

Position Statement on Emerging Technical Documents

31 October 2024

Heritage

Chris Blandford Associates have provided a heritage impact assessment to cover all of the proposed allocations within the Plan with the exception of the site at South East Woodstock. This report is to be published on 4 November 2024. Consultants LUC have provided a single heritage impact assessment for the South East Woodstock site. This report is to be published on 4 November 2024. English Heritage have been consulted upon the methodology and reports.

Employment

Following the examination into the Oxford City Local Plan 2040, where the Government appointed Inspectors expressed significant concerns in respect of the jointly commissioned Housing and Economic Needs Assessment, prepared by consultants Icen, Cherwell District Council has chosen to withdraw this report from its evidence base documents. Consultants, Lambert Smith Hamptons have been asked to produce an update to their 2021 Employment Needs Assessment to reflect the latest employment projections.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Consultants Wallingford Hydro Solutions have produced a Level 1 and Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. These reports are to be published on 4 November 2024. The Environment Agency have been consulted upon the methodology and reports. The Council will publish its Sequential and Exception Test report alongside the publication of the Plan.

Sustainability Appraisal

A full non-technical summary of the Sustainability Appraisal will accompany the Executive Report to address the key issues and reasonable alternatives. The full report will be published alongside the consultation.

Habitats Regulation Assessment

Consultants AECOM are preparing a Habitats Regulation Assessment to support the Regulation 19 Local Plan. The preliminary indication of the HRA is that the Cherwell Local Plan 2042 will not result in an adverse effect on the integrity of Oxford Meadows SAC.

A full final document will be available for Executive.

Gypsies & Travellers Assessment

Consultants Arc4 are preparing a Gypsy and Traveller, Travelling Showpeople and Boat Dweller Needs Assessment on behalf of all OXON authorities. The OXON authorities are at different stages in their Plans preparation and Arc 4 has prioritised the finalisation of the Cherwell needs assessment. The results of the assessment have been incorporated into the draft Regulation 19 text. The full report will be available for the Executive.

Health & Equalities Impact Assessment

Consultants, Savills, are preparing a comprehensive Health & Equalities Impact Assessment for the Regulation 19 Local Plan. A full final document will be available for Executive. Initial recommendations have been incorporated into the plan text.

Transport Modelling

Consultants Sweco are undertaking transport modelling on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council to inform the Regulation 19 Local Plan.

Transport measures included in the draft Regulation 19 text have been informed by Oxfordshire County Council. The full report will be available for the Executive.

Local Housing Needs Assessment (Affordable & Specialist Housing)

Following the examination into the Oxford City Local Plan 2040, where the Government appointed Inspectors expressed significant concerns in respect of the jointly commissioned Housing and Economic Needs Assessment, prepared by consultants Icen, Cherwell District Council has chosen to withdraw this report from its evidence base documents. Consultants, Justin Gardner Assoc are producing an updated housing needs assessment focussing specifically on the requirements for affordable and specialist housing. The results of the assessment have been incorporated into the draft Regulation 19 text. The full report will be available for the Executive.

Air Quality Assessment

AECOM consultants have been appointed to undertake the air quality modelling and to produce the Air Quality Assessment. The air quality modelling for the Oxford SAC and the CDC Air Quality Management Area 1 has been completed. The results of the work have been fed into the Local Plan. A draft report will be published alongside the Regulation 19 Plan. The full report will be ready for submission.

Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Schedule of Infrastructure and Infrastructure Funding Statement

LUC consultants have been appointed to produce the Infrastructure Delivery Plan incorporating an Infrastructure Schedule. They are also producing an annual Infrastructure Funding Statement. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan is a live document that is continually updated as and when information is received. During 2024 the Consultants have consulted and engaged with a wide variety of Infrastructure providers. The consultants are still waiting for responses from some organisations. Oxfordshire County Council have been proactively meeting and engaging in the production of the IDP. The outputs available have been incorporated into the draft Regulation 19 Plan.

Local Plan Viability Assessment

HEB consultants have been appointed by CDC to undertake the Local Plan Viability Assessment Modelling and to produce the Local Plan Viability Assessment for the Regulation 19 Local Plan. HEB are currently modelling the Local Plan Assumptions. The initial outputs have informed the draft Regulation 19 Plan including the affordable housing requirements. The final report will be available for the consultation.

Landscape Character Assessment

Consultants LUC have prepared an updated landscape assessment to replace the Cherwell District Landscape Assessment, 1995. The results of the assessment have been incorporated into the draft Regulation 19 text. The full report will be available for the Executive.

Local Landscape Designations

Consultants LUC have identified special landscapes within Cherwell that have 'above ordinary value'. The results of the assessment have been incorporated into the draft Regulation 19 text. The full report will be available for the Executive.

Green Gaps Study

Consultants LUC have assessed the role of land associated with Banbury Bicester and Heyford Park in maintaining settlement identity and avoiding coalescence between settlements. The results of the assessment have been incorporated into the draft Regulation 19 text. The full report will be available for the Executive.

Draft Policy COM 13 lists the proposed strategic gaps. The LUC study in full and Local Plan Appendix 10 with the strategic gaps and their characteristics and guidance will be available for Executive.

Site Specific Landscape Assessments

Consultants LUC have assessed the landscape sensitivity of sites to inform the preparation of the Regulation 19 Local Plan. The results of the assessment have been incorporated into the draft Regulation 19 text. The full report will be available for the Executive.