



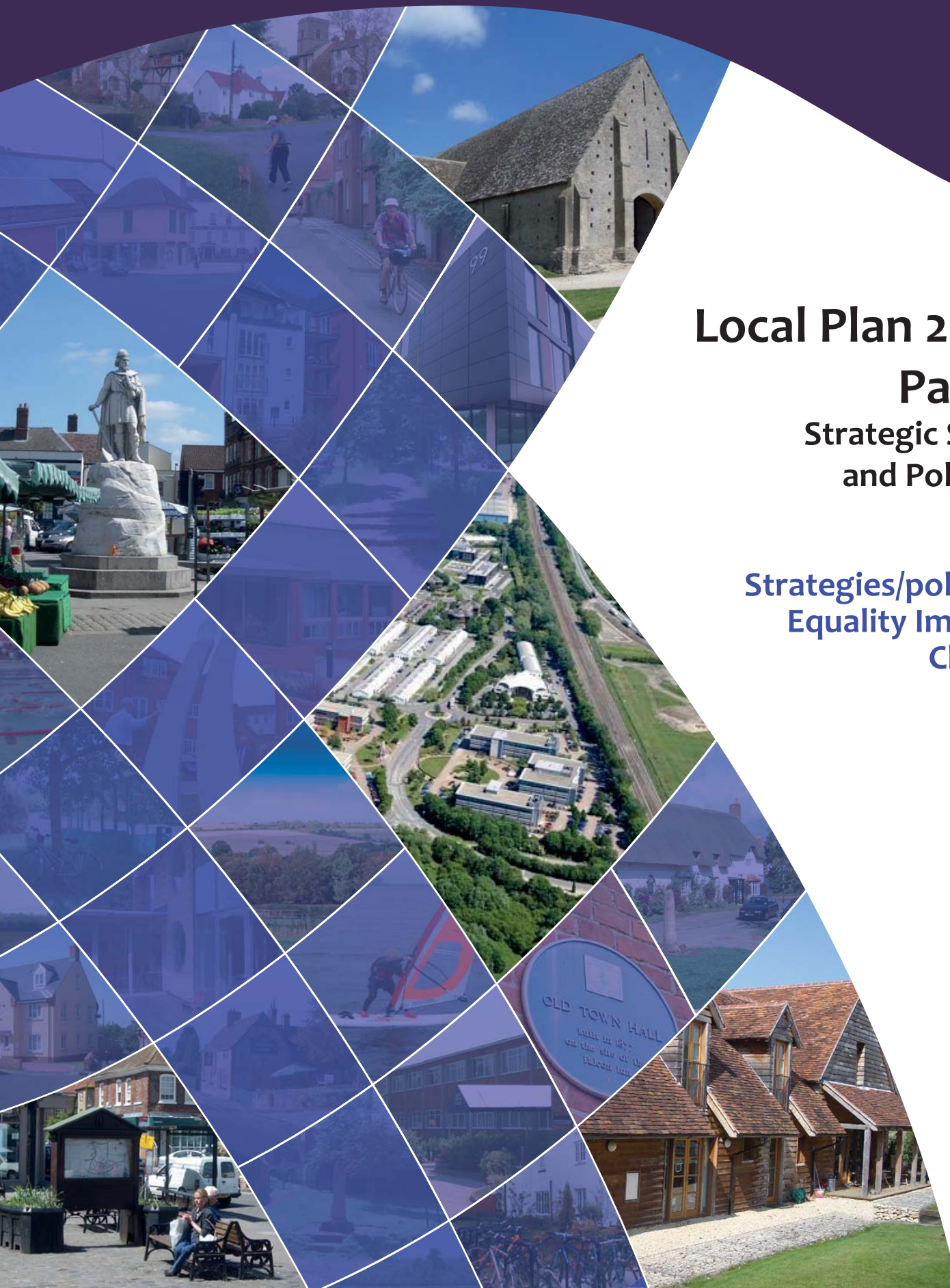
**Vale
of White Horse**
District Council

**Submission Document
March 2015**

Local Plan 2031 Part 1

Strategic Sites and Policies

**Strategies/policies
Equality Impact
Check**



Why do you need to do this Equality Impact Check?

Our strategies and policies set out the way we will deliver our services (including employment opportunities). When we are developing them, we need to check that they are not going to create any barriers which could prevent people from accessing our services.

People in Southern Oxfordshire may face barriers because of things like disability, gender (including transgender, pregnancy and maternity), age, sexual orientation, rural isolation, income, religion/belief or ethnicity.

As well as thinking about how our services will meet the needs of these groups of people, we also need to consider how our draft strategies and policies will help us to:

- promote positive relations within communities
- give everyone a voice
- respect and value everyone
- protect people's human rights

This Equality Impact Check provides officers with a framework to help them work through these considerations in relation to their draft policy/strategy, ensuring that we are meeting our legal duties with regards to equality and diversity.

We have a statutory duty to carry out these assessments and they contribute towards our corporate priority to 'optimise access to services (Vale)/'provide equality of access to our services' (South).

If you have any queries about this Check or would like some advice/support in completing it, please contact the Shared equalities officer (see contact details below).

Once you've completed this Equality Impact Check, please send the paperwork to the shared equality officer, along with a copy of the draft strategy/policy.

Cheryl Reeves (equalities officer)
Email: cheryl.reeves@southandvale.gov.uk
Telephone: x7324

Vale of White Horse Baseline Data

Population

- 1.1.1 The 2011 census lists the population of the Vale as 121,000, a rise of 4.6% (from 115,627) in the 2001 census¹. In 2001 the population of which live in rural areas constituted just over 51%, however it is projected that that the majority of the population are now likely to live within the urban areas of the Vale as development has been focussed on these areas.
- 1.1.2 The largest settlement in the district is Abingdon with just over 33,000 residents (see below). Abingdon has grown by over 1,800 people since 2001.

Young people

- 1.1.3 As of March 2011, Vale of White Horse district had a similar proportion of people aged 0 to 15 (19.1%) compared with the regional and national averages. The proportion of young people living in the main settlements was similar to the district average.

Older people

- 1.1.4 The proportion of older people (65 and over) in Vale of White Horse was above average at 18.0%. The national average was 16.3%. Abingdon had a below average proportion of older people and Wantage was above average. Grove and Faringdon were similar to the national average.
- 1.1.5 The size of the group aged 65 and over has increased significantly. From 1981 to 2011, the total population in Vale of White Horse increased by 18% (+18,400) while, within the same timescale, the population aged 65+ increased by 72% (+9,200).
- 1.1.6 In 2011, 3,000 people in Vale of White Horse were aged 85 and over representing 2.5% of the total population. This was above the national average of 2.2%.

People from ethnic minority backgrounds

- 1.1.7 Vale of White Horse district had a relatively low proportion of residents from an ethnic minority (non-white British) background at the time of the census.
- 1.1.8 The largest ethnic minority group was 'other white' which made up almost half (42%) of the total ethnic minority population in Vale of White Horse.
- 1.1.9 There were 12,300 people resident in Vale of White Horse as of March 2011 who were born outside the UK. Around 5,700 of these were from other European countries including Germany (1,190), Ireland (760) and Poland (670).

Survey of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show-people Population

- 1.1.10 The Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show People Accommodation Needs Assessment (2013), prepared jointly with Oxford City Council and South Oxfordshire District Council, assessed the housing needs for the Gypsy,

¹Office for National Statistics (ONS) / Census 2011

Traveller and Travelling Show People communities.

- 1.1.11 Vale of White Horse contains 2 authorised public sites with a capacity of 36 pitches and one private site which planning records indicate was designed to have 6 pitches with 12 caravans used for permanent residency and another 6 travelling caravans allowed. This site also has separate provision for up to 8 transit caravans.
- 1.1.12 Interviews were carried out in November 2012. All interviews were achieved on Gypsy, Traveller or Travelling Show-people occupied caravan sites, with 58 Gypsy and Traveller households and 12 Travelling Show-people households interviewed.
- 88% of respondents had lived on their current site for more than 5 years. The main factors which attracted respondents to the area were to be near to their family or they had always lived in the area.
 - There was a high level of satisfaction with current sites (94%), with almost 8 in 10 households being very satisfied. Only around 4% of respondents expressed some form of dissatisfaction
 - The households showed a mixed range of ages across their members. 9% of household members were aged 60 years or over, but 44% of all household members were aged 16 years or under. 30% of all household members were of school age and another 14% were children aged 4 years or less
 - 28% of respondents interviewed reported that their household contained at least one member with a long term health problem. However, none of these respondents reported that adaptations were required in their home to meet the needs of the household members currently suffering with health problems.²
- 1.1.13 For the Vale of White Horse District, the identified need is for 19 additional permanent Gypsy and Traveller pitches to be delivered during the plan period. For the Travelling Show People community, the assessment identified that no plots are needed within the district during this plan period.

Languages and local area

- 1.1.14 In Oxford, The Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire there is known to be a number of French, German and Americans people often linked to the university and high-tech sector. Shriveham is highlighted as having a higher percentage of children that speak English as a second language.
- 1.1.15 Table 1 below identifies the first language of primary age pupils other than English; and separately the main wards where English is a secondary language. Numbers are rounded to intervals of 50 and numbers below 50 are not listed.

²Opinion Research Services, Oxford City, South Oxfordshire District And Vale Of White Horse District Councils
Gypsy, Traveller And Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment February 2013

Table 1 English not a first language and main wards where English is a secondary language

Languages	Number	Wards	Number
Arabic	50	Shrivenham	100
Polish	50	Abingdon and Barton	50
French	50	North Hinksey and Wytham	50

* The majority of the Arabic speaking population are resident in Shrivenham

Religion

- 1.1.16 The largest religious group remains Christian with 76,600 residents or 63% of the population of Vale of White Horse. The next largest group, over one quarter (27%), are those with 'no religion'. This was just above the national average of 25%.
- 1.1.17 In Vale of White Horse, 2% of the population chose to state a minority religion with Muslim the largest group (1% of the total population).

Marital status

- 1.1.18 At the time of the Census, Vale of White Horse district had 55% residents who were married. This was above the national average of 47%. There were 220 people (0.2%) in a registered same sex civil partnership in the district.

Population forecast

- 1.1.19 The population of the Vale is predicted to be 131,300 in 2035, an increase of 10,400 from 2010³. The figures suggest that the Vale has an increasing ageing population and that the number of working age population (16-64 males/59 females) is estimated to remain fairly static which, in terms of a growing population, has implications for the ability of the working population to support those who are not working.
- 1.1.20 Oxfordshire County Council commissioned their own population forecasts that took into account planned development in the area and housing targets in the South East Plan⁴.
- 1.1.21 Using this information it was predicted that from 2001 to 2026 the total population would increase from 115,770 to 138,150; that the economically active population would increase from 61,340 to 68,860; the number of households increase from 45,380 to 59,880; and the average household size would decrease from 2.46 to 2.25.

Living environment

- 1.1.22 Data showing the rate of domestic burglaries per 1,000 households indicates that the Vale is an extremely safe place to live and is one of the safest across the county. This can largely be attributed to its rural nature. Of crime recorded the majority of cases are to do with either 'violence against a person' or 'criminal damage'. The prevalence of these types of crimes is in line with trends across the region and England

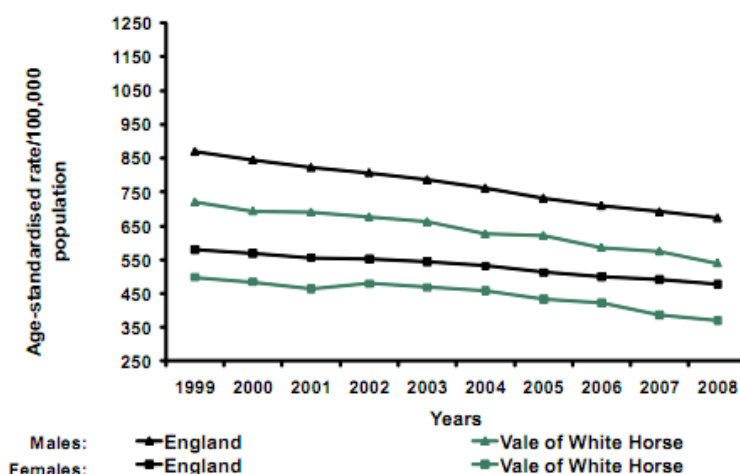
³ ONS Neighbourhood Statistics (2012)

⁴ The South East Plan was officially abolished in February 2014.

- 1.1.23 The health of the Vale's residents was found to be generally better than the average for England.
- 1.1.24 Figure 1 shows that all-cause mortality rates have fallen over the last 10 years. Early death rates from cancer and from heart disease and stroke have also fallen and are better than the England average.

Figure 1: All cause mortality rate per 100,000

All age, all cause mortality



- 1.1.25 Another contextual health indicator which can be used to assess the relative health of residents in the Vale is the number of residents seeking Disability Living Allowance (DLA). Although this trend appears to be worsening, it is probably being exacerbated by the effects of the economic downturn. Nevertheless in spite of the worsening trend the Vale has one of the lowest figures of all the Oxfordshire authorities. Generally the areas around the main settlements are worst affected.

Working age people with activities limited by health

- 1.1.26 The working age population in Vale of White Horse is comparatively healthy with 8.7% of people aged 16 to 64 stating that their day-to-day activities were limited by a long term health problem or disability compared with 13% nationally. Abingdon, Wantage and Faringdon were just above the district average – i.e. having a less healthy working population than the district as a whole.

Accessibility to open space

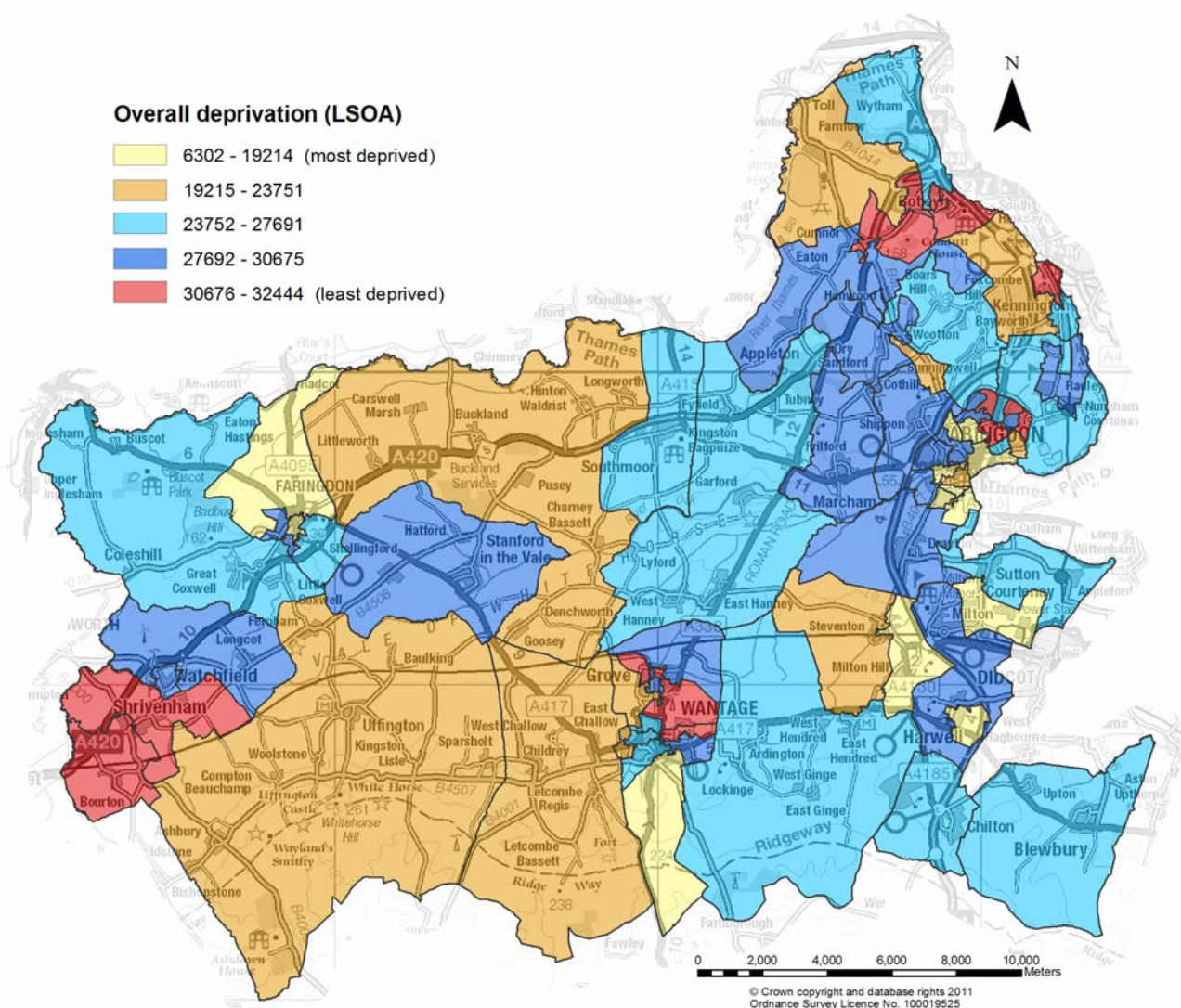
- 1.1.27 Natural England has developed a model which sets out the standards that are needed to ensure that all people have access to a variety of different types and sizes of open space, called the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt). This can help local authorities in drawing up their Greenspace Strategies and will show the areas which are particularly deficient. It has been assessed (2005) that 0% of households meet all of the ANGSt standards and 51% meet none of the standards.
- 1.1.28 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD, 2010) ranks the Vale 306th out of 326

local authorities, with the 326th being the least deprived. There is however one Lower Super Output Area (LSOA), located in Abingdon, that is in the bottom 20% nationally. **Figure 2** shows the spatial distribution of the IMD results.

1.1.29

Factors assessed by the IMD is that of deprivation of the living environment, which takes into account the quality of housing, quality of the air and number of road accidents. The findings (Figure 2) show that deprivation is found across rural and urban environments.

Figure 2 Overall Deprivation in the Vale (IMD, 2010)



Housing

1.1.30

The total number of dwellings in the District at 31st March 2010 was 50,650 of which Council Tax records indicate that some 1,263 were vacant (an increase of almost 30% on 2004 levels). The key features of the existing housing stock

as reported in the council's Housing Needs Assessment⁵ (HNA) are that:

- The property type profile is skewed towards semi-detached and detached houses and bungalows, 71.0% of the current stock which is higher than the national level of 55%.
- Based on a calculation of occupants to bedroom numbers, under-occupation affects approximately 49.0% of all households, higher than the average found in recent HNA surveys (around 40%). Over-occupation affects just 0.7% of all existing households, well below the average UK level indicated by the Survey of English Housing 2001/2 (3%). This is in line with the high proportion of larger properties as mentioned above.

1.1.31 There has been an increase in the number of households, and a trend towards smaller and rapidly changing households. Average household size is predicted to drop from 2.46 to 2.26 (2001 to 2026) which means that means that even if the Vale's population had remained static at 115,627 in 2001 there would be about 5,500 extra households in the Vale by 2026.

1.1.32 The lack of affordable housing is an issue in the Vale. The average house price to earnings ratio for the Vale is lower than the average for Oxfordshire (8.6) although it has increased from 7.2 to 8.2 from 2009 to 2010. Both market and affordable housing completions are below the previous Local Plan 2011 targets.

1.1.33 One of the components of the IMD (2010) deprivation calculation is access to housing including the level of household overcrowding, homelessness rates and the proportion of households aged under 35 whose income means they are unable to own a home. The results show that rural areas suffer the most in this regard, as shown in Table 1 below.

Ageing Population and housing needs

The 65+ population in Oxfordshire is projected to grow from around 96,000 in 2008 to 136,000 in 2025, an increase of more than 40%. There will also be an increasing proportion of very elderly people with the 85+ population growing by 62% over the same period.

District	Age 65 + Pop in 2008 (1000's)	Age 65 + Pop in 2025 (1000's)	Age 65 + % Age increase 2008 to 2025	Age 85 + Pop in 2008 (1000's)	Age 85 + Pop in 2025 (1000's)	Age 85 + % Age increase 2008 to 2025
Vale of White Horse	19.8	27.6	39.4%	2.8	4.8	71.4%

⁵ DCA UK (2011) Housing Needs Assessment Update [online] available at: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/HNA%20Vale%20of%20White%20Horse%20Final%20Report%20Published.pdf> (accessed 10/14)

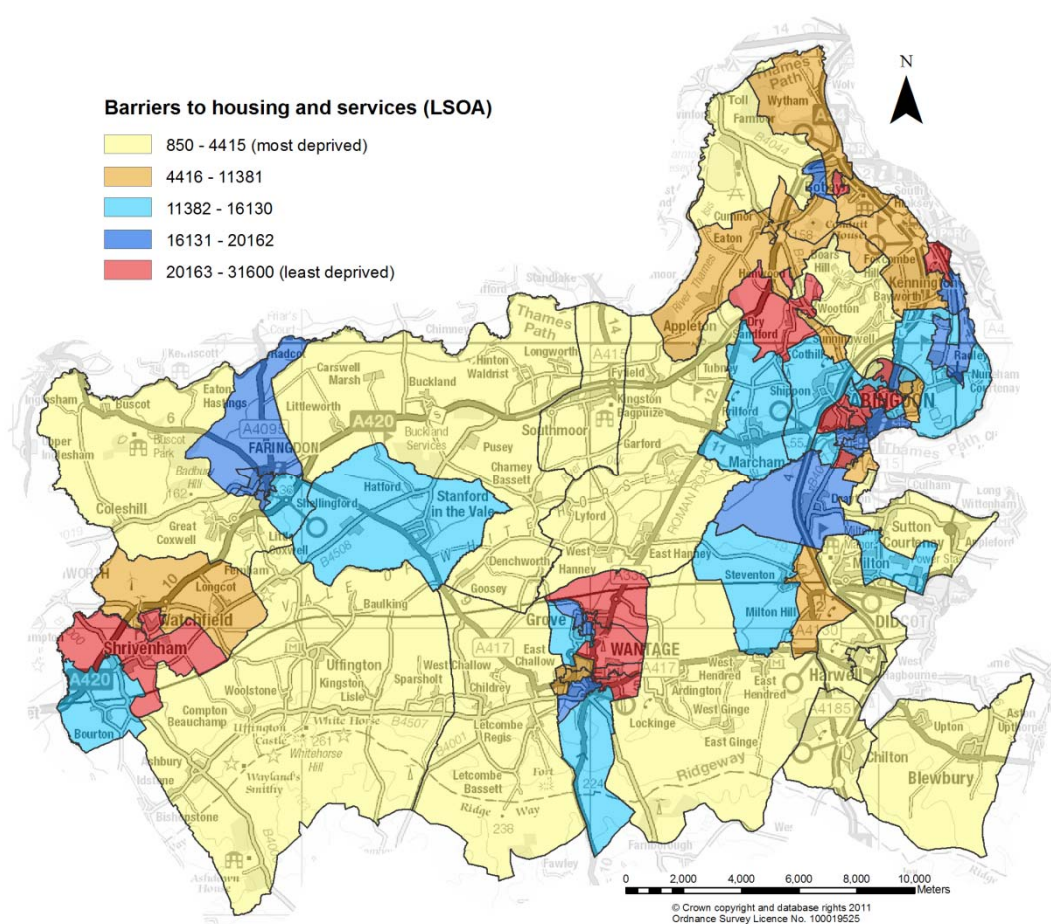
Table 2 Population Change Vale of White Horse 2008 – 2025⁶

Extra Care Housing describes a type of housing, care and support that falls somewhere between traditional sheltered housing and residential care. Extra Care Housing can provide the best features of both these forms of provision.

Using the Oxford Brookes model the summary core projection for the number of Extra Care Housing units required by 2025 is:

- A need for 7,832 units.
- The number of units at social rents will account for between 24% to 37% of the above and totals 2,192 units for the County as a whole.
- This equates to a continuous development requirement of approximately 129 units per annum from 2009 onwards.

Figure 3 Barriers to Housing and Services in the Vale (IMD, 2010)



Economy

1.1.34 The Vale benefits from a very strong knowledge-based economy and has

⁶ Concept management solutions, A Framework for an Oxfordshire Extra Care Housing Strategy for Oxfordshire County Council January 2008

almost 5,500 businesses located within the District⁷. The Vale's workforce is highly skilled with a higher than average proportion of managers, professionals and associate professionals⁸. Furthermore, the Vale is consistently ranked within the top 20 % of Districts in the UK Competitiveness Index.⁹

- 1.1.35 The strategic focus for economic and employment growth in the District is the Science Vale area, which extends east-west from Culham and Didcot to Wantage and Grove. Science Vale is an internationally significant location for innovation and science based research and business. It is home to around 13 % of research and development jobs within the south-east of England¹⁰. The two key Science Vale employment sites within the District are the science technology and business campus at Harwell Campus and the prestigious business area at Milton Park, both of which were awarded Enterprise Zone status in 2011.
- 1.1.36 A Growth Strategy is being prepared to maximise the world class assets of the Science Vale area and this has been boosted by the Oxford and Oxfordshire City Deal. Part of the City Deal programme, and its £95 million of local and national public sector investment, will be directed towards Science Vale. This includes delivering the Oxford Science Transit; a fully integrated public transport system that connects the area's centres of innovation with Didcot and Oxford including a high frequency bus and rail service using 'smart' ticketing.
- 1.1.37 The tourism industry in the Vale generated approximately £202 million worth of income for local businesses in 2011. However, a significant proportion of this was generated by day visitors. This presents an opportunity to increase the economic impact and value of tourism by taking steps to convert day visitors to overnight visitors, in particular by addressing the shortage of hotel accommodation.
- 1.1.38 The recent recession has had an impact on the Vale's economy. Unemployment (demonstrated as the number of people claiming Job Seeker's Allowance) has increased from 0.7% to 1.6% (2006-2011), although this is lower than the South East (2.5%) and UK (3.8%) as a whole. The rate of claimants is highest around Abingdon and Wantage. In spite of the recession the Vale's economy is still performing considerably better than elsewhere in the country and south east. This is highlighted by the findings of the UK Competitiveness Index¹¹ which has consistently ranked the Vale within the top 10% in the country.
- 1.1.39 The percentage of working age population with an NVQ4 qualification or above is substantially higher than the national and regional figures¹². This

⁷ ONS Business Demography 2012 dataset [online] available at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcn%3A77-329345> (accessed 10/14)

⁸ NOMIS (2014) Vale of White Horse District Labour Market Profile [online] available at: <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157326/report.aspx> (accessed 10/14)

⁹ Centre for International Competitiveness (2013) UK Competitiveness Index [online] available at: <http://www.cforic.org/downloads.php> (accessed 10/14)

¹⁰ Science Vale UK (2014) [online] available at: <http://www.sciencevale.com/> (accessed 10/14)

¹¹ Centre for International Competitiveness (2013) UK Competitiveness Index [online] available at: <http://www.cforic.org/downloads.php> (accessed 10/14)

¹² NOMIS (2014) Vale of White Horse District Labour Market Profile [online] available at: <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157326/report.aspx> (accessed 10/14)

seems to suggest that residents are well suited to take up the level of high-tech jobs available in the District.

Car ownership

- 1.1.40 Over the past 30 years, between 1981 and 2011, the number of households in Vale of White Horse increased by 42%; while the number of cars owned by residents increased by 99%. The number of cars per household increased from 1.07 in 1981 to 1.50 in 2011. The rate of 1.50 cars per household in Vale of White Horse is above the national average of 1.16.

Travel

- 1.1.41 The Vale of White Horse is easily accessible from other parts of the UK, particularly the south west and east, and the midlands. The A34 trunk road provides good access between the M4 to the south, and the M40 to the north. The A420 and A417 roads cross the District and provide links to Swindon in the west and Didcot in the east. Whilst there are two railway main lines (Bristol to London and Oxford to London) running through the District, there are only two stations on the Oxford line and none on the Bristol line within the Vale, although there is a station at Didcot just to the east of the District. The Vale benefits from some very good bus services, particularly between the main settlements. However, in the more rural parts of the District, buses cannot viably provide an attractive alternative to the car.
- 1.1.42 Census 2011 results show home working and use of public transport have increased in Oxfordshire Just over 43,000 people worked mainly at or entirely from home across Oxfordshire in 2011. Rural parts of the district continue to have an above average proportion of workers who are based mainly at or from home. The Vale of White Horse District has above average of home workers at 15% of those in employment. The rate in all areas has increased since 2001.
- 1.1.43 32,700 people used public transport (train or bus) to travel to work in Oxfordshire in 2011. The percentage of public transport users has increased in all districts; however the percentage of people using public transport out of those employed is below average at 9%.
- 1.1.44 Average traffic flow in Oxfordshire as reported by Oxfordshire County Council has fallen by 0.3% on all roads between 2009 and 2010. Oxfordshire has experienced a smaller reduction in traffic flow when compared to the national picture (a 2% reduction in traffic flow). This decline may reflect increasing fuel prices, but also suggests a resilient local economy. Trunk roads in the county experienced the greatest reduction in traffic flows (-1.2%), in contrast traffic flows on the M40 in Oxfordshire increased by 0.7%.
- 1.1.45 The rate of traffic flow on Oxfordshire's roads over the last 10 years (2000 to 2010) increased by 2%. Traffic on Oxfordshire's non-strategic roads, i.e. those roads for which Oxfordshire County Council are responsible, was 3% over ten years. Over the past five years (2005 to 2010) there has been a reduction in average traffic flow of more than 3% for all roads in the county (-3.18%). For the non-strategic roads there has been a decrease of -2.1%. Traffic growth generally across the South East has been forecast to rise by 24% between

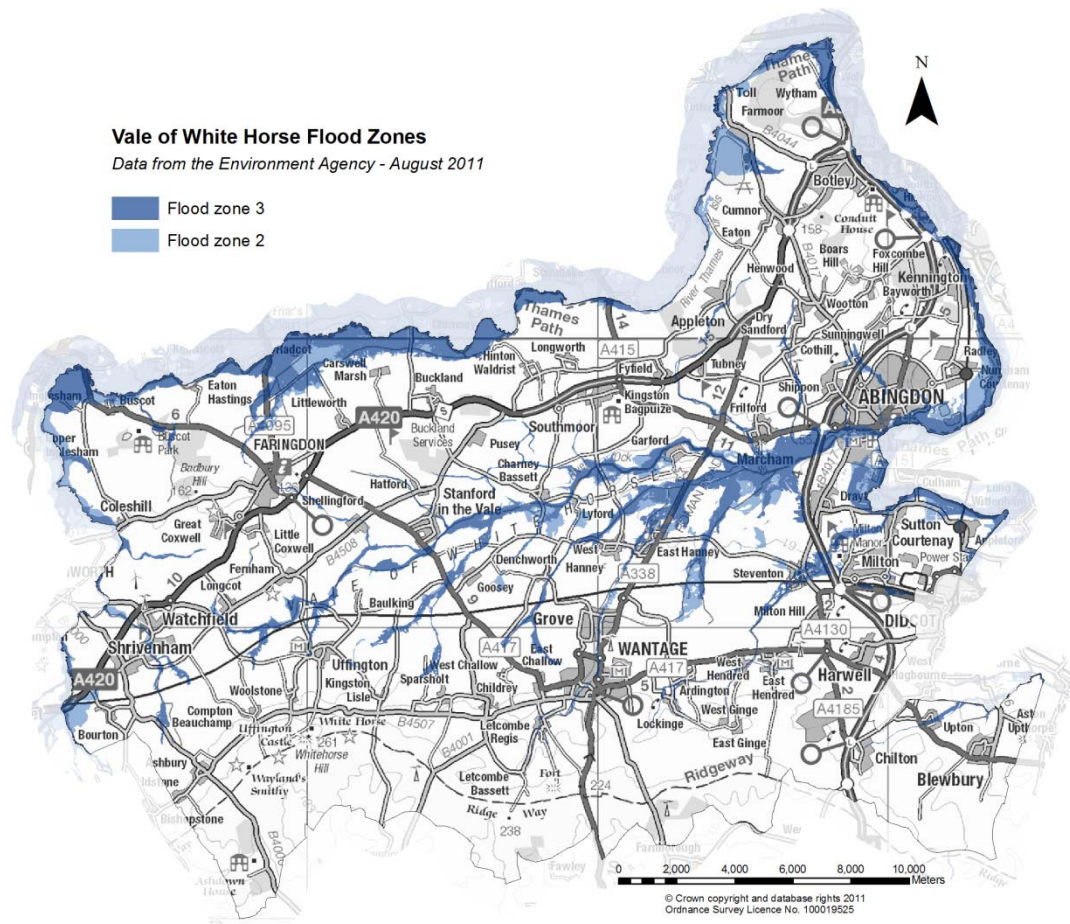
2003 and 2015, and by 35% by 2025.

1.1.46 There are a number of roads within the District that suffer from congestion including the A34 trunk road. Abingdon-on-Thames and Botley are also congested internally and the road network around Science Vale suffers from peak time congestion. It is important the road network operates safely and efficiently for the economic success of the District to be maximised.

1.1.47 **Flood Risk**

1.1.48 The District has a number of areas which are at risk from flooding. Figure 4 provides an overview of Flood Zone 2 and 3a and the effects that climate change is expected to have on flood zone 3. Flood zones 2 and 3 both have restrictions in terms of the types of development that are allowed according to the National Planning Policy Framework. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment highlights that the risk of flooding to properties is an issue in Abingdon, Grove, Kennington, Shrivenham, Steventon, Sutton Courtenay and Wantage.

Figure 4: Areas across the District covered by flood zones 2 and 3

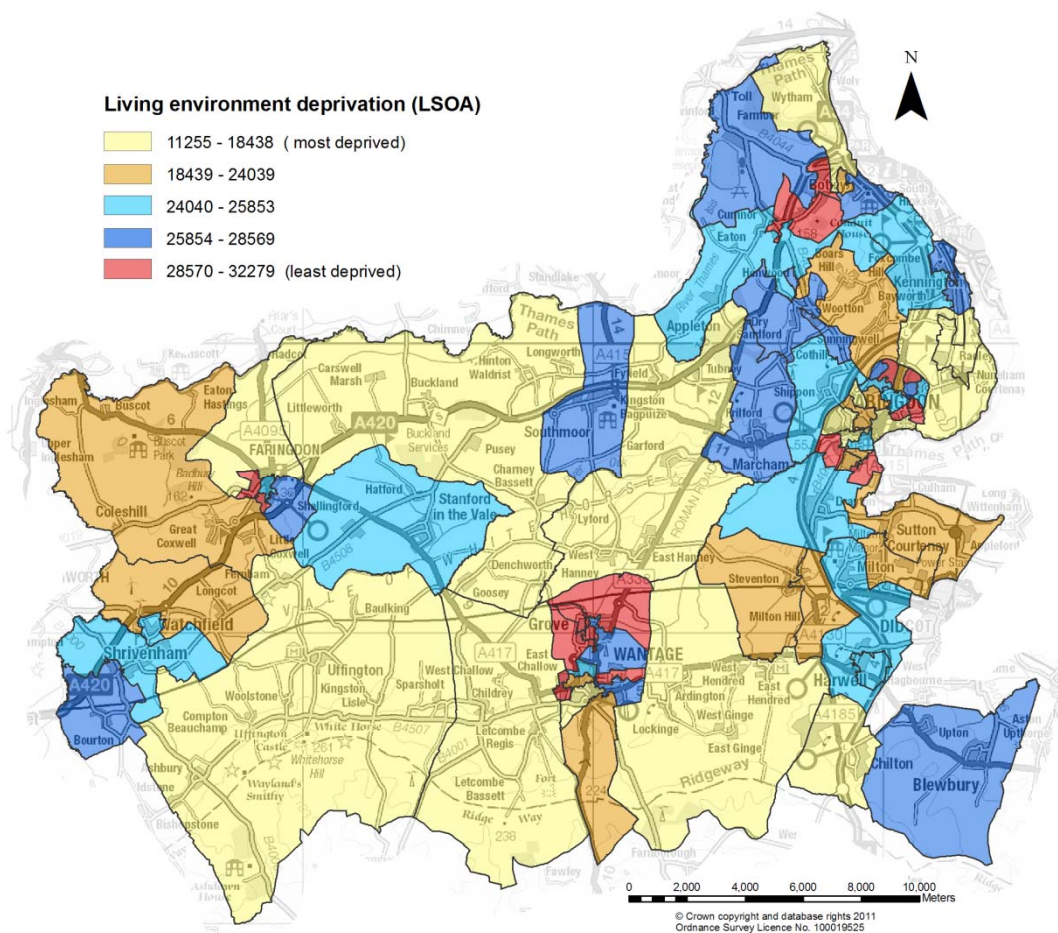


Air Quality

1.1.49

There are currently two Air Quality Management Areas in the Vale, one in central Abingdon and the other along the A34 in Botley as a result of high levels of NO₂ and PM₁₀. There are also Air Quality 'hot spots' in Didcot along Station Road. These areas experience high levels of Nitrogen Dioxide and PM₁₀ (Particulate Matter 10) which is primarily associated with car traffic and construction work. High levels can cause respiratory problems such as coughing, asthma and wheezing. In serious cases it can lead to long term lung damage, the young and elderly are most susceptible.

Figure 5: Living environment deprivation (IMD, 2010)



Resources

- 1.1.50 OFWAT's report Security of Supply: 2006-07 report contains estimates of household consumption. Residents within the Thames Water region used on average 154 litres/head/day of water, down from 164 in 2005-06. Although consumption has decreased in the region, it is still higher than the industry average in England and Wales of 148 litres/head/day.
- 1.1.51 The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) produce statistics on CO2 emissions per capita and it is clear from the data that the Vale of White Horse is performing considerably worse than all other Oxfordshire Districts. This discrepancy is caused predominantly by the 'road transport' component of the figure which was between 1.0 and 2.6 tonnes of CO2 per capita more than the others Districts, which can most probably be attributed to the heavily congested stretch of A34.
- 1.1.52 The figures suggest that the Vale of White Horse uses more gas and electricity per capita than the South East average. This is most probably due to its rural nature and may also be caused in part by the higher than average proportion of higher earners in the Vale of White Horse.
- 1.1.53 The 2009 EU Renewables Directive includes a target that by 2020 15% of all energy consumption should be from renewable resources. Further work carried out by Thames Valley (TV) Energy shows that the Vale is performing extremely well in this indicator and is already producing some 11.5% of its energy needs through renewables. A total of 22.256 MW was produced within

the Vale in 2011 of which 6.521 were from onshore wind and 14.893 MW were from landfill gas. The latter displaced some 84,544 tonnes of carbon each year.

Climate change

- 1.1.54 The world's climate and weather patterns are changing. Global temperatures are rising, causing more extreme weather events, like flooding and heat-waves. The impacts of climate change may have detrimental effects on all the residents within the Vale of White Horse specifically the young, the elderly, the disabled and those that live in rural areas.

OUTLINE OF THE DRAFT STRATEGY / POLICY YOU ARE CHECKING:

1. What are the aims and objectives of this draft strategy/policy?

Spatial Vision

The spatial vision sets out what the area should be like in 2031 and has been informed by local and national priorities and the visions of the Oxfordshire and Vale community strategies.

By 2031 the Vale of White Horse will have thriving and prosperous communities that have benefited from economic growth and our strength in science and innovation continue to be internationally recognised. The Science Vale area will have become a first choice location for high value added business and research. New residential and economic growth will have been focused on the Science Vale area and will have delivered balanced and sustainable growth that has made a significant contribution to delivering important infrastructure. Strategic road and rail improvements will have been implemented, including those at Harwell, west of Didcot and at Wantage.

The Vale's main settlements will provide healthy and sustainable communities where everyone has a decent place to live and work with good access to leisure and community services and facilities. The service centre roles of Abingdon-on-Thames, Botley, Faringdon, Grove and Wantage will have been maintained and enhanced. The Vale's villages will continue to provide thriving rural communities where appropriate growth has supported local services. New development will have respected the local character of the Vale, protecting its outstanding and distinctive natural and built environment and will continue to conserve and enhance its important heritage. High design and environmental standards will have been achieved through new development, which will be resilient to the likely impacts of climate change.

Strategic Objectives

The plan contains 12 Strategic Objectives which will help to deliver the spatial vision and ensure the plan is focused on the key challenges and opportunities facing the area. The Strategic Objectives are focused around four thematic areas:

Building healthy and sustainable communities

- SO 1: Provide for a range of homes across the District to deliver choice and competition in the housing market and to meet the identified need, including affordable housing.
- SO 2: Cater for existing and future residents' needs including the needs of different groups in the community and

provision for a growing older population.

- SO 3: Direct growth to the most sustainable locations in the District, ensuring development is integrated with and respects the built and natural heritage and creates attractive places in which people will want to live, as well as being supported by a sufficient range of services and facilities.
- SO 4: Improve the health and well-being of Vale residents, reduce inequality, poverty and social exclusion and improve the safety of the Vale as a District where everyone can feel safe and enjoy life.

Supporting economic prosperity

- SO 5: Support a strong and sustainable economy within the District, including the visitor economy.
- SO 6: Support the continued development of Science Vale as an internationally significant centre for innovation and science based research and business.
- SO7: Maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of the Vale's town centres and local shopping centres in order to strengthen their service centre roles.

Sustainable transport and accessibility

- SO 8: Reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable modes of transport.
- SO 9: Seek to ensure new development is accompanied by appropriate and timely infrastructure delivery to secure effective sustainable transport choices for new residents and businesses.

Protecting the environment and responding to climate change

- SO 10: Maintain and improve the natural environment including biodiversity, landscape, Green Infrastructure and waterways.
- SO 11: Ensure all new development achieves high quality design standards and conserves and enhances the natural, historic, cultural and landscape assets of the Vale.
- SO 12: Minimise greenhouse gas emissions and other pollution (such as water, air, noise and light) across the District and increase our resilience to likely impacts of climate change, especially flooding

2. Who is the proposed strategy or policy designed to support / help / serve?

The Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 provides a policy framework for the delivery of sustainable development across the District.

Local Plan 2031 Part 1: Strategic Sites and Policies

The Local Plan 2031 Part 1 sets out the spatial strategy and strategic policies for the District to deliver sustainable development. It identifies the number of new homes and jobs to be provided in the area for the plan period up to 2031. The Local Plan 2031 Part 1 sets out the spatial strategy for the location of development across the District and allocates large-scale (referred to as strategic) development sites. It includes District-wide policies to ensure that development contributes to meeting the strategic objectives of the plan, such as policies relating to sustainable construction and conservation of the built, historic and natural environment.

3. If the draft strategy/policy relates to an existing council service/function, has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) already been completed on the service/function?

☒

No

☐

Yes – please list any issues/barriers identified within the assessment that your draft strategy needs to address:

4. Does the draft strategy or policy have the potential to cause a negative impact or discriminate against certain groups in the community? Gender, disability, age, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, rural. – referred to as protected characteristics, with the exception of rural.

The following symbols have been used:

- √ positive outcome for these groups in relation to the community as a whole
- blank no discernable impact in relation to the community as a whole
- x negative outcome for these groups in relation to the community as a whole
- ? unknown impact in relation to the community as a whole

If positive outcome – explain what existing evidence (presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? e.g. will the policies advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic?

This means will they:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
- Take steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people

If you feel the local plan could do more to advance equal opportunities, include this in the action plan at the end of the document.

If negative outcome - please explain how the policies could cause a negative impact or discriminate. If you can not justify this you will need to take mitigating action, complete the action plan at the end of this assessment.

Equality Impact Assessment

The following tables assess the impacts of the Local Plan objectives and policies against the equality groups.

Table 3 EqIA of the Local Plan Objectives

Local plan Strategic objectives	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen Reas signmt	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Action Required
Building healthy and sustainable communities	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	The objectives seek to increase the supply of new housing and ensure that the right size, type and tenure of housing is delivered to address the needs of existing and future residents. They also seek to address the specific needs of vulnerable groups, such as the elderly and those with disabilities.	N/A
Supporting economic prosperity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	The objectives seek to support economic prosperity in the Vale by focusing sustainable growth in the Science Vale area. The spatial strategy also seeks to reinforce the service centre roles of the main settlements across the district, including by directing new shops and facilities towards these settlements, and to promote thriving villages and rural communities. This would be an overall positive impact to all equality groups.	N/A
Sustainable transport and accessibility	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	The approach seeks to encourage sustainable modes of transport and a reduction in the need to travel; these are key features of the vision and objectives and should be beneficial to all equality groups.	N/A

Local plan Strategic objectives	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen Reas signmt	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Action Required
Protecting the environment and responding to climate change	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	<p>Responding to climate change is one of our strategic objectives and has informed our spatial strategy, the location of our strategic site allocations and many of the local plan policies. Through the planning process the council is seeking to achieve a low carbon Vale by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • locating housing development close to jobs and services to minimise the need to travel • providing good access by public transport, cycling and walking to reduce the need to travel by car • improving the energy efficiency of new and existing buildings • promoting the development and use of decentralised renewable and low carbon energy, and • promoting superfast broadband coverage to reduce the need to travel <p>As well as seeking to reduce emissions of Greenhouse Gases, the council also recognises that climate change is already happening and so it is important that new development is designed to be resilient to its effects.</p> <p>This would ensure that impact to all equality groups would be positive.</p>	N/A

Table 4 EqIA of the Local Plan Policies

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 1: Presumption in favour of sustainable development	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	<p>When considering development proposals the council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the NPPF in accordance.</p> <p>The council will work proactively with applicants to ensure that proposals that will achieve sustainable development can be approved, this policy should have a positive effect on all equality groups due to the emphasis on sustainable development</p>		N/A
Core Policy 2: Cooperation on unmet housing need for Oxfordshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact on equality groups		N/A

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 3: Settlement Hierarchy – which classifies the settlements in the Vale according to their role and function	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	The Local Plan 2031 protects and enhances the services and facilities provided by the market towns, local service centres and our larger villages and ensures that any new facilities, homes and jobs are focused on these settlements. This will help to ensure the delivery of sustainable development; therefore this policy will be beneficial to all equality groups especially those of various age groups and those persons living in rural areas.		N/A

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 4: Meeting our Housing Need – which specifies the scale and location of new housing ensuring development is built in the most appropriate locations	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	<p>The Local Plan 2031 Part 1 makes provision for 20,560 new homes to be delivered during the plan period. This reflects the Objectively Assessed Need for the Vale of White Horse District Council as identified by the up-to-date Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) for Oxfordshire. Ensuring that housing needs are met within the Vale will lead to a beneficial impact towards all equality groups assuming that affordable housing and good quality design and access is provided.</p>	<p>Affordable housing and good quality design and access are promoted within the Plan. See the following policies for further information: Core Policy 22: Housing Mix Core Policy 24: Affordable Housing Core Policy 26: Accommodating Current and Future Needs of An Ageing Population Core Policy 37: Design and Local Distinctiveness Core Policy 38: Design Strategies for Strategic and Major Development Sites</p>	N/A

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 5: Science Vale Housing Supply Ring Fence – which identifies a core area within Science Vale where new homes will be provided to achieve sustainable development in accordance with the spatial strategy. The area will have a separate housing land supply target from the rest of the district.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact on equality groups		N/A
Core Policy 6: Meeting Business and Employment Needs – which specifies the scale and location of opportunities for economic growth to ensure that sufficient new jobs are provided across the Vale in appropriate locations	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Ensuring that employment and business needs are provided along with the successful infrastructure required should be beneficial to all equality groups.		N/A

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 7: Providing Supporting Infrastructure and Services – to ensure new services and facilities are delivered alongside new housing and employment.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	The Council has prepared an Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP), this will ensure that infrastructure is delivered where appropriate, this includes social infrastructure which will be beneficial to all equality groups.		N/A
Core Policy 8: Spatial Strategy for the Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area – which sets out our strategic site allocations for this area	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	The strategic sites will be designed to integrate successfully with the local community and to minimise any harmful effects. Appropriate infrastructure, such as open space, leisure provision and new services and facilities will all be delivered alongside the housing, therefore this should benefit all equality groups		N/A

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 9: Harcourt Hill Campus – which supports appropriate and sustainable development to meet future business needs of the University	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	The council will work proactively with Oxford Brookes University, Oxfordshire County Council, local residents and other appropriate stakeholders to help the university to develop a masterplan for the Harcourt Hill Campus site that meets the university's longer term business needs for predominantly educational uses and in a manner that respects its Green Belt setting and urban-rural fringe context. All equality groups should benefit from this policy assuming that good design and access is incorporated into the masterplan.	<p>Core Policy 38: Design Strategies for Strategic and Major Development Sites, promotes good design and access.</p> <p>In addition to the above the Vale of White Horse District Council have prepared A Design Guide to set out clear design principles to guide future development within the District and to encourage a design-led approach to development.</p> <p>Chapter 4 of the Design Guide provides Inclusive Design Principles. Inclusive design principles will need to be clearly set out in applicants' Design and Access Statements.</p>	N/A

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 10: Abbey Shopping Centre and the Charter, Abingdon-On-Thames – which supports the redevelopment of this area to enhance the retail offer within the town	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Proposals should demonstrate how they will mitigate their transport impact, including improving facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. These requirements should be beneficial for all equality groups assuming that good design and access is promoted.	<p>Core Policy 38: Design Strategies for Strategic and Major Development Sites, promotes good design and access.</p> <p>In addition to the above the Vale of White Horse District Council have prepared A Design Guide to set out clear design principles to guide future development within the District and to encourage a design-led approach to development.</p> <p>This Design Guide aims to provide general guidance on the form that new development should take. This addresses a range of development types from new urban extensions and large residential developments to more modest residential extensions. It also covers the design of mixed-use areas, employment and</p>	N/A

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 11: Botley Central Area – which supports the redevelopment of this area to provide for new retail, leisure and commercial provision	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	<p>The redevelopment of the Botley central area requires a comprehensive masterplan, this includes a requirement of social infrastructure and promotes good design and access, and therefore this should be beneficial to all equality groups.</p>	<p>Core Policy 38: Design Strategies for Strategic and Major Development Sites, promotes good design and access.</p> <p>In addition to the above the Vale of White Horse District Council have prepared A Design Guide to set out clear design principles to guide future development within the District and to encourage a design-led approach to development.</p> <p>This Design Guide aims to provide general guidance on the form that new development should take. This addresses a range of development types from new urban extensions and large residential developments to more modest residential extensions. It also covers the design of mixed-use areas, employment and</p>	N/A

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 12: Safeguarding of land for strategic highway improvements within the Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area – which seeks to protect land needed for the delivery of highway schemes within the area	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	New development in these areas will be carefully designed having regard to matters such as building layout, noise insulation, landscaping and means of access. In the short term, access maybe limited and noise may increase, therefore phasing of development and considerate construction schemes will be applied.		N/A
Core Policy 13: The Oxford Green Belt – which seeks to protect the land that continues to meet the five purposes of Green Belt and maintaining the setting of and managing the growth of the City of Oxford.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	The purpose of the Oxford Green Belt in the Vale of White Horse District is to prevent urban sprawl around Oxford by keeping the land permanently open, and to preserve the rural setting and special character of the City of Oxford. It terms of wellbeing this will be beneficial to all equality groups especially if access to the green belt is enhanced.		N/A

Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ensuring water security is positive to the Vale; however there is no direct impact to any equality groups identified.		N/A
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	The over-arching priority for this sub-area is to secure the aligned delivery of housing and employment growth together with the infrastructure required to achieve sustainable development. This will be predominantly be positive to all equality groups as necessary social infrastructure will be provided.		N/A

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 16: Didcot A Power Station – which safeguards land at this site for employment development	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	<p>This policy specifically safeguards land for employment development at Didcot Power Station.</p> <p>The redevelopment of the Didcot A Power Station site provides the area with an opportunity for the regeneration of around 47 hectares of brownfield land¹³ and the site will be instrumental in the future place shaping of Didcot. The distribution of the employment and other potential uses across the site, will need to be carefully considered through a detailed master planning process. Development proposals will need to reflect the aspirations for Didcot as a whole. Achieving a high quality development with active frontages will be important, particularly due to the site's location on what will become a key access route into the town.</p> <p>The mixed use</p>	<p>Affordable housing and good quality design and access are promoted within the Plan. See the following policies for further information:</p> <p>Core Policy 22: Housing Mix</p> <p>Core Policy 24: Affordable Housing</p> <p>Core Policy 26: Accommodating Current and Future Needs of An Ageing Population</p> <p>Core Policy 37: Design and Local Distinctiveness</p> <p>Core Policy 38: Design Strategies for Strategic and Major Development Sites.</p> <p>In addition to the above the Vale of White Horse District Council have prepared A Design Guide to set out clear</p>	N/A

¹³ The south eastern corner of the site lies within the administrative boundary of South Oxfordshire District Council.

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
											<p>development and combined social infrastructure will be beneficial to all equality groups assuming that good design and access and affordable housing are provided.</p>	<p>design principles to guide future development within the District and to encourage a design-led approach to development.</p> <p>This Design Guide aims to provide general guidance on the form that new development should take. This addresses a range of development types from new urban extensions and large residential developments to more modest residential extensions. It also covers the design of mixed-use areas, employment and commercial areas.</p> <p>Chapter 4 of the Design Guide provides Inclusive Design Principles. Inclusive design principles will need to be clearly set out in applicants' Design and Access Statements.</p>	

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 17: Transport Delivery for the South East Vale Sub-Area – which sets out the approach for delivering critical transport infrastructure within this area	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	A joint Area Action Plan (AAP) will be prepared to cover the Science Vale area located within parts of the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire Districts It will have strong focus on delivery and implementation and on successful place making. The plan will help to achieve a high quality of development informed through the preparation of both strategic and an urban design framework for the area. This should ensure a positive impact long term for all equality groups, in the short term disruption may occur which may result in a minor negative impact; however this will be managed through organised phasing of development.		N/A

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 18: Safeguarding of land for strategic highway schemes in the South East Vale Sub-Area – which seeks to ensure land required for the critical transport infrastructure in this area is protected	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	This policy is about deliverability and safeguarding of land and no direct impact is identified.		N/A
Core Policy 19: Re-opening Grove Railway Station – which sets out the Councils commitment to support the ambition to re-open the station at Grove	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	The re-opening of Grove railway station will be positive to all equality groups in the area and specifically towards the rural populations.		N/A

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 20: Spatial Strategy for the Western Vale Sub-Area – which sets out our strategic site allocations for this area	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	The overarching priority for this sub-area is to protect the service centre role of Faringdon and deliver a balance of housing and employment to improve the self-sufficiency of the area and to protect the vitality and viability of our rural communities. Therefore this policy would be especially positive to the rural communities.		N/A
Core Policy 21: Safeguarding of land for strategic highway improvements within the Western Vale Sub-Area	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	This policy is about deliverability and safeguarding of land and no direct impact is identified.		N/A
Core Policy 22: Housing Mix – which seeks to ensure that the right mix of housing sizes, types and tenures are provided on all residential development sites	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	An appropriate mix of dwelling types and sizes to meet the needs of current and future households will be required on all new residential developments, this will be beneficial to all equality groups especially those with young families and the ageing population.		N/A

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 23: Housing Density – which seeks to ensure that residential dwellings are provided at an appropriate density to reflect the need to use land efficiently whilst also taking account of local circumstances	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	New housing should provide good quality, attractive and acceptable living environments. Access and design statements will be required for all new developments.		N/A
Core Policy 24: Affordable Housing – which sets out the council's approach to the provision of affordable housing as part of new residential development	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Securing new affordable housing on-site as part of new developments is the most effective way to provide new supply. The on-site provision of completed units by a developer is the council's preferred approach and it is expected that the vast majority of residential developments will be capable of delivering affordable housing on the same site. This policy will be beneficial in providing affordable housing to availability and should be beneficial to all equality groups.		N/A

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 25: Rural Exception Sites – which identifies the circumstances in which affordable housing can be provided on ‘exception sites’ in the rural areas, where residential development would not normally be permitted.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	The ‘rural exception site’ policy is aimed at providing homes for local people, who are unable to rent or buy a property on the open market in rural locations. This policy will be extremely positive to equality groups especially those in rural locations.		N/A

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 26: Accommodating Current and Future Needs of An Ageing Population – which sets out measures to ensure new homes are well designed and easily adapted to the changing needs of residents throughout their lives.	-	√	√	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<p>The district has an ageing population. Over the plan period the 65+ age group is projected to increase by 58 % between 2010 and 2030 to represent 26 % of the district's total population by 2030.</p> <p>The high level of growth in this age group is a key demographic driver and should be adequately addressed in the Local Plan 2031 to ensure that housing supply addresses the current and future needs of older people. In delivering homes that will meet the current and future needs of the ageing population, it is important that new homes are adaptable to the changing needs of residents over time. To achieve this we have incorporated a requirement for all new homes designed for older people to achieve the current Lifetime Homes Standards or its replacement. The Lifetime Homes Standards provide a set of 16 design criteria that provide a model for building accessible and adaptable homes.</p> <p>This policy will bring beneficial impacts for the ageing population and</p>		N/A

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 27: Meeting the Housing Needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople – which seeks to provide for the needs of gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople.	-	-	-	√	√	-	-	-	-	-	For the Vale of White Horse District, the identified need is for 19 additional permanent Gypsy and Traveller pitches to be delivered during the plan period. For the Travelling Show People community, the assessment identified that no plots are needed within the district during this plan period.		N/A
Core Policy 28: New Employment Development on Unallocated Sites – which sets out the councils approach to assessing proposals for employment on sites not already allocated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impacts identified		N/A
Core Policy 29: Change of Use of Existing Employment Land and Premises – which sets out the councils approach to assessing proposals for change of use	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impacts identified		N/A

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 30: Further and Higher Education – which seeks to support enhanced provision to enhance access to skills across the district	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	The council will support the development and enhancement of further and higher education facilities to help support the local economy and to ensure the local labour force is equipped to take advantage of the opportunities likely to arise in the future. Good access and transportation is included in this policy therefore this will have positive effects on all equality groups including those in the rural areas.		N/A
Core Policy 31: Development to Support the Visitor Economy – which seeks to support the visitor and tourism sector across the district	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impacts identified		N/A

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 32: Retail Development and other Main Town Centre Uses – which sets out the councils approach to determining proposals for retail and town centre uses.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impacts identified		N/A
Core Policy 33: Promoting Sustainable Transport and Accessibility – which seeks to support key improvements to the transport network	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Promoting sustainable transport and accessibility will be beneficial to all equality groups specifically to those living in rural areas.		N/A
Core Policy 34: A34 Strategy – which sets out the councils support to the long-term strategic planning of the A34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact is identified.		N/A

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 35: Promoting Public Transport, Cycling and Walking – which seeks to support the provision of sustainable transport measures to promote the use of public transport, cycling and walking	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	The promotion of public transport, cycle and walking will be beneficial to all equality groups especially for those wishing to access employment and education facilities and other services.		N/A
Core Policy 36: Electronic Communications – which promotes electronic communications to help reduce the need to travel	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Comprehensive coverage of electronic communications will be beneficial to all equality groups especially those in rural areas, disabled persons and those who are studying.		N/A

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 37: Design and Local Distinctiveness - which seeks to ensure that all development achieves high quality design standards	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	The Government attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, is indivisible from good planning, and should contribute positively to making better places to live and work. New development should create a sense of place and distinct character where people will feel safe and be proud to live and work. Good urban design principles, will be beneficial to all equality groups especially the ageing population, younger persons and the disabled.		

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 38: Design Strategies for Strategic and Major Development Sites – which sets out the requirement for Masterplans and Design and Access Statements to accompany strategic and major development proposals	-	√	√	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<p>The requirement for design and access statements will be beneficial to the ageing population, parents and carers, younger persons and the disabled.</p>	<p>A Core Policy 38: Design Strategies for Strategic and Major Development Sites promotes good design and access.</p> <p>In addition to the above the Vale of White Horse District Council have prepared A Design Guide to set out clear design principles to guide future development within the District and to encourage a design-led approach to development.</p> <p>This Design Guide aims to provide general guidance on the form that new development should take. This addresses a range of development types from new urban extensions and large residential developments to more modest residential extensions. It also covers the design of mixed-use areas, employment and</p>	<p>Additional policy wording added:</p> <p>Contain a Green Infrastructure framework to ensure that public and private open space standards are met, relate well to each other and to existing areas and that the new spaces are safe, convenient, ‘accessible’ and functional.</p>

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 39: The Historic Environment – which sets out the councils approach to conserving historic assets across the district	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact identified		N/A
Core Policy 40: Sustainable Design and Construction – which sets out the requirement for new development to incorporate climate change adaptation measures to ensure resilience to climate change	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	<p>Incorporating climate change adaptation and design measures to combat the effects of changing weather patterns into all new developments, conversions and refurbishments will increase resilience to climate impacts; this will be particularly beneficial to younger persons, disabled persons and the ageing population who are more susceptible to change in temperatures and extreme weather conditions.</p> <p>Flood resilience will be beneficial to all equality groups, specifically those living in rural areas.</p>		N/A

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 41: Renewable Energy – which sets out the councils approach to supporting proposals for renewable energy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact		N/A
Core Policy 42: Flood Risk – which defines how flood risk should be addressed to support new development proposals	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Minimising the risk and impact of flooding will be beneficial to all equality groups, specifically younger persons, disabled persons, the ageing population, and those living in rural areas.		N/A
Core Policy 43: Natural Resources – which sets out the councils approach to minimising environmental impacts associated with development proposals	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Promotion of energy efficiency will be specifically beneficial to the disabled and the ageing population. Having regard for good air quality will be beneficial to all equality groups		N/A
Core Policy 44: Landscape – which sets out the councils approach to protecting the important landscape setting of the Vale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact		N/A

Local Plan Policies	Gen	Dis	Age	Race	R&B	Sex O	Gen R ass	P&M	M & CP	Rural	Summary of effect	Further Information	Action Required
Core Policy 45: Green Infrastructure – which seeks to ensure the appropriate provision of Green Infrastructure through new development	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	The promotion of green infrastructure will be beneficial to all equality groups. Green Infrastructure relates to the active planning and management of substantial networks of multi-functional open space. Such networks need to be planned and managed to deliver the widest range of linked environmental and social benefits including conserving and enhancing biodiversity as well as landscape, recreation, water management, and social and cultural benefits to underpin community health and well-being.		N/A
Core Policy 46: Conservation and Improvement of Biodiversity – which seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity across the district	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No direct impact		N/A

5. Have reasonable adjustments been made for people with disabilities to ensure they can use the draft strategy or policy? This might mean treating disabled people better than non-disabled people in order to meet their needs

- ☐ No
☒ Yes - please provide detail:

Alternative format statement included on the back cover of the Local Plan documents:

Alternative formats of this publication are available on request. These include large print, Braille, audio, email, easy read and alternative languages Please contact Planning on 01235 540347

See **Question 9** below, for information on consultation with community groups.

6. Have there been any equality related recommendations in the area that your draft policy/strategy is covering which have arisen from, for example, internal/external audits or scrutiny reports?

Recommendation made	Is this being addressed in your draft strategy or policy? If not, please explain why.
No	

7. Will the draft strategy or policy help to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it e.g will the changes help to tackle prejudice and promote understanding between the different groups

- ☐ No (*If you feel there is scope to improve how you foster good relations, amend your decision accordingly*)
☒ Yes – please explain how

The Local Plan is a statutory requirement on authorities and will help meet the statutory duties related to equalities and diversity in the following manner:

- Promotes equality of opportunity by ensuring that there is an adequate supply of housing to meet all ranges of affordability.
- Ensures that new development is planned in or close to service centres thereby promoting access to services.
- Plans for the expansion of employment opportunities to provide local opportunities for all.
- The necessary steps to ensure that issues of social exclusion are successfully treated have been taken. These include promotion of gypsy sites, protecting rural services and providing homes for the ageing population.

The following District-Wide policies will raise awareness and ensure the needs of the equality groups are met:

- **Core Policy 22:** Housing Mix,
- **Core Policy 24:** Affordable Housing,
- **Core Policy 27:** Meeting the Housing Needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show-people.
- **Core Policy 26:** Accommodating Current and Future Needs of An Ageing Population,
- **Core Policy 37:** Design and Local Distinctiveness,
- **Core Policy 38:** Design Strategies for Strategic and Major Development Sites,

In bringing forward the strategic housing sites the Council will expect to see high quality developments, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, Core Policy 37 and 38, which are sustainable in the long term, and which integrate and contribute to the existing settlement.

In order to achieve this, the Council will expect every application to be accompanied by:

- A Masterplan which identifies the visions for the development and sets out a clear description of the type of place that will be created.
- A detailed Design and Access Statement that sets out the vision for the sites and demonstrated a commitment to creating a successful place, with well design new homes and supporting infrastructure.
- An Infrastructure Schedule that sets out the planning infrastructure for the scheme and how it will be delivered.
- A development Delivery Agreement which shows the proposed programme of house building, and demonstrates the number of homes the development will contribute to the 5yr housing land supply.
- A Statement of Community Involvement that's sets out how the Parish Council and other local organisations have been involved in the master planning process.

In addition to the above the Vale of White Horse District Council have prepared A Design Guide to set out clear design principles to guide future development within the District and to encourage a design-led approach to development.

This Design Guide aims to provide general guidance on the form that new development should take. This addresses a range of development types from new urban extensions and large residential developments to more modest residential extensions. It also covers the design of mixed-use areas, employment and commercial areas.

Chapter 4 of the Design Guide provides Inclusive Design Principles. Inclusive design principles will need to be clearly set out in applicants' Design and Access Statements

Principle DG38: Inclusive Design Streets and public spaces should be designed so that they:

- Reflect the diversity of people using spaces;
- Are convenient, safe and easy to use for all people without having to experience undue effort, barriers to access or separation;
- Enable everyone to participate equally, confidently and independently in everyday activities irrespective of a person's mobility, age, gender or ethnicity;
- Are welcoming and remove real and imagined barriers;
- Meet the needs of wheelchair users, mobility impaired people and people with pushchairs;
- Encourage social interaction and do not purposely design out the activities of young people or other groups; and
- Provide sensory richness.

In addition applicants should:

- Design tree pits and select tree species that prevent disruption of surfaces when trees mature.
- Ensure that street furniture, signage, lighting and visual and textural contrast in the paving materials are carefully designed and reflect the needs of all potential users; and
- Provide sufficient levels of accessibility for all potential users in terms of parking, pavement space and access to public transport.

The principles of inclusive design should be incorporated from the outset, rather than at the end of the design process as an after thought

8. Will the draft strategy or policy protect and promote human rights? [You may find it helpful to view the human rights articles and case studies on the intranet to help you decide]

☐ No –please explain why and how you will amend the draft policy/strategy to eliminate the effect (if you think the effect

cannot be eliminated but can be justified, please also give details):

☒ Yes

The Local Plan is a statutory requirement on authorities and will help meet the statutory duties related to equalities and diversity in the following manner:

- Promotes equality of opportunity by ensuring that there is an adequate supply of housing to meet all ranges of affordability.
- Ensures that new development is planned in or close to service centres thereby promoting access to services.
- Plans for the expansion of employment opportunities to provide local opportunities for all.
- The necessary steps to ensure that issues of social exclusion are successfully treated have been taken. These include promotion of gypsy sites, protecting rural services and providing homes for the ageing population.

The Local Plan process has used an evidence based approach to identify areas where there are risks of promoting inequalities if mitigatory actions are not taken.

Officers will use the local plan policies to ensure that in reaching planning decisions they protect Human Rights through applying articles 6 'Right to a fair trial' and article 8 'The Right to respect for a private and family life – both of which will be underpinned by article 14 'prohibition of discrimination.

9. Has there been consultation with relevant community groups to help inform this draft strategy or policy?

Do you feel there are any groups that the draft strategy or policy significantly affects who you have not currently consulted? If yes, please contact the shared equality officer for advice (see page 2 for contact details).

☐ If not, please explain why:

☒ If yes, please list who you have consulted:

The Vale of White Horse District Council is committed to working collaboratively with organisations, local communities and individuals to ensure that its planning policies reflect a collective vision and a set of agreed priorities for the area. Our Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) provides further information on our commitment¹⁴.

¹⁴ Statement of Community Involvement, Vale of White Horse District Council, December 2009

The council consulted the public to gather feedback on and help us improve draft policies and proposals outlined in the Draft Local Plan consultation 2013 and Housing Delivery Update (2014). We approached a wide range of stakeholders, including both statutory and non-statutory consultees.

The consultations sought the views of organisations, local communities and individuals on draft planning policies and proposals intended to deliver sustainable growth for the district. A full list of the people and organisations that we consulted is shown in Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031: Part 1 Consultation Statement November 2014 **Appendix 1 –Consultees.**

To raise awareness of the consultations and increase the opportunities to comment, we used a range of publicity methods which are detailed in Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031: Part 1 Consultation Statement November 2014 **Appendix 2 and Appendix 4** - Publicity methods used to attract interest in the 2013/2014 consultations.

A report on the following consultations undertaken by the council in preparation of the Local Plan 2031 Part 1, has been produced ¹⁵:

This document provides a summary of the consultation responses received by the Vale of White Horse District Council relating to the following Local Plan 2031 consultations in 2013 and 2014:

- Draft Local Plan 20291 Part 1: Strategic Sites and Policies (February – May 2013).
- Housing Delivery Update (February – April 2014).

10. Has the draft strategy or policy missed opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and positive attitudes?

☒

No

☐

Yes – please outline the plans you have to address the missed opportunities (complete table below)

Action plan for mitigating action or advancing equality of opportunity

Action	Person responsible	Target completion date

¹⁵ Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031: Part 1 Consultation Statement November 2014

Appendix A

Equalities Impact Assessment Consultation Comments Received and Proposed Changes

Introduction

All comments received have been considered, which is demonstrated below, however to ensure the comments are appropriately addressed the context of the Local Plan Part 1 within the Development Plan needs to be understood.

Alongside the Local Plan Part 1: Strategic Sites and Policies, a Local Plan Part 2: Detailed Policies and Local Sites will be published. Part 1 sets out the strategic, high level policies for the District where as Part 2 will set out more detailed policies to guide day to day decisions on planning applications. Reflecting the nature of the comments below, it may be more appropriate to consider these matters within Part 2. Therefore, and although a number of the comments below are not necessarily being integrated into the Local Plan Part 1, they are not being disregarded but it will be more appropriate to consider and potentially integrate these matters within the Local Plan Part 2.

Similarly, it should also be noted, that the Council have published a Design Guide SPD that provides much more detail than the Local Plan which may have already addressed a number of these equality issues. The Local Plan Part 1 provides the parent policy for the SPD and provides an appropriate basis for proposals to be considered against the SPD.

Specifically in regards to the comments made about accessibility, it is agreed the wording in the Plan can be strengthened to ensure this is appropriately considered within proposals, which is demonstrated below.

Plan Policy/Section	Current	Proposed changes	Reason for change	Action Yes/No	Reason
---------------------	---------	------------------	-------------------	---------------	--------

Plan Policy/Section	Current	Proposed changes	Reason for change	Action Yes/No	Reason
Core policy 26	All new homes designed for older people shall be built to current Lifetime Homes standards as a minimum	A percentage within all new developments in addition to new homes designed for older people	Equality issue. Currently this won't take account of people purchasing a property whilst younger and staying in it until old age.	No	Housing Standards Review - National Legislation: The Government completed a Housing Standards Review in October 2013. A Technical Consultation was launched in September 2014. It is intended that standards relating to water efficiency, access (including Lifetime Homes) and security will be consolidated into the building regulations. The relevant legislative requirements are currently going through Parliament. It is expected that transitional arrangements for local authorities will be introduced in early 2015.

Plan Policy/Section	Current	Proposed changes	Reason for change	Action Yes/No	Reason
Lifetime homes	N/A	'Where possible residential development should also include wheelchair accessible homes in addition to lifetime homes'	Equality issue. The draft design guide includes: Wheelchair accessible homes should be designed in accordance with recognised guidance such as Wheelchair Housing Design Guide (Habinteg, 2006). These homes should be positioned in highly accessible locations. These should be in addition to lifetime homes.	No	The Design Guide SPD is due to be adopted and this is included as a requirement: Principle DG64: Inclusive Communities. See comment above: National Legislation: The Government completed a Housing Standards Review in October 2013.

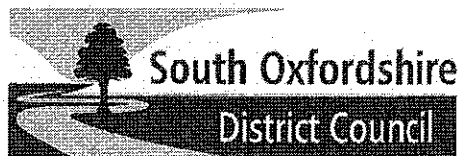
Plan Policy/Section	Current	Proposed changes	Reason for change	Action Yes/No	Reason
Core Policy 37: Design and Local Distinctiveness	Section 6.86 links to the Design Guide SPD	Ensuring accessible design to meet the needs of older people, people with disability parents and carers.	Equality issue The policy does not include a statement about ensuring accessible design to meet the needs of older people, people with disability parents and carers. Throughout the EIA we are suggesting that the plan will be beneficial to all groups 'assuming' that good quality design and access is provided – this is the key.	No	Design Guide SPD Principle DG38: Inclusive Design addresses these issues. See comment above: National Legislation: The Government completed a Housing Standards Review in October 2013.
6.88	Makes reference: to producing the masterplan in consultation with stakeholders – on strategic and major development and any that contains housing for older people.	Include: in consultation with someone from the National Register of access consultants	Equality issue	No	Section 6.88 makes reference to collaboration with stakeholders, it does not list all stakeholders within this section and therefore it would not be appropriate to single out the National Register of access consultants for special mention.

Plan Policy/Section	Current	Proposed changes	Reason for change	Action Yes/No	Reason
Core Policy 37: Design and Local Distinctiveness	N/A	Statement: British Standard Code of Practice: encourage development to meet the British Standards - BS8300:2009+A1:2010 Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people.	Equality issue Only then can we ensure that buildings are truly accessible as the building regs are minimum access standards. If not included within the Plan cannot be enforced.	No	See comment above: National Legislation: The Government completed a Housing Standards Review in October 2013.
Core Policy 38: Design Strategies for Strategic and Major Development Sites	The policy has the following stmt: contain 1. A masterplan which should : • a Green Infrastructure framework to ensure that public and private open space standards are met, relate well to each other and to existing areas and that the new spaces are safe, convenient and functional.	Contain a Green Infrastructure framework to ensure that public and private open space standards are met, relate well to each other and to existing areas and that the new spaces are safe, convenient, ' accessible ' and functional.	Equality issue	Yes	We agreed that the word ' accessible ' could be added to this sentence as a minor modification

Plan Policy/Section	Current	Proposed changes	Reason for change	Action Yes/No	Reason
Core Policy 38: Design Strategies for Strategic and Major Development Sites	2. an accompanying design and access statement, which should explain.....	Design and Access stmt: statement about 'accessibility' of the scheme. Additional bullet point <ul style="list-style-type: none"> how accessibility will be addressed, both during construction and when the development is complete. 	Equality issue	NO	Design Guide SPD Principle DG38: Inclusive Design sufficiently addresses these issues.



**Vale
of White Horse**
District Council



Listening Learning Leading

Draft strategies/policies – Equality Impact Check

Draft strategy/policy being checked:

The Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 1: Strategic Sites and Policies

Is this draft strategy/policy:



South only



Vale only



Joint across both councils

Service team:

Planning (Policy)

Officer completing this: Anne Hugh-White

Once completed:

Date completed: 11 March 2015

Signed Anne Hugh-White (Officer)

Signed [Signature] (Head of Service) ANNA ROBINSON

Signed [Signature] (Cheryl Reeves, Shared equalities officer)

Alternative formats of this publication
are available on request

These include large print, Braille, audio,
email, easy read and alternative languages

Please contact Planning on 01235 540347

Planning Policy Team

Abbey House, Abbey Close,
Abingdon, OX14 3JE

Tel: 01235 540499 Fax: 01235 540397

Email: planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk