbours which include:
- Section 3.1 – 3.10 Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Partnership (SPIP) for Oxfordshire, which meets on a regular cycle of meetings and is co-ordinating a County SHMA and the consideration of how to address unmet need.
 - Section 3.29 – 3.36 West Northants Joint Planning Unit which has convened a Duty to Cooperate Forum with neighbouring Councils, which will meet on an ad-hoc basis.
 - Section 3.34 – 3.36 Buckinghamshire Duty to Cooperate Forum which will meet on an ad-hoc basis.

Appendix 1 – Maps

Figure 1 – Map of Neighbouring Authorities to Cherwell District Council

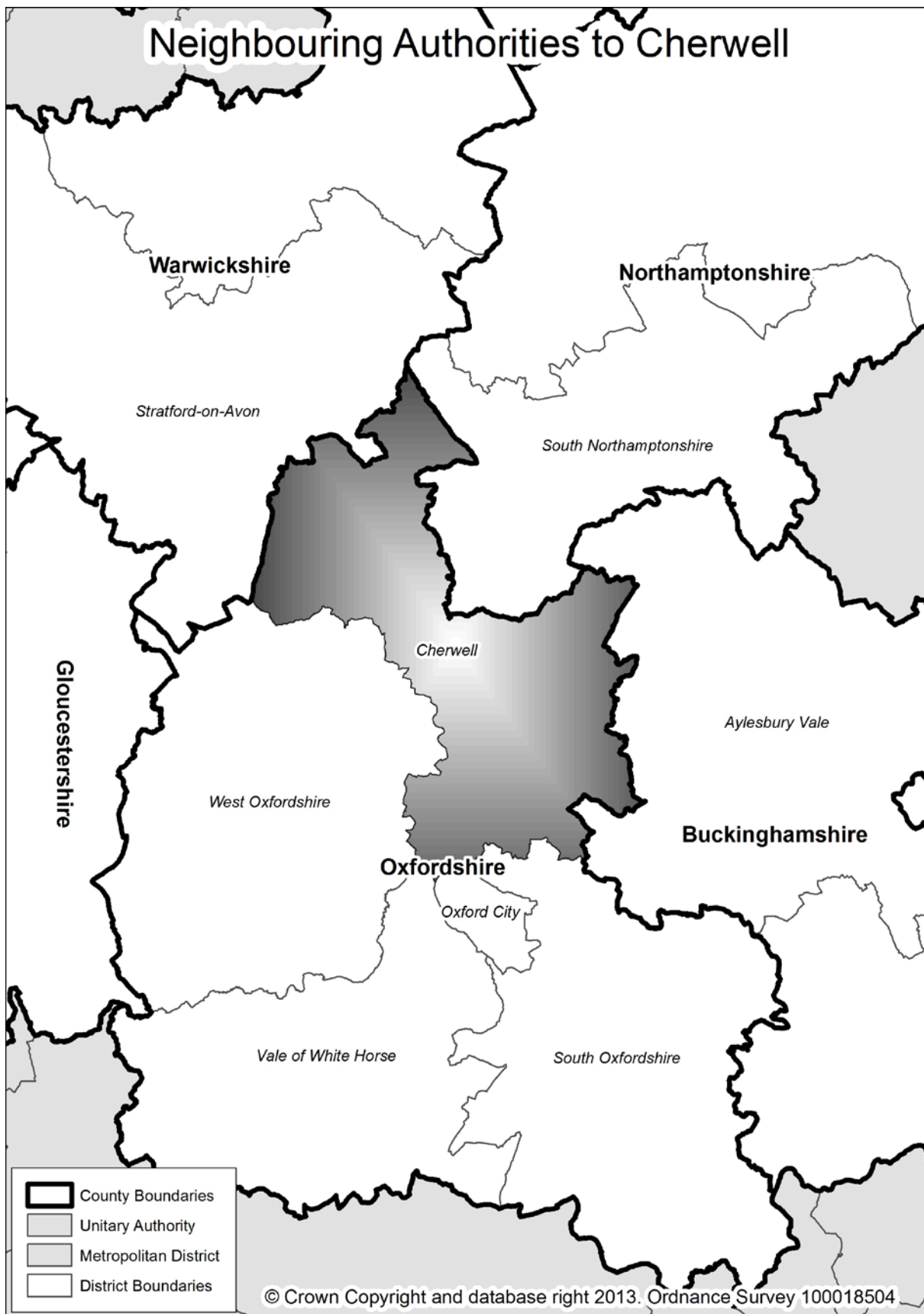


Figure 2 – Map of Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OLEP)



Figure 3 – Map of South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (OLEP)

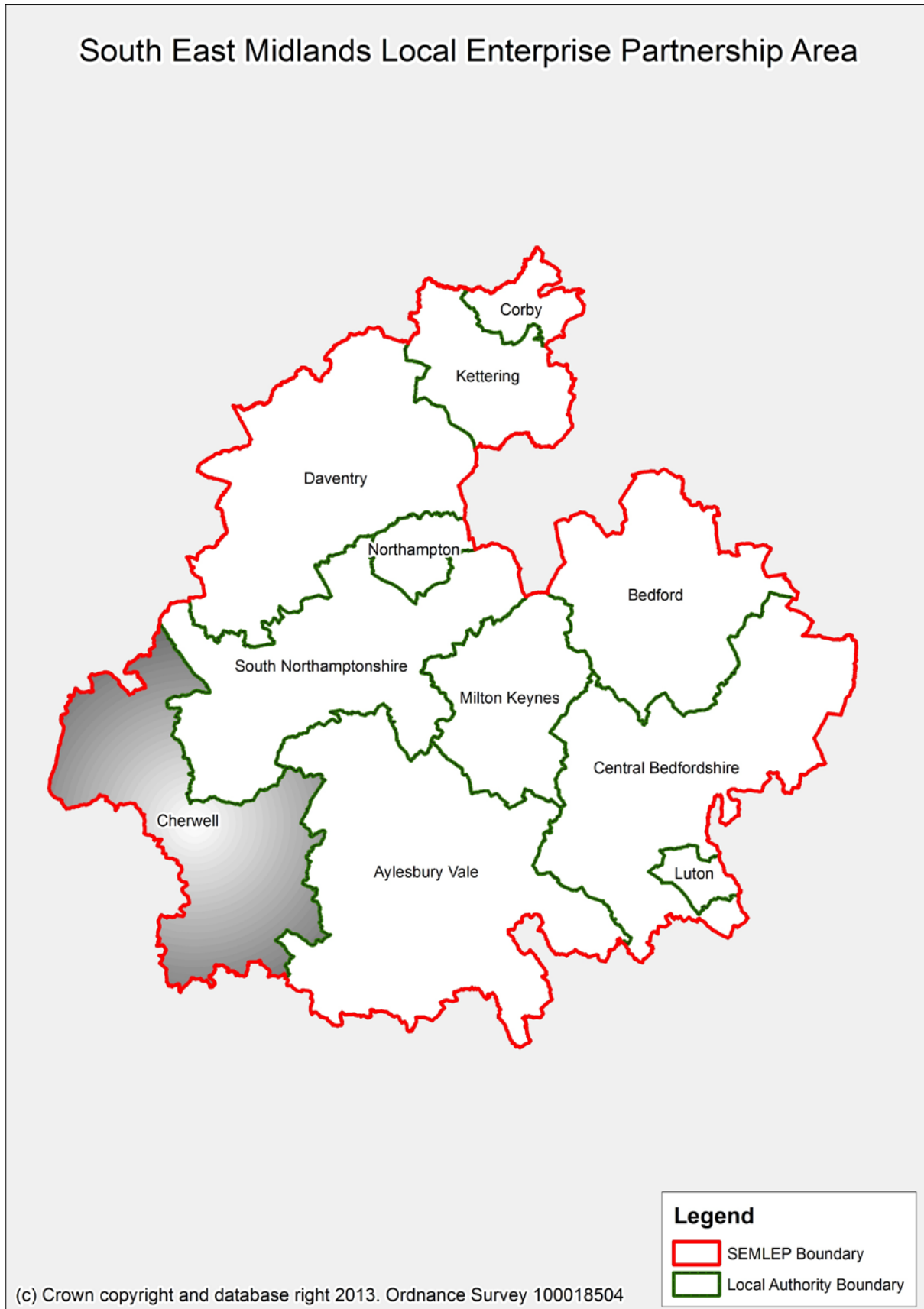
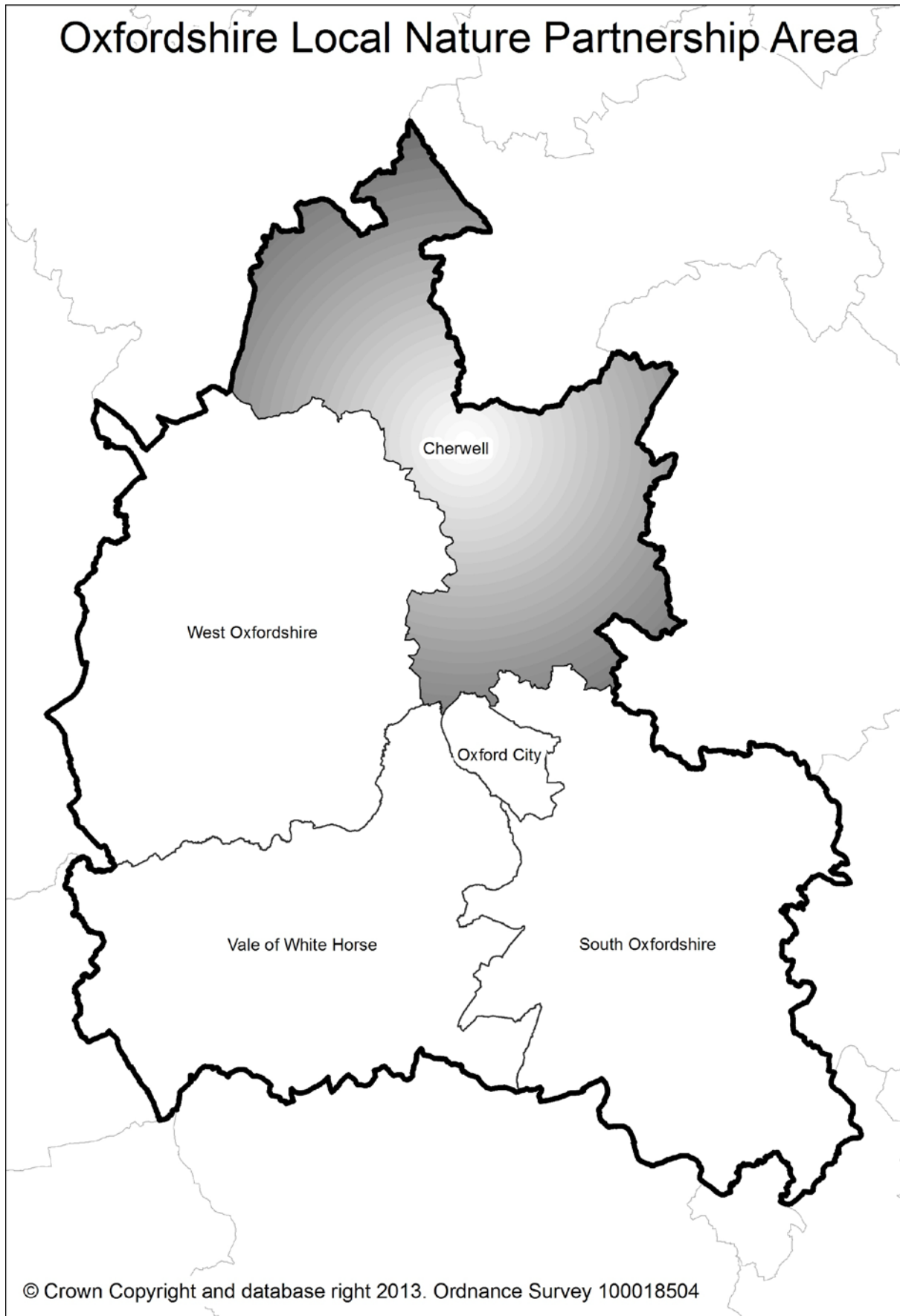


Figure 4 – Map of Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership



Appendix 2 - The East – West Rail Scheme

The complete East West Rail scheme comprises a strategic rail route that will link Ipswich, Norwich and Cambridge, with Letchworth, Bedford, Milton Keynes, Bicester and Oxford, allowing connections to Swindon, the Thames Valley, South West England and South Wales, together with a spur to Aylesbury.

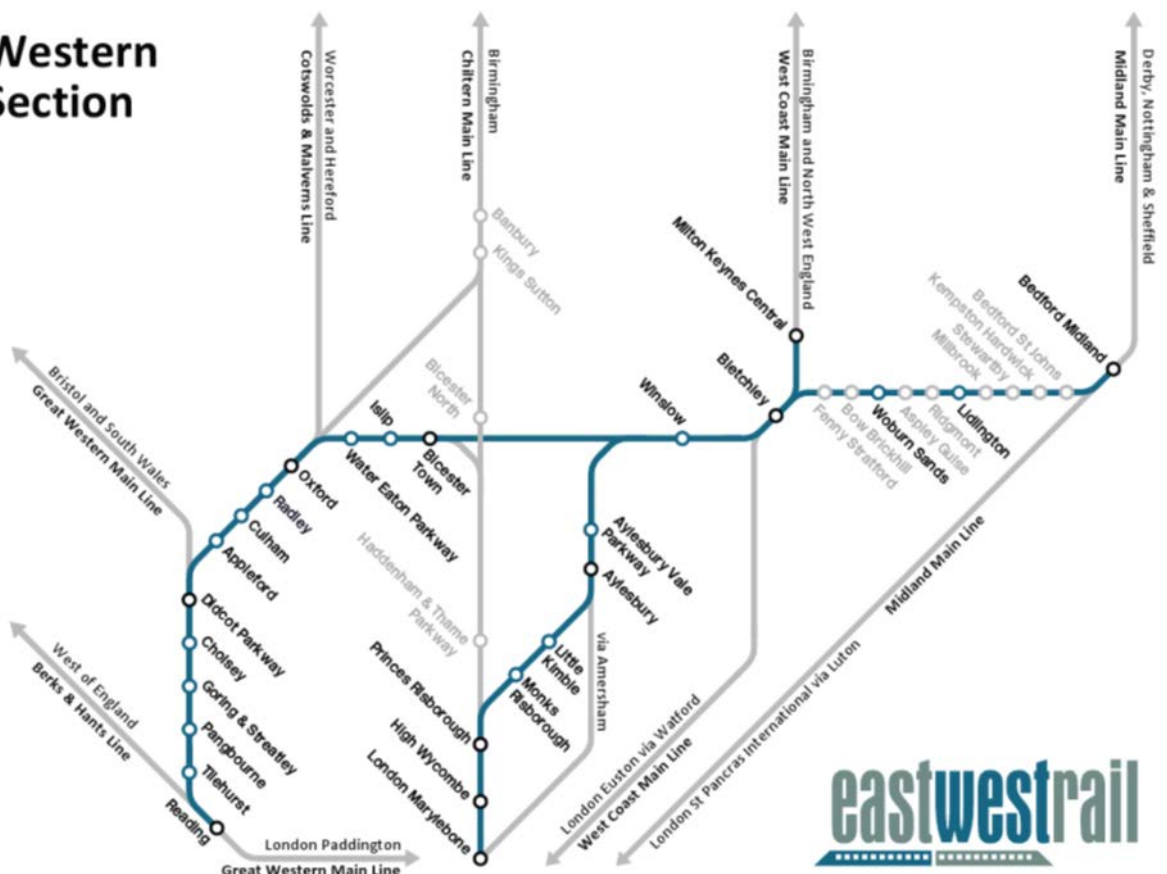
The route will connect the ports of Felixstowe and Harwich with the Great Eastern, East Coast, Midland, West Coast and Great Western main lines without the need to travel on congested tracks around North London. It also provides an extra route for north-south intermodal traffic from the port of Southampton.

The route links the strategic growth areas along the M11 corridor, Milton Keynes, Aylesbury and Bedford, as well as Oxford, and provides a connection across the important Oxford 2 Cambridge “high tech arc”.

The whole concept of East West Rail has some parallels with the M25, in that it provides an orbital route around London which both passenger and freight services will use for short, medium and long distances.

The Western section runs along existing lines to Oxford, and then over the existing Bicester Town branch line. The Bicester Town line is set to be significantly upgraded as part of Chiltern Railways Evergreen 3 project. This will help East West Rail but further upgrade of the line to double track throughout will still be required. Beyond Bicester, East West Rail will use a currently freight-only line to Claydon which will need to be upgraded. The same line continues to Bletchley but this section has been out of use since the mid-1990s and will need to be rebuilt. At Bletchley, East West Rail will then follow the existing Marston Vale Line to Bedford. Bletchley is on the West Coast Main Line, allowing East West Rail trains to also run to Milton Keynes.

Western Section



The Western section also covers proposals for trains running from London Marylebone to Milton Keynes via High Wycombe and Aylesbury. This part of the route will use existing Chiltern lines to Aylesbury Vale Parkway, then a currently freight-only line which joins the route described above at Claydon.

East West Rail will connect with all of the country's inter-city main lines, reducing the need to travel across London for many journeys and providing significant overall journey time savings.

For example, a train journey from Oxford to Luton today will involve travelling from Oxford to London, then across London to St Pancras for another train to Luton. East West Rail will remove the need to travel to London as the journey will be quicker by using East West Rail to Bedford for trains to Luton. This will be a simpler and more attractive journey.

Improved Connections

- Chiltern Main Line - EWR connects with Chiltern main line at Oxford, Bicester and Princess Risborough, enabling a wide choice of onward destinations such as Birmingham and Banbury.
- Great Western Main Line - Connections from EWR will be made from Didcot Parkway for onward destinations towards Bristol and South Wales, with Reading providing connections to the West Country and the South Coast.
- West Coast Main Line - EWR will connect at Milton Keynes Central for services to Birmingham, North West England, and Scotland.

East West Rail enjoys strong local support from business and local authorities.

Local Enterprise Partnerships covering Oxfordshire and South East Midlands respectively, together with Buckinghamshire Business First are among many who recognise and welcome the important support East West Rail could give to economic growth.

The Local Transport Plan (LTP), of western section local authorities including – Buckinghamshire County Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedford Borough Council and Milton Keynes Council – all feature East West Rail as a priority transport infrastructure scheme to help deliver their local transport and planning objectives.

Members

- Aylesbury Vale District Council
- Bedford Borough Council
- Buckinghamshire County Council
- Cambridge City Council
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Central Bedfordshire Council
- Cherwell District Council
- Forest Heath District Council
- Ipswich Borough Council
- Luton Borough Council
- Mid-Suffolk District Council
- Milton Keynes Council
- Norfolk County Council
- Norwich City Council
- Oxford City Council

- Oxfordshire County Council
- St. Edmundsbury District Council
- South Norfolk District Council
- Suffolk Coastal District Council
- Suffolk County Council
- Swindon Borough Council
- Vale of White Horse District Council
- Network Rail
- Port of Felixstowe (Hutchison Ports)
- Great Yarmouth Port Authority
- Aylesbury Vale Advantage

On 16th July 2012 the Secretary of State for Transport, the Rt. Hon Justine Greening MP, announced that the Western section of East West Rail (EWR) will be part of the government's strategy for rail transport, confirming not only funding for the project but also for electrification of the Oxford to Bedford part of the route. EWR will provide an electric link between the electrified Great Western, West Coast and Midland main lines. This further investment in the project upgrades it to form a key part of the new 'Electric Spine' passenger and freight route between the South Coast, the East Midlands and Yorkshire.

EWR is a major project to promote economic growth by establishing a strategic railway that will ultimately connect East Anglia with Central, Southern and Western England. It will be England's first major railway re-opening with much of the route existing as freight network or disused lines. The Western Section will link Aylesbury, Oxford and Reading with Bedford and Milton Keynes. The route is planned to be open by 2017.

The project will feature in the Department for Transport's High Level Output Specification (HLOS) for Control Period 5. This document sets out the rail transport projects that the government will support.

In providing direct links between growth areas, East West Rail will allow for more sustained economic development for these communities, creating up to 12,000 jobs and increasing opportunities for businesses to invest.

The announcement followed the decision by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his November 2011 Autumn Statement that EWR funding of £270 million would be made available providing that the promoter of the scheme, the EWR Consortium, met two conditions. A strong business case for the route was required, and the case developed by the promoter along with the DfT and Network Rail was accepted as robust. The second condition was for a commitment by local authorities along the route to contribute to the cost; a 'commitment in principle' to contribute £50 million over a period of 15 to 20 years from 2014 onwards has been agreed by the western section members of the Consortium.

The Board of SEMLEP have committed £1m of its Growing Places Fund resources to enable this project to progress to 2014/15 when construction will now start. Improving east west links across the SEMLEP area is vital to enable growth in jobs and homes.

The Consortium is now working with Department for Transport and Network Rail to implement the necessary development work to ensure the target re-opening of the western section of the east west line is met by 2017.

Appendix 3 – The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is responsible for championing and developing the Oxfordshire economy. Working with businesses, academia and the public sector we are driving economic development across the county.

Its overarching aim is to be the catalyst for realising Oxfordshire's economic and commercial potential.

A partnership for growth

The Partnership is business led. The private sector chairs the Executive Board and form the majority of the board membership. Senior academic figures are also at the heart of our work. Local authority members are responsible for helping to stimulate growth and protecting the environment. The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership was formally launched by the Business Minister, Mark Prisk MP, in March 2011.

Key programmes

The Partnership supports and champions key programmes that are helping to further realise the economic dynamism of Oxfordshire:

- Getting the county connected to fast broadband access and improve mobile phone coverage
- Improving the skills of Oxfordshire's workforce and those people about to enter the workforce
- Increasing inward investment in Oxfordshire
- Developing the business support services for Oxfordshire's businesses
- Enabling improved access to finance
- Improving infrastructure for growth and jobs

Focus for growth

The Enterprise Partnership believes Oxfordshire is a great place to do business. In addition, we believe that Bicester, Oxford and Science Vale UK are great hubs for significant commercial opportunities for world class businesses:

- Bicester
- Oxford
- Science Vale UK

Economic development across Oxfordshire

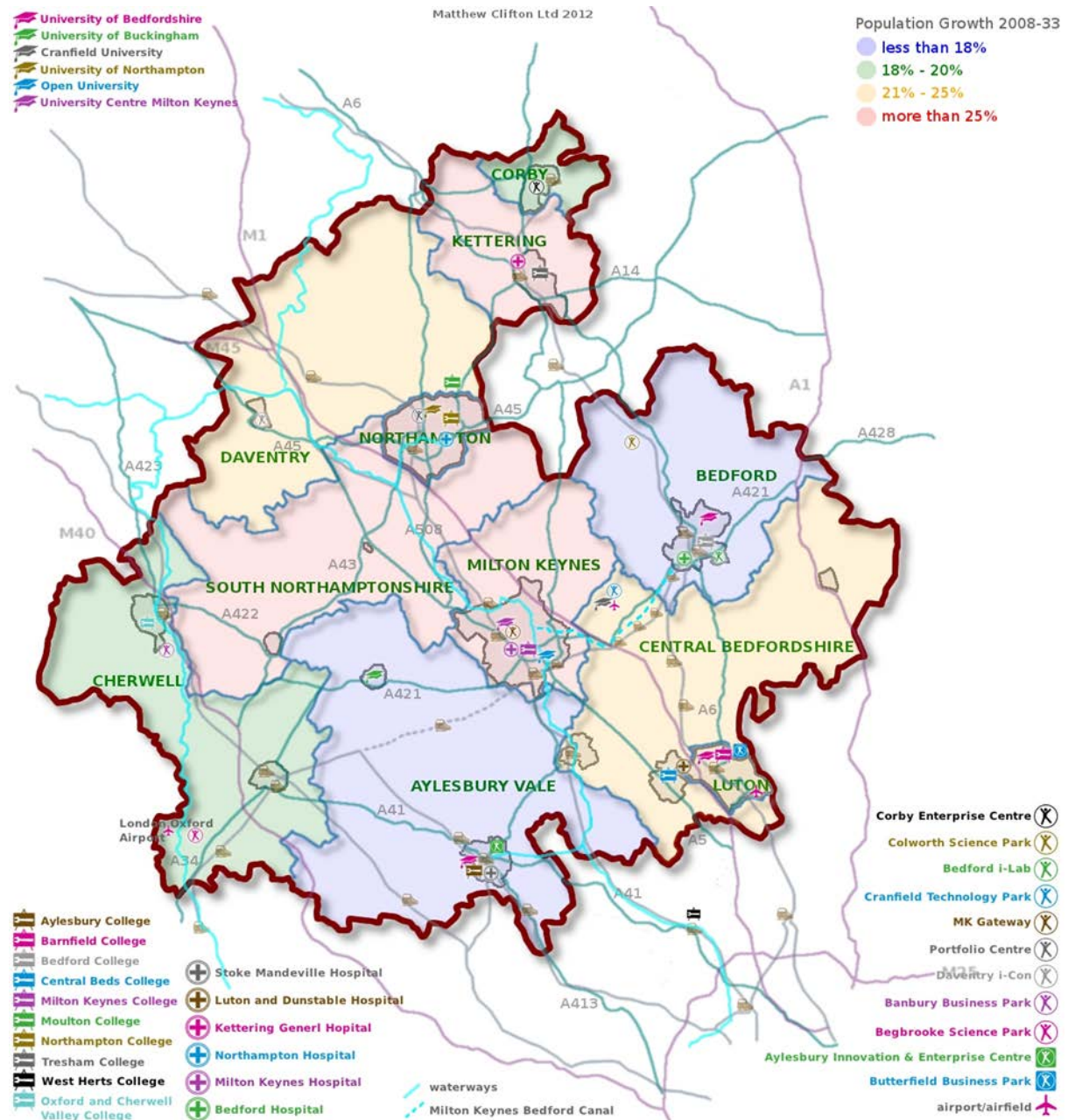
The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership is a light-touch body that complements existing organisations and projects, rather than replacing them. There are many economic development activities that relate our work, but which are not delivered by us. These include:

- tourism
- rural issues
- market towns
- creative and cultural industries
- military liaison
- voluntary, community and faith organisation support
- retail (including Oxford City Centre Management, the West End Partnership, Oxfordshire Town Chambers Network and others)

Appendix 4 – The South East Midland Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP)

The South East Midland Local Enterprise Partnership is one of 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) in England set up under the Coalition Government to play a central role in determining local economic priorities and to undertake activities that drive economic growth and the creation of local jobs.

Following a start-up phase in 2010-11, SEMLEP was established in May 2011 as an economic development partnership and a company limited by guarantee, operated jointly by private and public sector representatives in the area, to promote the South East Midlands as a prime growth location for business, investors and visitors.



Member Authorities include:

- Aylesbury Vale District Council
- Bedford Borough Council
- Central Bedfordshire Council

- Cherwell District Council
- Corby Borough Council
- Daventry District Council
- Kettering Borough Council
- Luton Borough Council
- Milton Keynes Council
- Northampton Borough Council
- South Northamptonshire District Council

Fields of enquiry currently centre on:

- exploring innovative ways of funding localism by looking at appropriate ways to pool the range of funding streams now available across the LEP area e.g. Community Infrastructure Levy, New Homes Bonus, retained Business Rates and Tax Increment Financing
- investigating appropriate policy opportunities to take forward SEMLEP's growth towns by researching ways in which SEMLEP can derive benefit from any new government initiatives such as city deals and the growth cities network
- developing examples of good procurement practice that enable social enterprises and small and medium sized businesses to provide goods and services to the public sector
- researching a local skills outcome funding methodology that will enable funding to be more effectively targeted towards the needs of local employers and businesses particularly as identified in our Enterprise Zone Implementation Plan and in our six showcase sectors
- taking a lead on devising an effective way for SEMLEP, together with other LEPs, to acquire devolved responsibility for funding major transport projects. This will be the opportunity for SEMLEP to put into practice our aspirations to work collaboratively with surrounding LEPs in Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Greater Cambridgeshire and Greater Peterborough to deliver strategic infrastructure projects that will help the wider area to flourish.

SEMLEP's Achievements 2011/2012

- SEMLEP was established as a company in May 2011 and the Chair and Board (consisting of 6 public and 6 private sector directors, a representative of the Higher and Further Education sectors and an observer from the Voluntary and Community sector) were in place by November 2011.
- Following extensive consultation with over 1,000 stakeholders, the Business Plan for 2012-13 'Getting down to Business' was launched in March at the Business Innovation and Growth(BIG) Conference attended by over 400 business and public sector partners. The Business Plan focuses on 6 key objectives with achievement measured against quantifiable delivery targets.
- SEMLEP's resources for the financial year 2011/12 came from local authority contributions and Government grants. This amounted to some £230k of which £54k was used for contracted administrative and executive support. This enabled the establishment of the website together with the office in the Cranfield Innovation Centre, support for Board meetings and advisory and sector groups.
- The Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone, designated in July 2011, is one of SEMLEP's key objectives. Good progress has been made throughout last year including:
 - Funding of £10m secured for the development of Castle Rail Station. It is expected that the new station will open in April 2014.
 - Development has started on a number of sites - the new Carlsberg bottling plant will bring £65m of private investment and deliver 60 new jobs in 2013.
 - An Innovation Centre to be constructed in the St Peter's area later in 2013 has secured £7.5m investment and will support around 55 small businesses

- New student accommodation for the University of Northampton will be completed on the St John's site by January 2014 providing 464 rooms.
- Two contractors have been appointed to undertake a skills assessment across the Enterprise Zone funded by £100k from the Skills Funding Agency.
- £18.7m of Growing Places Fund resources was made available by Government to SEMLEP in February 2012 to allocate to projects that will unlock development potential and deliver jobs.
- Following rigorous appraisal conducted by the private sector led Property Development, Investment and Infrastructure Delivery Group (PDIIDG), seven projects have been approved in principle: Marston Vale Innovation Park, Electric Corby, Kettering Green Energy Park, Silverstone 'Access to Jobs' and the continuation of the Bedford western bypass. These will deliver a combined total of around 12,800 jobs and 7,200 homes over the next 10 years. £7m has also been allocated to the Enterprise Zone and £1m to take forward the East West Rail project.
- In July the Government announced that the electrified east west rail route linking Oxford, Milton Keynes, Aylesbury and Bedford will be delivered by Network Rail at a cost of around £500m with local authorities committed to contributing £30m to £50m.
- Four transport projects within the SEMLEP area have received funding through the Government's Pinch Point initiative designed to remove bottlenecks on major roads and deliver economic benefits. These are the A43/A5 at Towcester, Junctions 9 and 10 on the M40 near Bicester and Black Cat roundabout on the A1.
- A single point of enquiry has been established for potential investors coming through UKTI and looking for locations in the SEMLEP area. In 2011/12 SEMLEP was 6th amongst LEPs in securing 29 projects with an associated 1,090 jobs. The Board heard in July that 29 enquiries had been received: 8 electronics and software, 9 from life sciences and healthcare, 7 from energy and environment, 4 from advanced engineering and 1 financial.
- Groups to support SEMLEP's showcase sectors have been established. For High Performance Technology (encompassing motorsport) the group includes neighbouring LEPs – Northamptonshire, Bucks Thames Valley, Coventry and Warwickshire, Black Country, Oxfordshire and Leicester and Leicestershire.
- PDIIDG, a private sector led advisory group to the Board, has provided valuable advice to the Board from a private sector perspective on financial planning for the Enterprise Zone and the operation of the Growing Places Fund on a revolving basis.
- The four unitary authorities in SEMLEP will shortly form a Local Transport Board, which will enable decisions on major transport schemes to be taken locally.
- In the second wave of potential 'City Deals', Milton Keynes has been invited to work with SEMLEP to put forward a bid to use innovative ways of delivering jobs and economic benefits for residents and businesses in Milton Keynes and the rest of the South East Midlands.
- SEMLEP has been chosen by Government as one of 4 'growth' LEPs nationally to pilot innovative ways of working with business and government to unlock local barriers to growth.