

CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, 21 September 2021
Title: Oxfordshire Plan 2050
Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk – Adam Clapton

Background

As part of the Housing & Growth Deal secured by the Oxfordshire Growth Board, the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 is a strategic planning document which will sit alongside adopted Local Plans and Neighbourhood Development Plans for all the District Councils in Oxfordshire. It will also provide a framework for new/updated Local Plans and Neighbourhood Development Plans.

It will be used to help make decisions on planning applications and, set out how much new development there will be in Oxfordshire to 2050 and where this new development will be located. It will also set requirements for new development, to make sure that it takes account of its environmental impacts and is supported by necessary infrastructure.

Current Situation

In early 2019, there was an initial consultation called 'Introducing the Oxfordshire Plan'. The purpose of that consultation was to ask for views on what the vision, aspirations, objectives and strategy for the Oxfordshire Plan should be. The following key themes identify a range of different policy options for the Oxfordshire Plan.

The current consultation asks whether residents and stakeholders agree or disagree with them, or if other options should be considered? Responses will help shape and inform the development of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

Theme 1 - Addressing Climate Change

Theme 2 - Improving Environmental Quality

Theme 3 - Creating Strong and Healthy Communities

Theme 4 - Planning for Sustainable Travel and Connectivity

Theme 5 - Creating Jobs and Providing Homes

Further information and the full consultation document can be found at <https://oxfordshireplan.org/>

Members are asked to consider responding to this consultation, particularly focusing on Witney, its residents and the immediate surrounding area.

The Council has committed to reducing its Carbon footprint within this timeframe and aspires for increasing active/sustainable travel and encouraging sustainable energy across the town.

Former issues concerning flooding, water quality, air quality zones (including HGV's and the A40 corridor) and improved infrastructure have previously been raised by this Committee and the Council.

The adopted Open Spaces Strategy sets out the aims of the Council to help towards improving environmental quality and creating healthier communities and there may be some synergy in the policies below.

Theme 1 – Addressing Climate Change

<https://www.oxfordshireopenthought.org/addressing-climate-change>

Please view further details on the Policy Options and how they meet the objectives of the Oxfordshire Plan by viewing the link above.

Policy Options

- Sustainable Design & Construction
- Energy
- Water Efficiency
- Flood Risk

Theme 2 – Improving Environmental Quality

<https://www.oxfordshireopenthought.org/improving-environmental-quality>

Please view further details on the Policy Options and how they meet the objectives of the Oxfordshire Plan by viewing the link above.

Policy Options

- Protection & Enhancement of Landscape Characters
- Protection & Enhancement of Historic Environment
- Nature Recovery
- Biodiversity Gain
- Natural Capital & Ecosystem Services
- Green Belt
- Water Quality
- Air Quality

Theme Three – Creating Strong & Health Communities

<https://www.oxfordshireopenthought.org/theme-three-creating-strong-and-healthy-communities>

Please view further details on the Policy Options and how they meet the objectives of the Oxfordshire Plan by viewing the link above.

Policy Documents

- Healthy Place Shaping & Health Impact Assessments
- Health Infrastructure
- Leisure, Recreation, Community & Open Space Facilities

Theme Four - Planning for Sustainable Travel and Connectivity

<https://www.oxfordshireopenthought.org/theme-four-planning-for-sustainable-travel-and-connectivity>

Please view further details on the Policy Options and how they meet the objectives of the Oxfordshire Plan by viewing the link above.

Policy Options

- Towards a Net Zero Carbon Transport Network
- Sustainable Transport in New Development
- Supporting Sustainable Freight Management
- Digital Infrastructure

Theme Five – Creating Jobs & Providing Homes

<https://www.oxfordshireopenthought.org/theme-five-creating-jobs-and-providing-homes>

Please view further details on the Policy Options and how they meet the objectives of the Oxfordshire Plan by viewing the link above.

Policy Options

- Supporting the Creation of Jobs
- Protection of Economic Assets
- Town Centre Renewal
- Visitor Economy
- Culture & Arts
- Meeting Skills and Education Needs
- Homes: How Many? Commitments and Locations
- Urban Renewal
- Affordable Homes
- Specialist Housing Needs
- Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show-people

Environmental impact

As outlined in the documents and policies provided from the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

Risk

If the Council has concerns regarding any of the above policies, or omissions in the plan they should be submitted now as part of this consultation.

The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will become a legal document with the policies therein having to be addressed by future developers and planners.

Financial implications

- There are no direct financial implications from the contents of this report.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. Submitting a response to the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 on behalf of Witney Town Council, outlining the issues previously raised by the Council and its Committees.