

Cherwell District Council

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

14 July 2021

The Oxfordshire Plan Regulation 18 Part 2 Consultation Document

Report of Assistant Director – Planning and Development

This report is public.

Purpose of report

To present a draft Executive report recommending the approval of the Oxfordshire Plan consultation document which sets out a range of planning policy options and a series of spatial strategy options for Oxfordshire.

When complete the Oxfordshire Plan will provide a high-level spatial planning framework for Oxfordshire up to 2050 and will be a statutory Local Plan. The Plan aims to be transformational and occupies new policy areas, such as on climate change, environmental betterment, health impacts and zero carbon transport. It has now reached the Regulation 18 part 2 stage.

1.0 Recommendations

1. To consider the draft Executive report and the Regulation 18 (Part 2) consultation document for public consultation as attached.
2. That any observations agreed by the Committee be reported to the Executive.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 (OP2050) is being jointly produced by the five local planning authorities in Oxfordshire, working in close partnership with Oxfordshire County Council. A central officer team is preparing the Plan. The city and district councils must formally approve each key stage of preparation.
- 2.2 The first major consultation on the Plan took place in February and March 2019 (Regulation 18 Part 1).
- 2.3 A second 'Regulation 18' consultation is now proposed and the consultation paper and supporting documents will be presented to a special meeting of the Executive on 19 July 2021.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 The draft report for the Executive at Annex A provides the background, details and proposed officer recommendations. It is understood that, essentially, the same report is being used by each Oxfordshire Local Planning Authority.
- 3.2 Any observations of the Committee will be reported to the Executive for its consideration.
- 3.3 Some minor changes to the draft report to Executive may be required by officers before the agenda for Executive is published.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The Oxfordshire Plan is a joint Local Plan being prepared by the five Oxfordshire Local Planning Authorities in partnership with the County Council. It will provide a high-level spatial planning framework for Oxfordshire up to 2050. The Plan aims to be transformational and occupies new policy areas, such as on climate change, environmental betterment, health impacts and zero carbon transport. It has now reached the Regulation 18 part 2 stage and the draft recommendations to Executive are to enable a public consultation to take place that will inform the next stage of plan-making.

5.0 Consultation

- 5.1 Councillor Colin Clarke - Lead Member for Planning.

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 6.1 Following discussion at the Oxfordshire Growth Board, it was requested that the proposed consultation document be presented to each Council's respective scrutiny committee for consideration. There are no alternative options.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 The preparation of the Oxfordshire Plan by the central plan team is being funded through the Oxfordshire Housing & Growth Deal contract with the Government. Oxfordshire County Council is the accountable body. This Council's contributions are resourced through existing service budgets.

Comments checked by:

Karen Dickson, Strategic Finance Business Partner

Tel. 01295 221900

Karen.Dickson@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk

Legal Implications

- 7.2 The consultation document has been prepared by the central plan team on behalf of the five Oxfordshire Local Planning Authorities. The Oxfordshire Plan is being prepared as a joint Local Plan under Section 28 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The proposed consultation would take place under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) for 'preparation of a local plan'. Notification and consultation requirements include the invitation of representations which must then be taken into account in preparing the Local Plan. Failure to meet regulatory requirements would place adoption of the plan at risk and invite legal challenge.

Comments checked by:
Matthew Barrett, Planning Solicitor
Tel. 01295 753798
matthew.barrett@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk

Risk Implications

- 7.3 Preparation of the Oxfordshire Plan is an agreed commitment under the terms of the Oxfordshire Housing & Growth Deal 2018. A timetable for completion of the Plan has been agreed by the Oxfordshire Growth Board with MHCLG which includes the proposed consultation. Failure to meet the programme could leave the Oxfordshire Councils in breach of the agreed terms.

Comments checked by:
Louise Tustian, Head of Insight and Corporate Programmes
01295 221786
louise.tustian@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Equality & Diversity Implications

- 7.4 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been prepared to support the consultation which fully sets out any anticipated impact on residents, specifically those with protected characteristics, and clearly sets out any proposed mitigation if required. There is no equality or diversity impediment to proceeding to consultation, which actively supports an inclusive approach to the Oxfordshire Plan.

Comments checked by:
Emily Schofield, Acting Head of Strategy
07881 311707
Emily.Schofield@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

8.0 Decision Information

Key Decision: N/A as not an Executive report

Financial Threshold Met: No

Community Impact Threshold Met: Yes

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

Business Plan Priorities 2021-2022:

- Housing that meets your needs
- Leading on environmental sustainability
- An enterprising economy with strong and vibrant local centres
- Healthy, resilient and engaged communities

Lead Councillor

Councillor Colin Clarke - Lead Member for Planning

Document Information

Annex 1 – draft report to Executive

With:

Appendix 1 - the Regulation 18 (Part 2) Consultation Document
Appendix TBC - Statement of Community Involvement (to be confirmed)
Appendix 2 - Duty to Co-operate Statement
Appendix 3 - Statement of Common Ground
Appendix 4 - Equalities Statement
Appendix 5 - Sustainability Appraisal
Appendix 6 - Habitats Regulations Assessment (in multiple parts)
Appendix 7 - Oxfordshire Housing Growth Needs Assessment (in multiple parts)

Background Evidence available at: <https://oxfordshireplan.org/>

Report Author and contact details

David Peckford, Assistant Director – Planning & Development
david.peckford@cherwell-dc.gov.uk