

Planning

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Listening Learning Leading

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Our ref:
Your ref:

22 November 2017

Dear Mr Maxted,

South Oxfordshire District Council is pleased to be able to comment on the Vale of White Horse Local Plan part two. We wish to emphasise the continued close working between our two councils particularly in relation to Didcot Garden Town, but also in other cross border evidence gathering for infrastructure requirements and projects such as the Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Leisure Facilities strategies. We look forward to future joint work that recognises the potential opportunities, and mitigates where necessary, any adverse cross border impacts of development growth.

Core Policy 4a

South Oxfordshire District Council wish to highlight the fact that the unmet housing need identified for Oxford City is still a working assumption. Notwithstanding the forthcoming government announcement on the proposals for new housing need calculations; and, the potential impact that this might have on housing targets for the whole of Oxfordshire: Until Oxford City Council have a local plan that has been tested through consultation and examination it will remain an assumed figure.

We therefore suggest that a commitment to review the Vale's contribution to meeting Oxford City's unmet need, when the City's plan is adopted, is included in Core Policy 4a or the monitoring indicators for the policy.

Core Policy 8a and Core Policy 15a

South Oxfordshire District Council support the Vale of White Horse in their approach to managing the delivery of development and focusing growth through the continued use of spatial sub areas and development supply areas. Core Policy 15a, in particular, will support economic investment in Science Vale and Didcot Garden Town and provide new homes near jobs. We also support the view that this will maintain critical investment in, and the delivery of, key infrastructure.

Core Policy 16b: Didcot Garden Town

South Oxfordshire District Council support the inclusion of this policy and welcome the fact that it mirrors the draft policy STRAT4 in our own emerging local plan, reflecting our joint work on this project.

Core Policy 18a: Safeguarding of Land for Strategic Highway Improvements within the South-East Vale Sub-Area

South Oxfordshire District Council support the continued safeguarding of land for highway improvement. We are pleased to note the importance placed on the cross-border package of highways improvements, as cross referenced to Core Policies 17 and 18 of the local plan part **www.southoxon.gov.uk**



1. South Oxfordshire recognise that these key transport infrastructure improvements – particularly the new road link and river crossing between Didcot and the Culham Science Centre – have wider benefits, both in the Vale of White Horse and within Oxfordshire. We therefore propose that a Memorandum of Understanding is drawn-up between the district and county councils regarding planning for development and delivery of these schemes. We also support the insertion of the new schemes that seek improvements to the access arrangements into Milton Park.

Development Policy 1: Self and Custom-Build

South Oxfordshire District Council are pleased to see that the Vale of White Horse has now included a specific policy to support the role of self and custom build development.

Development Policy 2: Space Standards

South Oxfordshire District Council support the inclusion of the optional space standards in this policy.

Development Policy 26: Air Quality

South Oxfordshire District Council support the inclusion of this policy and welcome the fact that it is similar to the draft policy EP1 in our own emerging local plan, reflecting our joint work in this area.

Development Policy 30: Watercourses

South Oxfordshire District Council support the inclusion of this policy and welcome the fact that it is similar to the draft policy ENV4 in our own emerging local plan, reflecting our joint work in this area.

Development Policy 34: Leisure and sports facilities

South Oxfordshire District Council support the provisions of this policy and that it reflects the joint working we have under taken.

Conclusion

South Oxfordshire District Council is committed to the continued sharing of cross boarder information about leisure needs and the delivery of new facilities. Of particular importance, will be the viable delivery of major infrastructure in Didcot and its potential impact on other new facilities for example those proposed in Wantage.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Canavan
Principal Planning Policy Officer