

Appendix 8

Draft Local Plan 2040 (Regulation 18) Consultation

Comments from Overview and Scrutiny Committee 16 August 2023

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the draft plan at an extraordinary meeting on 16 August, and resolved to make the following comment to Executive:

That in line with the carried motion at February 2023 full Council meeting on housing affordability mix, the Local Plan be stronger in terms of the desirability of having more affordable housing in the allocated sites; and delegate to the Chairman to report detailed comments made by Committee to the Executive on the 4 September 2023.

The detailed comments and observations made by the members of the Committee were as follows:

Theme 1 – Climate Change and sustainability

1. Acronyms – not all appear to have been explained in full the first time they are used
2. Clarity requested on offsite offsetting for biodiversity, and the 30 year contribution to carbon offsetting fund
3. Appropriateness of solar farms to be considered
4. Consideration should be given to facilities to retain water, 'grey water storage'
5. During recent heavy rainfall and subsequent runoff there was an instance of large numbers of fish in the canal at Banbury dying due to deoxygenation. The possibility of this happening in future needs to be reduced.
6. Need to ensure the level of light pollution is reduced
7. Need to ensure the impact on air quality is kept to a minimum
8. Core policy 21 – sustainability transport and connectivity - issues for rural areas due to lack of public transport options
9. Housing density – if areas previously allocated as green belt land are removed and development is allowed, density of development in those areas should be increased.

Theme 2 – Maintaining and developing a sustainable local economy

10. Mixture of closed and open questions throughout the document, if open questions were used throughout this would encourage more detailed responses

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Theme 3 – Building healthy and sustainable communities

- 11. Maximising Affordable Housing, as detailed in the formal resolution
- 12. A question has been asked on the HENA

Banbury Area Strategy

- 13. Stronger wording throughout – use of ‘could’, ‘should’ needs to be removed or minimised
- 14. Preference for settlement gaps being protected e.g. Bodicote and Banbury where there is no longer a gap.

Bicester Area Strategy

- 15. J9 needs addressing by Highways England before any employment development starts

Kidlington Area Strategy

- 16. Yarnton, Begbroke, Gosford & Water Eaton – all are individual parishes and communities that need recognising. Some parts of the strategy seem to suggest they are all part of Kidlington

Heyford Area Strategy

- 17. No comments

Rural Area Strategy

- 18. Para 8.7 refers to sites but no specifics given, residents may want additional information to assist, when will details emerge?
- 19. Larger villages to take brunt of 500 additional dwellings, facilities in those villages are already at capacity and further work is needed. Being designated a large village doesn't mean ready to take additional houses immediately
- 20. Clarity that 500 additional houses in rural areas is a total over the next 17 years to 2040, not 500 each year

General comments

- 21. Plan is for the period to 2040, but mentions from 2020? Why does it not start from 2023?
- 22. Spelling of Stratfield Brake needs checking throughout