

Cherwell District Council

Scrutiny Committee

22 November 2022

Draft Cherwell Local Plan 2040 (Regulation 18) Consultation

Report of Assistant Director for Planning and Development

The Appendix to this report is exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the emerging draft Cherwell Local Plan 2040 for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider ahead of the emerging plan being considered by Executive on 5 December 2022.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is invited:

- 1.1 To consider exempt Appendix 1 to this report (to follow) and provide any comments to officers, in confidence, who will consider those comments in finalising the draft Plan and in advising the Executive.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The Council is reviewing its Local Plan. The current Local Plan comprises the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (adopted in 2015), the Cherwell Local Plan Partial Review - Oxford's Unmet Housing Needs (2020), together with the remaining 'saved' policies from the 1996 Local Plan.
- 2.2 A new district wide Local Plan is being prepared to meet development needs for employment, housing, leisure, community facilities and infrastructure and to provide a strategy for sustainable development. The Local Plan review provides the opportunity to develop newer planning policies for:
 - i. responding to climate change and the Council's climate emergency declaration;
 - ii. placing healthy placing shaping at the centre of the Plan;
 - iii. achieving net increases in biodiversity;
 - iv. the future of our urban centres and rural areas;
 - v. responding to new Government policy and guidance including on design.

2.3 Community involvement consultations were undertaken in 2020 and 2021. A draft Plan is now emerging with the objective of public consultation commencing in December 2022.

3.0 Report Details

3.1 The draft Plan is being finalised but is not yet complete. There is a need to engage with the Overview and Scrutiny to provide an opportunity to 'check and challenge' the direction of travel and to ensure that its views are taken into account when the Plan is presented to the Executive (scheduled for 5 December 2022).

3.2 A confidential report and working draft of the Plan is appended to this covering report (to follow). Officers will briefly introduce the Plan at the meeting and invite questions.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 Officers would welcome the views of the Committee in finalising a draft Local Plan for presentation to the Executive.

5.0 Consultation

5.1 The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development has been briefed.

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

6.1 The Committee could decline to enter into private session if it so wished. However, it would not be possible to discuss the emerging Plan in public.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

7.1 The Local Plan programme is funded from the Planning Policy budget and Local Plan Reserve. There are no wider implications at this stage.

Comments checked by:

Michael Furness, Assistant Director of Finance (S.151 Officer), Tel: 01295 221845, michael.furness@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Legal Implications

7.2 Local Plan preparation is a statutory process culminating in public examination. The draft Plan is not complete and, for reason of the cited exemption, it must at this stage be considered in private.

Comments checked by:

Shiraz Sheikh, Monitoring Officer and Assistant Director for Law and Governance,
Tel: 01295 221651, shiraz.sheikh@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Risk Implications

- 7.3 Check and challenge by the Committee in private session would assist in ensuring that the Plan is robust. Not doing so would mean less opportunity to 'test' perspectives. Risks related to the local plan are managed through service operational risk management and the leadership risk register (L03 Local Plan).

Comments checked by:

Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader, Tel: 01295 221556
Celia.prado-teeling@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Equalities and Inclusion Implications

- 7.4 No direct equalities and inclusion implications arising from this report. Consideration by the Committee provides an opportunity to seek clarification on equalities matters from officers. As per the Council's Equalities and Inclusion framework, consultation on the draft Plan will be supported by an Equalities Impact Assessment.

Comments checked by:

Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader, Tel: 01295 221556
Celia.prado-teeling@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Sustainability Implications

- 7.5 Preparation of the Plan is informed by the parallel preparation of a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). Officers can advise the committee on preparation of the SA in private session.

Comments checked by:

Ed Potter, Assistant Director Environmental Services, Tel. 0300 003 0105,
ed.potter@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

8.0 Decision Information

Key Decision: N/A

Financial Threshold Met: N/A

Community Impact Threshold Met: N/A

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

Business Plan Priorities 2022-2023:

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

Lead Councillor

Councillor Colin Clarke – Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development

Document Information

Appendix number and title

Appendix 1: Officer report on emerging Draft Cherwell Local Plan 2040 with emerging Plan.

Background papers

None

Report Author and contact details

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