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Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review

Sustainability Appraisal Addendum – Proposed Changes to the Proposed Submission Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review

Non-Technical Summary

Prepared by LUC
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Non-Technical Summary

Introduction

- 1.1 Following consultation on a full Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report and non-technical summary published alongside the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review Proposed Submission document in June 2017, Cherwell District Council reviewed representations received during the consultation and updates to its evidence base before preparing a schedule of proposed changes to the Proposed Submission Local Plan.
- 1.2 This Non-technical summary relates to the SA Addendum. It records the implications of the consultation representations received on the Proposed Submission Local Plan, evidence base updates and proposed changes to the Proposed Submission Local Plan on the SA. The document sits alongside the SA Report and associated non-technical summary published in June 2017.

Consultation Update

- 1.3 SA-related representations received during the consultation on the Proposed Submission Local Plan Part 1 have been reviewed. **No updates to the SA Report were considered necessary following this consultation.**

Evidence Update

- 1.4 Since the publication of the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review Proposed Submission document in June 2017, the following additional evidence documents have been prepared:
 - Cherwell Water Cycle Study (November 2017).
 - Hydrological Study (for site PR8) (February 2018).
 - Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) (February 2018).
- 1.5 These new evidence bases inform the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review; however, **it is not considered that the information they contain materially affects the baseline of the SA.**

Effects of Proposed Changes to the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review Proposed Submission Document

- 1.6 LUC have reviewed changes to the previously appraised elements of Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review Proposed Submission document to consider their effects, individually and as part of the Local Plan as a whole, if adopted.
- 1.7 Whilst many of the changes would contribute to existing scores, the likely effect or significance of effects would not change for the majority. Only one change is considered to result in any changes to the effects reported in the full SA Report (June 2017). Policy PR6c reserves 'Land at Frieze Farm' for the potential construction of a golf course should the development of the 'Land West of Oxford Road' allocated under Policy PR6b go ahead. The proposed change to Policy PR6c includes significantly more detail on what should be included in the Development Brief for the site and subsequent planning application, including the site layout, vehicular access, public transport, cycling and pedestrian connectivity, public rights of way, green infrastructure, landscape and historic environment design measures, ecological mitigation and enhancement measures and associated transport and flood risk assessments.

- 1.8 These changes are expected to lead to **minor positive** effects for SA objective 10 (Reducing Road Pollution and Congestion), as the additional detail promotes sustainable modes of transport to and from the site. The changes are likely to contribute to the positive effects recorded against SA objective 7 (Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity) and would **remove the uncertainty** associated with the positive effects recorded in the original appraisal of Policy PR6c. Similarly the proposed changes would further contribute to the positive effect recorded against SA objective 12 (Flood Risk). However, there would be no change in the significance of this effect. The **negative score against SA objective 9 would be removed** as the proposed additional detail included in Policy PR6c would contribute to ensuring that adverse effects on the historic environment are avoided, minimised and/or mitigated. However, the uncertainty for SA objective 9 recorded in the original appraisal of Policy PR6c is retained as effects on the setting depend on the detailed design, landscaping and layout of the site. The requirement for a landscaping scheme would further contribute to the minor positive effect identified against SA objective 8. However, there would be no change in the significance of this effect.

In-combination effects of the proposed changes to the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review Proposed Submission document

- 1.9 The proposed changes would have **minor positive** effects on SA objective 7 (Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity) as many of the policies would emphasise the need for the protection of notable species, as appropriate.
- 1.10 The proposed changes would have **minor positive** effects on SA objective 9 (Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment), as many policies have been strengthened to require that any mitigation recommendations from Heritage Impact Assessments and archaeological investigations be included in the proposed development scheme. This will bring more certainty that appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures will be implemented.
- 1.11 As such, **the proposed changes would contribute positively to, but not change, the overall cumulative effects of the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review as recorded in the June 2017 SA Report.**

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 1.12 The June 2017 HRA concluded that there would be 'no likely significant effects' on any Natura 2000 Sites as a result of the proposals within the Plan.
- 1.13 The Council has produced an HRA Addendum which considers the focused changes and minor modifications proposed to the Partial review to assess whether the findings of the HRA are still pertinent. Following a review of the February 2018 amendments to the Plan, it is concluded that the HRA and its conclusions still apply.
- 1.14 Natural England has requested that consideration be given to the in combination outputs of Cherwell's HRA and Vale of White Horse District Council's HRA of its emerging Local Plan Part 2. Discussion between the two Councils and Natural England was ongoing at the time of writing this Addendum.