

Foreword

This is the Local Plan for Cherwell District. A plan with a clear purpose.

This is a plan which looks to the future and sets out our proposals to support the local economy and our communities over the next few decades.

This is also an exciting and ambitious plan to help maintain our high standard of living whilst at the same time promoting Cherwell District as a place to work and live.

It is a plan with ambition and aspiration. From helping local companies to expand, supporting new education and jobs investment, and pursuing high technology innovation and investment; to creating dynamic town centres, promoting tourism and seeking improved connections on rail and road. It is a plan born in recession, but which makes provision for a successful prosperous future.

It is a plan that also seeks to provide opportunities in those few areas of social disadvantage that exist in the District; one that sets out to improve the quality of life for all.

It is a plan which seeks to ensure that growth is targeted in the most sustainable locations. Our strategy is to focus housing growth on Bicester and Banbury, to maximise the investment opportunities in our towns, and to ensure that the level of development at our villages respects the character and beauty of our rural areas while meeting local needs.

This is a plan which recognises the need for limits to housing growth while enabling growth in locations where integration with existing communities is possible.

We will ensure that what we approve for development, whether commercial premises or housing, is of the highest design and building standards.

This is a plan which demonstrates a respect for the past and which seeks to preserve and enhance what makes Cherwell District special; our dynamic market towns, the 60 Conservation Areas, our beautiful villages and wonderful landscape.

This is a balanced plan, a plan which provides a firm foundation for our future prosperity.

Councillor Barry Wood
Leader of the Council