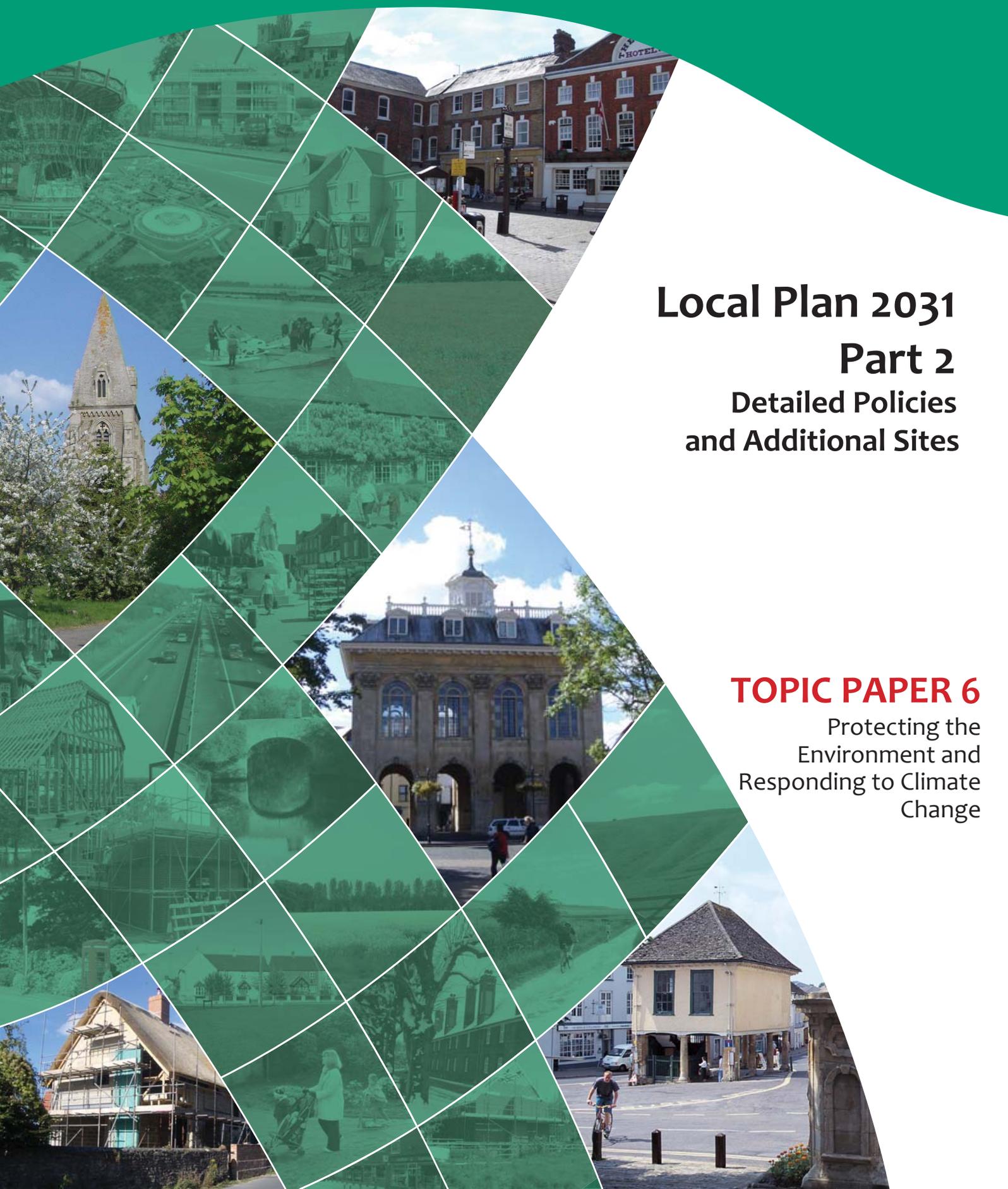




**Vale
of White Horse**
District Council

Consultation Draft
March 2017



Local Plan 2031 Part 2 Detailed Policies and Additional Sites

TOPIC PAPER 6

Protecting the
Environment and
Responding to Climate
Change

This paper is one of 6 topic papers, listed below, which form part of the evidence base in support of the draft Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2.

These topic papers have been produced to present a coordinated view of the evidence that has been considered in drafting the Local Plan 2031 Part 2. It is hoped that this will make it easier to understand how we have reached our conclusions.

The Topic papers will be revised following the 'preferred options' consultation to inform the next stage of plan preparation, which is known as the 'publication' stage. Final versions of the Topic Papers will be published alongside this final stage, which is timetabled for publication in the autumn of 2017.

The papers are available to view and access from the council website:

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/LPP2

Topic Papers

1. Duty to cooperate
2. Site selection
3. Building Health and Sustainable communities
4. Supporting economic prosperity
5. Transport and accessibility
6. Protecting the Environment and Responding to Climate Change

Contents

1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	2
2.0 DESIGN AND AMENITY	6
National Policy Context	6
Local Policy Context.....	7
Evidence	8
Informal Consultation Outcomes.....	8
Key Issues.....	9
Recommendations.....	10
3.0 LANDSCAPE	11
National Policy Context	11
Local Policy Context.....	12
Evidence	13
Informal Consultation Outcomes.....	13
Key Issues.....	14
Recommendations.....	14
4.0 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE.....	15
National Policy Context	15
Local Policy Context.....	16
Evidence	18
Informal Consultation Outcomes.....	20
Key Issues.....	20
Recommendations.....	21
5.0 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT	22
National Policy Context	22
Local Policy Context.....	23
Evidence	24
Informal Consultation Outcomes.....	24
Key Issues.....	24
Recommendations.....	25
6.0 OPEN SPACE, LEISURE AND RECREATION.....	26
National Policy Context	26
Local Context	27
Evidence	28
Consultation Outcomes	29
Key Issues.....	30

Recommendations.....	30
7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH.....	31
National Policy Context	31
Local Policy Context	32
Evidence	33
Consultation Outcomes	34
Key Issues.....	35
Recommendations.....	35
APPENDIX 1: ASSESSMENT OF SAVED LOCAL PLAN 2011 POLICIES RELATED TO DESIGN AND AMENITY.....	37
APPENDIX 2: ASSESSMENT OF SAVED LOCAL PLAN 2011 LANDSCAPE POLICIES.....	38
APPENDIX 3: ASSESSMENT OF SAVED LOCAL PLAN 2011 POLICIES RELATED TO GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE.....	40
APPENDIX 4: ASSESSMENT OF SAVED LOCAL PLAN 2011 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT POLICIES.....	41
APPENDIX 5: ASSESSMENT OF SAVED LOCAL PLAN 2011 POLICIES RELATED TO OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION.....	42
APPENDIX 6: ASSESSMENT OF SAVED LOCAL PLAN 2011 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH POLICIES.....	44

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This topic paper sets out the process undertaken and evidence considered by the Council to inform the policies in Local Plan 2031 Part 2 (LPP2) in relation to 'Protecting the Environment and Responding to Climate Change.
- 1.2 The Local Plan 2031 Part 2 will sit alongside the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 (LPP1) which was adopted in December 2016¹. Local Plan Part 1 sets the strategic priorities 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. It also identifies a number of district wide policies which provide strategic guidance on a number of topics.
- 1.3 Local Plan Part 2 will identify new site allocations to meet the Vale's apportionment of Oxford City's Unmet Need, any remaining development needs not accounted for in Local Plan Part 1, and includes policies in relation to Didcot Garden Town. It will also identify development management policies to assist in determining applications that relate to detailed planning matters not covered by LPP1.
- 1.4 This topic paper explains how the Council has considered and formulated the detailed development management policies, as set out in the Preferred Options Local Plan 2031 Part 2. It is one of a series of topic papers that reflect the four thematic areas central to the Local Plan 2031. These themes are as follows:
 - Building Healthy and Sustainable Communities
 - Supporting Economic Prosperity
 - Supporting Sustainable Transport and Accessibility
 - Protecting the Environment and Responding to Climate Change
- 1.5 This topic paper explains how the Council has formulated its policies in relation to the Protecting the Environment and Responding to Climate Change theme. This includes design and amenity, historic environment, green infrastructure, leisure, open space and recreation and issues related to environment and health.
- 1.6 The structure of each topic paper reflects the following:
 - **National Policy Context:** a brief summary of relevant national policies e.g. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) and relevant legislation.

¹ Vale of White Horse District Council (2016) Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 1: Strategic Sites and Policies, available at: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/new-local-plan-2031-part-1-strategic-sites>

- **Local Policy Context:** outlines relevant Core Policies in the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 and provides a review and assessment of similarly saved policies in the Local Plan 2011.
- **Evidence:** summarises key evidence and its outcomes.
- **Informal Consultation Outcomes:** summarises key issues identified through informal consultation with internal officers and key external bodies.
- **Key Issues:** summarises the key issues to be considered when formulating LPP2 policies.
- **Recommendations:** identifies the key recommendations for the policies that are included in the Preferred Options stage for Local Plan 2031 Part 2.

2.0 DESIGN AND AMENITY

- 2.1 This section sets out the key issues to be taken into consideration when formulating the design and amenity policies in Local Plan Part 2, including public art, amenity, waste and recycling, external lighting and advertisements.

National Policy Context

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 2.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) at Section 7 sets out the Government's policies on 'Requiring good design'. Key aims of the NPPF are to seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings (paragraph 17). Local Planning Authorities should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area (paragraph 58).
- 2.3 To ensure high quality design for new development and to provide a good standard of amenity for existing and future occupants planning policies should:
- Address the connections between people and places and the integration of new development in the natural, built and historic environment (paragraph 61)
 - Ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account effects (including cumulative) of pollution on health, the natural environment or general amenity (paragraph 120)
 - Limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation (paragraph 125).
- 2.4 The NPPF also provides guidance on advertisements, in particular advertisements should be subject to control only in the interests of amenity and public safety, taking account of cumulative impacts.

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)

- 2.5 The PPG provides additional guidance on design and amenity. This includes, the contribution public art and sculptures can make in creating interesting and exciting places².
- 2.6 The PPG also includes guidance on health and well-being, such as the need for Local Planning Authorities to consider potential pollution and other environmental hazards that might lead to an adverse impact on human health in new development proposals³.

² Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 26-018-20140306

³ Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 53-002-20140306

- 2.7 In relation to external lighting, the PPG provides guidance on how to consider light within the planning system and to consider the impacts of obtrusive light on wildlife, environment and humans.⁴
- 2.8 Guidance is also provided on the display of advertisements, particularly the need for the planning system to consider the impacts on amenity and public safety⁵.

Local Policy Context

Local Plan 2031 Part 1: Strategic Sites and Policies (LPP1), Adopted December 2016

- 2.9 Strategic Objective 11 in the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 ensure all new development achieves high quality design standards and conserves and enhances the natural, historic, cultural and landscape assets of the Vale.
- 2.10 The following Part 1 Plan policies are of key relevance to design and amenity:
- **Core Policy 37: Design and Local Distinctiveness** ensures that development proposals respond positively to the site and their surroundings and encourages the use of public art.
 - **Core Policy 38: Design Strategies for Strategic and Major Development Sites** ensures development proposals respects the local distinctiveness and achieves a positive sense of place and identity.

Saved Policies in Local Plan 2011

- 2.11 The Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011 (LP2011) was adopted in July 2006. The majority of policies in the LP2011 were 'saved' by the Secretary of State in 2009. Following the adoption of LPP1, a number of saved LP2011 policies were replaced, however some saved policies have been carried forward.
- 2.12 The saved policies relating to design and amenity that have been reviewed as part of this process, are as follows:
- DC3: Design against crime
 - DC4: Public Art
 - DC7: Waste and Recycling
 - DC9: The Impact of Development of Neighbouring Uses
 - DC10: The Effect of Neighbouring or Previous Uses on New Development
 - DC16: Illuminated Advertisements

⁴ Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 31-002-20140306

⁵ Paragraph: 079 Reference ID: 18b-079-20140306; Paragraph: 067 Reference ID: 18b-067-20140306

- DC20: External Lighting

2.13 An assessment of these saved Local Plan 2011 policies has been undertaken to ascertain if any of them should be included in the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2 or if they should no longer be replaced. **Appendix 1** shows the outcomes of this process. In summary six out of seven of the policies are to be replaced in the Local Plan 2031 Part 2, with one saved policy (DC3) that is no longer replaced in the Part 2 Plan.

Evidence

Design Guide SPD (March 2015)

- 2.14 The Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)⁶ sets out a number of design principles for new development proposals and provides additional detail to complement the development management policies in the Local Plan 2031 Part 2 and Core Policies 37 and 38 in the Part 1 Plan.
- 2.15 In relation to public art, the SPD ensures that public art is considered at the early stages of the design process, integrated into the public realm and is well maintained.
- 2.16 The SPD also provides guidance on amenity, in particular the need for development proposals to consider issues such as noise, privacy and overshadowing in relation to potential impacts on neighbouring uses.
- 2.17 The Design Guide also provides additional guidance on lighting and advertisements to ensure the nature of these proposals are appropriately design and located.

Public Art Policy (draft)

- 2.18 The Council's emerging Public Art Policy seeks to promote quality and vision by seeking contributions towards art provision in the Vale from new development proposals. This document has assisted the Council in producing a development management policy for Public Art in the Local Plan 2031 Part 2.

Informal Consultation Outcomes

- 2.19 The Planning Policy Team has undertaken a stage of informal consultation with other teams in the Council and key external bodies. The informal consultation

⁶ Vale of White Horse Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (2015), available at: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/supplementar-2>

responses received have identified a number of issues that have helped inform policy development to date of Local Plan Part 2. Key comments are as follows:

- Development Management Team: commented that the public art policy should be considered in light of Community Infrastructure Levy.
- Development Management Team: supportive of a policy on advertisements, but commented that it would need to reflect national guidance with respect to public safety and amenity.
- Arts Development Officer: supportive of a policy on public art but it will need to be in line with the Council's emerging Public Art Policy.
- Waste Team: supportive of a waste collection and recycling policy, however commented that it should reflect the Council's Waste Planning Guidance and apply to commercial and residential proposals.
- Environmental Health Team: supportive of a policy on amenity and commented that the policy should cover other environmental issues.
- Environmental Health Team: supportive of a policy on external lighting, particularly when assessing nuisance from sources such as floodlit sports pitches.
- Specialist Officer: supportive of a policy on external lighting and commented that the policy needs to consider impacts on landscape and environmental zones. The policy should also refer to current best practice.
- Environment Agency: commented that the policy on external lighting should consider impacts on local biodiversity, particularly light spill into river and green corridors.

Key Issues

2.20 The key issues to be considered when preparing LPP2 policies, reflecting the above, are:

- Implications of Community Infrastructure Levy should be considered when developing a policy on public art.
- National policy sets out that in relation to external lighting, the need to consider the most suitable locations for development proposals involving uses that generate or alter existing levels of artificial light.
- Environment Agency has commented that a policy related to external lighting should address the impact lighting can have on biodiversity, particularly light spill into rivers and green corridors.
- The PPG sets out the need for advertisements to be appropriately designed to ensure they contribute to a safe and attractive environment, including the need to consider pedestrian safety, heritage assets, visual amenity and external lighting.

Recommendations

2.21 The recommendations in respect of design and amenity policies for consideration in LPP2 are as follows:

1. A policy that seeks to support or encourage the promotion of public art as part of development proposals.
2. A policy that sets out measures to ensure adequate and appropriate facilities for the sorting, storage and collection of waste for new development proposals.
3. A policy that sets out measures to minimise the impact of development on neighbouring amenity.
4. A policy that sets out measures to ensure new occupiers are not unacceptably affected by existing or neighbouring uses.
5. A policy that sets out measures to ensure that development involving external lighting is appropriately design and located.
6. A policy that sets out measures to ensure development involving advertisements is appropriately designed and located.

3.0 LANDSCAPE

- 3.1 This section sets out the key issues to be taken into consideration when formulating the landscape policies in Local Plan Part 2, including settlement character and gaps.

National Policy Context

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 3.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) at Section 11 sets out the Government's policies on 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment'. Key aims of the NPPF are the need to contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment, to take account of the different roles and character of different areas and recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside (paragraph 17).
- 3.3 To ensure development recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, the NPPF suggests planning policies should:
- Protect and enhance valued landscapes (paragraph 109)
 - Set criteria based policies against which proposals for any development on or affecting landscape areas will be judged (paragraph 113)
 - Give great weight to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty (paragraph 115).

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)

- 3.3 The PPG requires councils to include strategic policies for the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, including landscape and the wider countryside.⁷
- 3.4 The PPG also requires councils, through plan-making, to prepare Landscape Character Assessments (LCA) to help understand the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape⁸, and to identify the features that give it a sense of place.

⁷ Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 8-001-20140306

⁸ Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 8-001-20140306

Local Policy Context

Local Plan 2031 Part 1: Strategic Sites and Policies (LPP1), Adopted December 2016

- 3.5 The landscape is central to the rural character of the Vale, from the Corallian Ridge, to the Lowland Vale, to the North Wessex Downs AONB and the Oxford Green Belt.
- 3.6 Strategic Objectives 10 and 11 in the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 ensures the need to maintain and improve the natural environment including landscape and to ensure all new development conserves and enhances the natural and landscape assets of the Vale.
- 3.7 The following LPP1 policies are of key relevance:
- **Core Policy 44: Landscape** ensures the Vale's distinctive and intrinsic landscape and key features are protected from harmful development
 - **Core Policies 37 and 38** ensures new development responds positively to the surrounding local context, including key features and assets within the Vale's landscape.

Saved Policies in Local Plan 2011

- 3.8 The Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011 (LP2011) was adopted in July 2006. The majority of policies in the LP2011 were 'saved' by the Secretary of State in 2009. Following the adoption of LPP1, a number of saved LP2011 policies were replaced, however some saved policies have been carried forward.
- 3.9 The saved policies relating to landscape that have been reviewed as part of this process, are as follows:
- DC6: Landscaping
 - NE6: The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 - NE7: The North Vale Corallian Ridge
 - NE8: The landscape setting of Oxford
 - NE9: The Lowland Vale
 - NE10: Urban Fringes and Countryside Gaps
 - NE11: Areas for landscape enhancement
 - NE12: Great Western Community Forest
- 3.10 An assessment of these saved policies has been undertaken to ascertain if any of them should be included in Local Plan 2031 Part 2 or if they should no longer be replaced. **Appendix 2** shows the outcomes of this process. In summary, only one of the eight saved policies is carried forward into LPP2 as it is considered that Core Policy 44 in the Part 1 Plan and the emerging Landscape

Character Assessment provides a sufficient level of detail related to specific landscape character policies.

Evidence

Vale of White Horse Landscape Character Assessment, March 2017

- 3.11 The Vale of White Horse Landscape Character Assessment⁹ supports the development of planning policies in the Local Plan 2031. The assessment identifies the key landscape features, including Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas, to help understand the character and local distinctiveness of the Vale's intrinsic landscape.
- 3.12 The LCA will also be used to assist the Development Management team when assessing development proposals that may impact upon the landscape.

Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy, March 2017

- 3.13 The Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy¹⁰ supports the policies in the Local Plan 2031 Part 2 by setting out a strategic approach for the Vale, for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of a Strategic Green Infrastructure Network.
- 3.14 Green Infrastructure (GI) is an integral part of the landscape that strongly influences landscape character and makes places distinctive.

Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study (OWLS)

- 3.15 The Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study (OWLS) provides a landscape character assessment and biodiversity appraisal for Oxfordshire. This document is currently being used to help determine planning applications in the Vale.

Informal Consultation Outcomes

- 3.16 The Planning Policy Team has undertaken a stage of informal consultation with other teams within the Council and key external bodies. The informal consultation responses received have identified a number of issues that have helped inform policy development to date of Local Plan Part 2. Key comments are as follows:

⁹ Hakinson Duckett Associates (2017) Vale of White Horse draft Landscape Character Assessment, available at: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/LPP2

¹⁰ Chris Blandford Associates (2017) South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse draft Green Infrastructure Strategy, available at: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/LPP2

- Specialist Officers commented that an updated landscape character policy in the Part 2 Plan should reflect the emerging Landscape Character Assessment.
- Specialist Officers commented that a policy on settlement character and gaps should be supported by the Landscape Character Assessment to provide further detail.
- Specialist Officers commented that a policy on settlement character and gaps should focus on the identity of places drawn from the Landscape Character Assessment.
- Equalities Officer: commented that a policy on landscape character should recognise the need to improve access to the countryside for all users, including people with disabilities and mobility impairments.

Key Issues

3.17 The key issues to be considered when preparing LPP2 policies, reflecting the above, are:

- Any update to the existing Saved Policy NE10 should be kept generic, reflect national policy and focus on detail drawn from the LCA.
- The Part 2 Plan should refer to the need for proposals to be compatible with the Landscape Character Types and Character Areas in the Landscape Character Assessment.

Recommendations

3.18 The recommendations in respect of landscape policies for consideration in LPP2 are as follows:

1. A policy on landscape character is no longer considered necessary to include in Local Plan 2031 Part 2 as Core Policy 44: Landscape in the Part 1 Plan, provides sufficient detail in protecting the Vale's key landscape features from harmful development by taking into account landscape character. It is considered helpful however, that supporting text in the Part 2 Plan is included to guide development to be compatible with the Council's Landscape Character Assessment.
2. A policy should be considered in relation to settlement character and gaps that sets out measures to ensure that proposals do not compromise important gaps between settlements. This is particularly relevant as the Vale comprises of many urban and rural settlements that each provide a locally distinctive character and identity.

4.0 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

- 4.1. This section sets out the key considerations in formulating the green infrastructure, including watercourses, public rights of way, national trails and open access areas of land, and the Wilts and Berks Canal.

National Policy Context

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 4.2. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) at Section 11 sets out the Government's policies on 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment'. Key aims of the NPPF is the need to *"recognise that open land can perform many functions (such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk, mitigation....."* (para 17).
- 4.3. To ensure development conserves and enhances the natural environment, in relation to green infrastructure, Local Planning Authorities should:
- Support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit business in rural areas, communities and visitors, and which respect the character of the countryside (paragraph 28).
 - Should protect and enhance public rights of way and access and seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks, including National Trails (paragraph 75).
 - Set out a strategic approach in their local plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure (paragraph 114).
 - Minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity by identifying and mapping components of local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors (paragraph 117).

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) and Other Legislation

- 4.4. The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) includes additional guidance on green infrastructure (GI), including the function that watercourses and other water bodies can play in supporting the GI network.¹¹
- 4.5. The PPG also requires councils, through plan-making to produce a green infrastructure framework or strategy, making an assessment of current GI provision to identify gaps in the network, and opportunities for improvement.

¹¹ Paragraph: 027 Reference ID: 8-027-2160211

National guidance also encourages neighbouring councils to work collaboratively with other stakeholders under the Duty to Cooperate to consider how wider strategies can help to address cross-boundary issues¹².

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act)

- 4.6. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act) places a duty on authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity in exercising their functions¹³. Through plan-making and policy-making, the Act requires that aquatic and semi-aquatic habitats are protected and enhanced, with a particular relevance to green infrastructure such as watercourses.

Local Policy Context

Local Plan 2031 Part 1: Strategic Sites and Policies (LPP1), Adopted December 2016

- 4.7. Some of the key challenges and opportunities identified in the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 include the need to improve access to waterways that add biodiversity and interest to the locality, providing corridors for recreation, tourism and wildlife and the need to support informal recreation and providing GI.
- 4.8. There are over a hundred watercourses within the Vale, varying from small springs and drainage channels, to the River Thames, including several globally rare chalk streams. The geology of these chalk streams produces characteristic features that support special wildlife habitats and species, including protected species such as White Clawed Crayfish, Otter, Water Vole, Water Shrew and Kingfisher.
- 4.9. However, it is estimated that only around a quarter of Britain's chalk streams are at "good status" under the Water Framework Directive.
- 4.10. Public Rights of Way and National Trails are also recognised as an element of GI that provides an important resource in the Vale for exercise, recreational and tourism activities and for their tranquillity, landscape, ecological and historical significance.
- 4.11. Strategic Objective 10 in the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 aims to ensure that the natural environment including biodiversity, landscape, Green Infrastructure and waterways, is maintained and improved.

¹² Paragraph: 029 Reference ID: 8-029-20160211

¹³ Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2016, available at:
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/pdfs/ukpga_20060016_en.pdf

4.12. The following Part 1 Plan policies are of key relevance:

- **Core Policy 37: Design and Local Distinctiveness** ensures the promotion of sustainable modes of transport including the need for development to integrate into existing rights of way networks.
- **Core Policy 45: Green Infrastructure** ensures a net gain to Green Infrastructure through on or off site provision or the improvement of existing assets.
- **Core Policy 46: Biodiversity** seeks to avoid a net loss of biodiversity and to permit development which would restore and enhance biodiversity.

Saved Policies in Local Plan 2011

4.13. The Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011 (LP2011) was adopted in July 2006. The majority of policies in the LP2011 were 'saved' by the Secretary of State in 2009. Following the adoption of LPP1, a number of saved LP2011 policies were replaced. However some saved policies have been carried forward.

4.14. The saved policies relating to green infrastructure that have been reviewed as part of this process, are as follows:

- L3: Urban Open Space and Green Corridors
- L10: Safeguarding and improving public rights of way
- L11: The Ridgeway
- L12: The Thames Path
- L14: Wilts & Berks Canal
- L15: Wilts & Berks Canal

4.15. An assessment of these saved policies has been undertaken to ascertain if any of them should be included in Local Plan 2031 Part 2 or if they should no longer be replaced. **Appendix 3** shows the outcome of this process. In summary, 4 of the 6 saved policies are carried forward into LPP2 with 2 saved policies not being replaced.

Evidence

Watercourses

Vale of White Horse Water Cycle Study (September 2015)

- 4.16. The Vale of White Horse Water Cycle Study¹⁴ assessed the impacts of new housing developments on safe water, refuse water needs, and the impact of climate change on potential flood risk of allocated housing sites. The study also assessed the potential impact on the biodiversity of watercourses adjacent to potential housing sites and recommended that riparian buffer strips could be provided adjacent to watercourses within a development site or along its periphery.
- 4.17. The removal or modification of existing river culverts should also be considered where practicable in line with Environment Agency guidance.

Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy (March 2017)

- 4.18. The draft Green Infrastructure Strategy¹⁵ presents the Councils' vision for the future provision and management of Green Infrastructure (GI) in Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire Districts up to 2031. The draft Green Infrastructure Strategy also sets out principles and guidance to assist in the planning, design and delivery of Green Infrastructure in the Vale.
- 4.19. The draft Strategy recommends that new development proposals should seek to enhance links to existing and new green infrastructure assets.
- 4.20. The draft Strategy also sets out a number of recommendations to minimise the impact of development on watercourses.

¹⁴ JBA Consulting (2015) Vale of White Horse District Council – Water Cycle Study: Updated Phase 1 Study, available at:

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=FolderView&ID=627990642&CODE=5B5E037FB8EDDB17AA1EFFC78D0AE00A&NAME=WWF01.1+Vale+of+White+Horse+District+Council+Water+Cycle+Study+%28September+2015%29&REF=LOCAL%20PLAN%202031%20PART%201%20EXAMINATION%20LIBRARY>

¹⁵ Chris Blandford Associates (2017) South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse draft Green Infrastructure Strategy, available at: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/LPP2

Public Rights of Way, National Trails and Open Access Areas

Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) (2017)

- 4.21. The HRA¹⁶ to support the Local Plan 2031 Part 2 concluded that increasing access to existing public rights of way and creating new connectors may lead to increases in recreational activity that could have the potential to increase pressure on European sites.
- 4.22. The Report has recommended that the policy should consider increased pressure on sensitive receptors, such as ecologically valuable sites.

Oxfordshire Rights of Way Management Plan 2015 – 2025

- 4.23. Oxfordshire County Council, has published a Rights of Way Management Plan 2015 – 2025¹⁷ that sets out the vision for managing and improving the access to public rights of way network, whilst continuing to identify and seek opportunities for improvements.

Oxfordshire County Council Definitive Map and Statement

- 4.24. The Definitive Map and Statement¹⁸ shows the status and location of public rights of way routes in Oxfordshire.

Wilts & Berks Canal

- 4.25. The Council continues to work positively and constructively with the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust and Wiltshire, Swindon and Oxfordshire Canal Partnership to explore their long-term vision for the future restoration of the Wilts and Berks Canal.
- 4.26. The Trust are preparing a number of technical studies to support the inclusion of a policy in the Part 2 Plan and to demonstrate the long-term delivery of the project. The Trust has published a Restoration Strategy¹⁹ that sets out their approach to the future restoration of the canal. This is underpinned by a number of supporting and emerging studies including feasibility studies, masterplanning, ecology assessment and a landowner engagement policy and programme.

¹⁶ AECOM (2017) Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2: Habitats Regulations Assessment, available at: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/LPP2

¹⁷ Oxfordshire County Council (2014) Oxfordshire Rights of Way Management Plan 2015-2025; available at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/oxfordshires-rights-way-management-plan>

¹⁸ Oxfordshire County Council (2016) Definitive Map and Statement, available at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/definitive-map-and-statement-online>

¹⁹ The Wiltshire, Swindon and Oxfordshire Canal Partnership (2015) A Restoration Strategy for the Completion and Future Development of the Wilts & Berks Canal, available at: <http://www.canalpartnership.org.uk/files/studies/Abridged.pdf>

Informal Consultation Outcomes

4.27. The Planning Policy Team has undertaken a stage of informal consultation with other teams within the Council and key external bodies. The informal consultation responses received have identified a number of issues that have helped inform policy development to date of Local Plan Part 2. Key comments are as follows:

- Environment Agency: recommended that a policy on watercourses should reflect current best practice and national guidance, including the River Wye Advice Note.
- Environment Agency: commented that the policy on Wilts & Berks Canal should consider the need to assess impacts on ecology and water quality.
- Specialist Officers: commented that the Part 2 Plan should include an update to saved policy L3 in the Local Plan 2011 that applies to all watercourses in the Vale.
- Oxfordshire County Council: commented that an update to saved policy L12 in the Local Plan 2011 should refer to the need to protect and enhance open access areas as well as public rights of way and national trails.
- Oxfordshire County Council: commented that the policy regarding the safeguarding for the route of Wilts & Berks Canal should provide more flexibility in delivering the route.
- Equalities Officer: commented that the policy on rights of way and national trails should consider access for all users, including people with disabilities.

Key Issues

4.28. The key issues to be considered when preparing LPP2 policies, reflecting the above, are:

Watercourses

- The need for a policy to protect the biodiversity and green infrastructure functions of all its watercourses. Saved policies L2 and L3 in the Local Plan 2011 only protect specific watercourses and due to the nature and characteristics of the Vale, including the presence of nationally important chalk streams, it is important to protect and enhance all watercourses.
- If included, policy should consider a requirement for developers to provide buffer zones either side of the watercourse and encourage the removal of culverts.

Public Rights of Way and National Trails

- National policy requires local plans to include planning policies that seek to protect and/or enhance public rights of way and access. Planning policies should be considered to seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks, including National Trails.
- Any policy should complement and provide additional detail to the strategic policies in the Local Plan 2031 and design principles set out in the Design Guide SPD.
- Policy should also be considered to seek financial contributions towards the improvements to public rights of way, open access areas and national trails and appropriate mitigation, clarifying whether such contributions will be collected through CIL or S106.

Wilts and Berks Canal

- National policy recognises canals and waterways as assets contributing to green infrastructure, and requires local planning authorities to set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure.
- The Environment Agency has commented that any policy of this nature should ensure that invasive non-native species have been considered and how their spread through any newly connected reaches of the canal network will be prevented.
- Any policy should also ensure that proposals for development identify where the source of water will be obtained from and consider the impacts on existing waterbodies or aquatic and semi-aquatic habitats.
- The policy should safeguard an approximate route which would provide flexibility in delivering the long-term vision for the future restoration of the Wilts and Berks Canal.

Recommendations

4.29. The recommendations in respect of green policies for consideration in LPP2 are as follows:

1. A policy that seeks to ensure that watercourses are accommodated appropriately within new development.
2. A policy that seeks to support improvements to the Public Rights of Way Network and protect National Trails.
3. A policy which seeks to support the long-term vision for the future restoration of the Wilts and Berks Canal.

5.0 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

- 5.1 This section sets out the key issues to be taken into consideration when formulating the historic environment policies in Local Plan Part 2, including, archaeology and scheduled monuments, conservation areas, registered parks and gardens and listed buildings.

National Policy Context

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 5.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) at Section 12 sets out the Government's policies on 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'. Key aims of the NPPF is to "*set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment*" (paragraph 17) and the need to "*recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance*" (paragraph 127).
- 5.3 To ensure heritage assets are conserved and enhanced, local planning authorities should:

- Require developers to submit an appropriate desk based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation in instances where development includes historic assets with archaeological interest (paragraph 128).
- Consider the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset (paragraph 132).
- In instances where a proposed development would lead to substantial harm or total loss of significance of a designated heritage assets, refuse consent unless it can be demonstrated that substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh harm or loss (paragraph 133).
- Consider non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments subject to policies for designated heritage assets (paragraph 139).

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) and Legislation

- 5.4 The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) provides further guidance on the conservation and enhancement of designated and non-designated heritage assets. In particular, through plan-making local planning authorities should identify specific opportunities for the conservation and enhancement of heritage

assets, including the delivery of development within their settings that will make a positive contribution or better reveal the significance of the heritage asset.²⁰

Local Policy Context

Local Plan 2031 Part 1: Strategic Sites and Policies (LPP1), Adopted December 2016

- 5.5 The Vale of the White Horse has a rich and varied historic environment with a wealth of heritage assets to be found throughout the district providing an attractive feature for local residents and visitors alike. Heritage assets also support the district's economic and cultural well-being. Strategic Objectives 3 and 11 in the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 ensures development is of a high quality that conserves and enhances the built, natural, historic and cultural assets of the Vale.
- 5.6 The following LPP1 policies are of key relevance:
- **Core Policy 39: The Historic Environment** ensures new development conserve and enhances both designated and non-designated heritage assets.

Saved Policies in Local Plan 2011.

- 5.7 The Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011 (LP2011) was adopted in July 2006. The majority of policies in the LP2011 were 'saved' by the Secretary of State in 2009. Following the adoption of LPP1, a number of saved LP2011 policies were replaced. However some saved policies have been carried forward.
- 5.8 The saved policies relating to the historic environment that have been reviewed as part of this process, are as follows:
- HE1: Conservation Areas
 - HE4: Historic Buildings
 - HE5: Historic Buildings
 - HE7: Historic Buildings
 - HE8: Historic Parks & Gardens
 - HE9: Archaeology
 - HE10: Archaeology
 - HE11: Archaeology
- 5.9 An assessment of these saved policies has been undertaken to ascertain if any of them should be included in Local Plan 2031 Part 2 or if they should no longer be replaced. **Appendix 4** shows the outcome of this process. In summary, all of the saved policies are carried forward into LPP2, however they will be combined

²⁰ Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 18a-004-20140306

into general policies on Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and Archaeology and Scheduled Monuments.

Evidence

Oxfordshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment (draft)

- 5.10 The Historic Landscape Character Assessment (HCLA)²¹ will provide an understanding of the historic and cultural origins and development of the local landscape through a desk based programme of digital mapping, description and analysis.
- 5.11 The current timetable for the project indicates that the information for the Vale of White Horse is unavailable to inform this stage of the Local Plan Part 2.

Informal Consultation Outcomes

- 5.12 The Planning Policy Team has undertaken a stage of informal consultation with other teams within the Council and key external bodies. The informal consultation responses received have identified a number of issues that have helped inform policy development to date of Local Plan Part 2. Key comments are as follows:
- Conservation Team: commented that existing saved policies are silent on the protection of historic routes.
 - Conservation Team: commented that a policy on conservation areas should seek to protect historical and architectural features and provide guidance on shopfronts.
 - Historic England: commented that a policy on archaeology should ensure that both designated and non-designated nationally important archaeological remains should be retained in situ. The Part 2 Plan should also refer to current national guidance, including Historic England's Historic Environment Record (HER).

Key Issues

- 5.13 The key issues to be considered when preparing LPP2 policies, reflecting the above, are:
- A policy on archaeology should ensure that both designated and non-designated nationally important archaeological remains should be

²¹ <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/oxfordshire-historic-landscape-characterisation-project>

retained in situ and should refer to current national guidance, including Historic England's Historic Environment Record (HER).

- Policies should set out the need to protect all heritage assets, including Historic Routes.
- A policy on Conservation Areas should seek to protect its historical and architectural features.
- The Local Plan 2031 Part 2 should include detailed policies on heritage assets within the Vale.

Recommendations

5.14 The recommendations in respect of historic environment policies for consideration in LPP2 are as follows:

1. A policy which sets out the Council's approach to conserve and enhance heritage assets and their settings in the Vale.
2. A policy which sets out measures to ensure Conservation Areas are protected from inappropriate development.
3. A policy which sets out measures to assess development proposals that affect a Listed Building and/or its setting.
4. A policy which sets out the Council's approach to the conservation and enhancement of Scheduled Monuments, nationally important archaeological remains and other non-designated archaeological sites.

6.0 OPEN SPACE, LEISURE AND RECREATION

- 6.1. This section sets out the key considerations in formulating the open space, sport, leisure and recreation policies.

National Policy Context

National Planning Policy Framework (the NPPF)

- 6.2. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) at Section 8 sets out Government's principles for "Promoting healthy communities". Key aims of the NPPF is the need to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities by creating a high quality built environment that supports health, social and cultural well-being and "*encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban and rural areas, recognising that open land can perform a function for recreation*" (paragraph 17).
- 6.3. To ensure development promotes health, social and cultural well-being, local planning authorities should:
- Aim to achieve places which promote safe and accessible developments containing.....high quality public spaces which encourages the active and continual use of public areas (paragraph 59).
 - Ensure planning policies are based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision (paragraph 73).
 - protect existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields subject to certain criteria (paragraph 74).

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)

- 6.4. The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) requires local planning authorities to consider opportunities for promoting high quality open spaces, green infrastructure and opportunities for play, sport and recreation when making their local plans²².
- 6.5. The PPG provides additional guidance on open space, leisure and recreation, in particular the need for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas.²³

²² Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 53-002-20140306

²³ Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 37-001-20140306

- 6.6. Guidance encourages local planning authorities to consider Sport England's guidance to assess the needs for sports and recreation facilities²⁴.

Local Context

Local Plan 2031 Part 1: Strategic Sites and Policies (LPP1), Adopted December 2016

- 6.7. One of the key challenges and opportunities for the Vale is the need to ensure high quality and accessible services are provided as part of new development so existing and new residents can continue to enjoy a good quality of life.
- 6.8. Supporting the need to provide and enhance open spaces for recreation is also a key challenge and opportunity for the Vale.
- 6.9. Strategic Objectives 2 to 4 in the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 ensures development is integrated into the environment, creates attractive places and are supported by a range of services and facilities to cater for existing and future needs.
- 6.10. The following LPP1 policies are of key relevance to open space, leisure and recreation:
- **Core Policy 7: Providing Supporting Infrastructure and Services** ensures developers provide a range of supporting infrastructure and services, including the provision of open space, leisure and recreation facilities.

Saved Policies in the Local Plan 2011

- 6.11. The Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011 (LP2011) was adopted in July 2006. The majority of policies in the LP2011 were 'saved' by the Secretary of State in 2009. Following the adoption of LPP1, a number of saved LP2011 policies were replaced. However some saved policies have been carried forward.
- 6.12. The saved policies relating to open space, leisure and recreation that have been reviewed as part of this process, are as follows:
- H23: Open space in new housing developments
 - L1: Playing Space
 - L2: Urban Open Space and Green Corridors
 - L4: Allotments
 - L7: Retention of small-scale local leisure facilities
 - L8: Provision of small-scale local leisure facilities
 - L9: The provision of countryside recreation facilities

²⁴ Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 37-002-20140306

- L13: Proposed Park at Folly Hill, Faringdon
- L17: River Thames
- L18: Land South of the Abingdon Marina

6.13. An assessment of these saved policies has been undertaken to ascertain if any of them should be included in Local Plan 2031 Part 2 or if they should no longer be replaced. **Appendix 5** shows the outcome of this process. In summary, eight of the ten saved policies are carried forward into LPP2 with two saved policies not being replaced. However, these saved policies are combined into three individual policies covering Leisure and Sports Facilities, Open Space and Countryside Recreation Facilities.

Evidence

6.14. The Council has commissioned a number of evidence base studies to inform the policies in the Local Plan 2031 Part 2 related for Open Space, Leisure, Sport and Recreation. The studies have been undertaken in accordance with the current best practice and national guidance, including methodologies produced by National Governing Bodies such as Sport England.

6.15. The following studies have helped to inform policy and the development of local standards in LPP2.

Leisure and Sports Facilities Study 2013 - 2031 (Nortoft 2014)

6.16. This study²⁵ assessed the need for outdoor and indoor sport and leisure facilities. The assessment was undertaken in line with current best practice and national guidance. It assesses the current provision for a range of facilities and sets out local standards for new sports and leisure facilities, in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility for enhancing facilities to provide for an increased population.

Local Leisure Facilities Report (Nortoft 2016)

6.17. This report²⁶ assessed the need for local leisure facilities, including village and community halls, outdoor bowls and outdoor tennis. The assessment was undertaken in line with current best practice and national guidance. The assessment included an audit to assess the quality of existing local leisure facilities in the district. The report considers and develops new local standards

²⁵ Vale of White Horse District Council (2014) Leisure and Sports Facilities Study 2013-2031; available at:

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=FolderView&ID=627981333&CODE=4589D59B5ACF9D9B49FAD25E9C0D215F&NAME=13+COM+-+Communities%2C+Services+and+Recreation&REF=Local%20Plan%202031%20Part%201%20Examination%20Library>

²⁶ Vale of White Horse District Council (2016) Local Leisure Facilities Study; available at: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/LPP2

for various types of community and local leisure facilities, in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility.

Open Spaces Report (Nortoft 2016)

- 6.18. This report²⁷ assessed the need for open space, including parks and gardens, amenity green space, equipped children's play areas, young people's space and allotments. The assessment was undertaken in line with current best practice and national guidance. The assessment included an audit of each recognised open space in the district. The report considers and develops new local planning standards for open space, in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility.

Playing Pitch Study (Nortoft 2016)

- 6.19. This study²⁸ assessed the need for artificial grass pitches and grass pitches including cricket, football and rugby union. The assessment was undertaken in line with current best practice and national guidance including Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (October 2013). The assessment included site visits for each playing pitch in the district. The report considers and develops local standards for playing pitches in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility.

Leisure Requirements for Sites Allocated in Local Plan Part 2 (2017)

- 6.20. This study²⁹ was to identify the specific needs relating to proposed site allocations in the Part 2 Plan. It applies the standards from the leisure and open space studies identified above along with the likely cost of new leisure provision for each site. Each site has also been assessed taking account of the standards of local provision to identify key requirements for inclusion in the Site Development Templates to support the Part 2 Plan.

Informal Consultation Outcomes

- 6.21. The Planning Policy Team has undertaken a stage of informal consultation with other teams in the Council and key external bodies. The informal consultation responses received have identified a number of issues that have helped inform policy development to date of Local Plan Part 2. Key comments are as follows:
- Development Management Team: commented that a policy on open space should be prescriptive on NEAP and LEAP requirements.
 - Development Management Team: commented that the 15% requirement applied in saved policy H23 is useful.
 - Leisure Team: commented that the Part 2 Plan should clearly define leisure and sports facilities.

²⁷ Vale of White Horse District Council (2016) Open Spaces Report; available at: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/LPP2

²⁸ Vale of White Horse District Council (2015) Playing Pitch Study; available at: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/LPP2

²⁹ Vale of White Horse District Council (2017) Leisure Requirements for Sites Allocated in Local Plan Part 2, available at: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/LPP2

Key Issues

6.22. The key issues to be considered when preparing LPP2 policies, reflecting the above, are:

- Policies related to open space and leisure in the Local Plan 2031 Part 2 should refer to local standards set out in the leisure and open space technical studies.
- A policy is needed to ensure the provision of open space and the protection of existing open spaces.
- A policy is needed to ensure the provision of leisure and sports facilities and the protection of existing leisure and sports facilities
- Policies should be considered in light of Community Infrastructure Levy.

Recommendations

6.23. The recommendations in respect of open space, leisure, sport and recreation policies for consideration in LPP2 are as follows:

- A policy or policies that set out measures and local standards for the provision of open space in association with new developments and the protection of existing open space in the Vale.
- A policy or policies that set out measures and local standards for the provision of leisure and sport facilities provision in association with new developments and the protection of existing leisure and sports facilities in the Vale.
- A policy that supports the development of small-scale countryside recreational facilities in the open countryside.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- 7.1. This sections sets out the key issues to be taken into consideration when formulating the environmental health policies in Local Plan Part 2 including, air quality, land affected by contamination and noise pollution.

National Policy Context

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 7.2. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) at Section 11 sets out Government's principles to "Conserving and enhancing the natural environment. Key aims of the NPPF include contributing to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution (paragraph 17) by preventing new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land stability (paragraph 109). The NPPF also requires remediating and mitigating.....contaminated and unstable land where appropriate (para 109).
- 7.3. The NPPF (paragraph 110) also aims to minimise pollution and other adverse effects on the local and natural environment.

Noise Planning Statement for England (NPSE), March 2010

- 7.4. The Noise Planning Statement for England (NPSE)³⁰ clarifies the principles and aims of existing national guidance and related legislation in terms of noise. The Statement applies to all forms of noise, including environmental noise, neighbour noise and neighbourhood noise.

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) and Legislation and Other Guidance

- 7.5. The PPG provides additional guidance on the national policies identified in the NPPF. In regards to land affected by contamination, the guidance places a strong emphasis on the need for Council's to adequately deal with contamination³¹, in instances where it would cause harm to human health, property and the wider environment, or where it could limit or preclude new development.

³⁰ DEFRA (2010) Noise Policy Statement for England, available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69533/pb13750-noise-policy.pdf

³¹ Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 33-001-20140306

- 7.6. The need to adequately deal with contaminated land is a legal requirement set out within the Water Framework Directive³².
- 7.7. Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 also requires a risk based approach to be taken to identify and remediate land where contamination poses an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.
- 7.8. In preparing Local Plans, the PPG states that local planning authorities should have regard to the possible impact of land contamination on neighbouring areas, for example polluting surface water or groundwater³³. The PPG provides further guidance on the roles of developers and information required to support a planning application.
- 7.9. In regard to noise pollution, the guidance requires local plans to consider noise issues where new developments create additional noise or would be sensitive to the prevailing acoustic³⁴. In doing so, local planning authorities are encouraged to consider improvements to the acoustic environment in plan-making. The PPG sets out options to mitigate possible impacts from noise making developments depending on the type of development being considered and the character of the proposed location. This can include using good design to minimise noise transmission through screening by natural or purpose built barriers or the use of planning conditions and obligations to restrict activities at certain times³⁵.
- 7.10. For noise sensitive development, the PPG sets out possible options to mitigate impacts, including the use of design to reduce the impact of noise from the local environment or by including noise barriers³⁶.
- 7.11. National guidance provides local planning authorities with the opportunity to develop and include in their Local Plans specific noise standards that can be applied to forms of proposed development and locations in their area³⁷.

Local Policy Context

Local Plan 2031 Part 1: Strategic Sites and Policies (LPP1), Adopted December 2016

- 7.12. Some of the key challenges and opportunities in the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 are the need to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions and the promoting efficient use of natural resources. Strategic Objective 4 in the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 seeks to

³² EU Water Framework Directive 2000, available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html

³³ Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 33-005-20140306

³⁴ Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 30-001-20140306

³⁵ Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 30-008-20140306

³⁶ Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 30-008-20140306

³⁷ Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 30-010-20140306

ensure improvements to the health and well-being of Vale residents, by improving health and safety. Strategic Objective 12 seeks to minimise greenhouse gases emissions and pollution, including noise.

7.13. The following LPP1 policies are of key relevance:

- **Core Policy 43: Natural Resources** ensures that land is of a suitable quality for development and that remediation of contaminated land is undertaken.
- **Core Policy 44: Landscape** ensures the need to protect the key landscape features of the Vale against intrusion from light pollution, noise and motion.

7.14. In addition to the above, it should be noted that criteria vi) in Core Policy 43 of the Part 1 Plan only applies to development proposals that are located within an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). LPP2 will need to consider including an additional policy to assess proposals adjacent or near to an AQMA and to setting the necessary measures to mitigate such impacts.

Saved Policies in Local Plan 2011

7.15. The Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011 (LP2011) was adopted in July 2006. The majority of policies in the LP2011 were 'saved' by the Secretary of State in 2009. Following the adoption of LPP1, a number of saved LP2011 policies were replaced however some saved policies have been carried forward.

7.16. The saved policies covering issues related to environmental health that have been reviewed as part of this process, are as follows:

- DC9: The impact of development on neighbouring uses
- DC10 The effect of neighbouring or previous uses on new development
- DC12: Water quality and resources

7.17. An assessment of these saved policies has been undertaken to ascertain if any of them should be included in Local Plan 2031 Part 2 or if they should no longer be replaced. **Appendix 6** shows the outcome of this process. In summary, two of the three saved policies are carried forward into LPP2 with 1 saved policy not being replaced.

Evidence

Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) (2016)

7.18. The Council continues to monitor levels of nitrogen dioxide throughout the district and produces progress reports and annual reports that contain details of

recent air quality monitoring across the whole of the Vale. The latest Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) published in 2016³⁸ suggests that the air quality objective is breached at four monitoring sites in the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and at one other site in Abingdon.

- 7.19. The report has concluded that at Abingdon-on-Thames, the levels of Nitrogen Dioxide, particularly along Marcham Road, are close to the air quality objectives and levels at this location continue to be kept under review. The report has also concluded that within part of the AQMA in Botley, the objective is still being exceeded where houses are close to the A34, particularly adjacent to the southbound carriageway.

Oxfordshire Air Quality (2017)

- 7.20. Oxfordshire Air Quality³⁹ monitors levels of air quality across Oxfordshire. The information is presented on a live interactive website and a Daily Air Quality Index records the current levels of air pollution within a particular site or region.

Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (March 2015)

- 7.21. The adopted Design Guide SPD⁴⁰ provides detailed guidance, by setting a number of design principles, intended to ensure development is appropriately located away from noise disturbance, whilst ensuring that development proposals are carefully designed to mitigate any potential impacts from noise.

Informal Consultation Outcomes

- 7.22. The Planning Policy Team has undertaken a stage of informal consultation with the other teams in the Council and key external bodies. The informal consultation responses received have identified a number of issues that have helped inform policy development to date of Local Plan Part 2. Key comments are as follows:

- Environment Agency: provided a number of comments to provide clarity and improve consistency of the contaminated land policy with national policy, including the role of water bodies and source protection zones.
- Environment Agency: commented that a policy on noise pollution should consider the impact on local biodiversity.

³⁸ Vale of White Horse District Council (2016) Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR), available at: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/environment/pollution/air-quality/how-we-monitor>

³⁹ <https://oxfordshire.air-quality.info/>

⁴⁰ Vale of White Horse Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (2015), available at: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/supplementar-2>

- Environmental Health Team: commented that a policy on noise pollution should consider proposals for noise-sensitive development and noise-generating development.
- Environmental Health Team: commented that a policy on air quality is needed to assess proposals within or near an AQMA. Policy should refer to mitigation options and the Council's Developer Guidance.
- Environmental Health Team: commented that a policy on land affected by contamination should consider historical contamination.

Key Issues

7.23. The key issues to be considered when preparing LPP2 policies, reflecting the above, are:

- The need to include local noise standards in the policy that can be applied to forms of development or specific locations.
- The need for policy to refer to current national guidance, e.g. World Health Organisation (WHO) Guidelines for Community Noise; Noise Planning Statement for England and the Council's Draft Planning and Noise Guidance.
- National policy requirements for local planning authorities to consider the impacts that noise can have on health, well-being and local biodiversity.
- National policy direction that development proposals should be appropriately located where noise-generated and noise-sensitive developments will not impact on environmental amenity, health and well-being and local biodiversity.
- The need for policy on land affected by contamination should be consistent with current legislation, e.g. the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and refer to current national guidance and the Council's best practice.
- The need for a policy to ensure that development proposals located on known or suspected land affected by contamination, are appropriately located having regard to a contaminated land questionnaire.

Recommendations

7.24. The recommendations in respect of environmental health policies for consideration in LPP2 are as follows:

- A policy or policies should be considered that sets out measures to ensure land affected by contamination is appropriately remediated and mitigated.

- A policy should be considered that sets out measures to ensure that development proposals are appropriately located to minimise the impact of existing sources of noise.
- A policy should be considered that sets out measures to ensure development proposals located adjacent or near to an existing AQMA are appropriately located and mitigated.

APPENDIX 1: ASSESSMENT OF SAVED LOCAL PLAN 2011 POLICIES RELATED TO DESIGN AND AMENITY

Policy	Summary of policy	Consistency with NPPF	Reasoning	Inclusion in Local Plan 2031 Part 2?
DC3: Design Against Crime	Provision must be made to increase safety and deter crime	Fully consistent	The Design Team consider that this policy is sufficiently covered by Core Policies 37 and 38 in the adopted Local Plan 2031 Part 1 and the principles set out in the Design Guide SPD.	No
DC4: Public Art	Developments of 0.5ha to include public art where it makes a significant contribution to appearance of scheme	Fully consistent	This policy is regularly used by the Development Management team and the Arts Development Officer in implementing schemes for public art from development proposals.	Yes
DC7: Waste Collection and Recycling	New developments must make adequate provision for the sorting, storage and collection of waste	Fully consistent	This policy is regularly used by the Environmental Health team.	Yes
DC9: The Impact of Development of Neighbouring Uses	Development will not be permitted if it would unacceptably harm the amenities of neighbouring properties and the wider environment	Fully consistent	This policy is regularly used by the Environmental Health team.	Yes
DC10: The Effect of Neighbouring or Previous Uses on New Development	Development will not be permitted if it is likely to be affected by existing or potential sources or	Fully consistent	This policy is regularly used by the Environmental Health team.	Yes

	noise, emissions or pollution			
DC16: Illuminated Advertisements	Consent for illuminated advertisements will not be given if it would harm the visual amenity or cause a hazard to highway safety	Fully consistent	This policy is regularly used by the Development Management team and Specialist Officers.	Yes
DC20: External Lighting		Fully consistent	This policy is regularly used by the Development Management team, Specialist Officers and the Environmental Health team and is useful in determining this type of proposal.	Yes

APPENDIX 2: ASSESSMENT OF SAVED LOCAL PLAN 2011 LANDSCAPE POLICIES

<i>Policy</i>	<i>Summary</i>	<i>Consistency with NPPF</i>	<i>Reasoning</i>	<i>Inclusion in Local Plan 2031 Part 2</i>
NE6: The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Development in the AONB will only be permitted if it will conserve or enhance the area	Fully consistent	There is no longer a need to retain or update this policy in Local Plan 2031 Part 2 as it is considered that Core Policy 44 provides sufficient level of detail to assess development proposals within the AONB. The Landscape Character Assessment will also provide further detail to support the policy.	No
NE7: The North Vale Corallian Ridge	Development that would harm the North Vale Corallian Ridge will not be permitted unless there is an overriding need for development all steps are taken to minimise impact	Fully consistent	There is no longer a need to retain or update this policy in Local Plan 2031 Part 2 as it is considered that Core Policy 44 in the Part 1 Plan and the emerging Landscape Character Assessment will provide sufficient level of detail.	No

NE8: The Landscape Setting of Oxford	The conservation of Oxford's landscape setting will take priority in considering proposals for development in areas within view of the city	Fully consistent	There is no longer a need to retain or update this policy in Local Plan 2031 Part 2 as it is considered that Core Policy 44 in the Part 1 Plan and the emerging Landscape Character Assessment will provide sufficient level of detail.	No
NE9: The Lowland Vale	Development in the Lowland Vale will not be permitted if it would harm the long open views within it across the area	Fully consistent	There is no longer a need to retain or update this policy in Local Plan 2031 Part 2 as it is considered that Core Policy 44 in the Part 1 Plan and the emerging Landscape Character Assessment will provide sufficient level of detail.	No
NE10: Urban Fringes and Countryside Gaps	Development or change of uses which would harm these areas will not be permitted	Fully consistent	This policy is regularly used by the Development Management team and the Landscape Officer to assess proposals that are likely to compromise the gap between settlements. This policy will be supported by additional detail in the Landscape Character Assessment.	Yes
NE11: Areas of Landscape Enhancement	A landscaping scheme must be provided for development affecting areas of damaged or compromised landscape	Fully consistent	There is no longer a need to retain or update this policy in Local Plan 2031 Part 2 as it is considered that Core Policy 44 in the Part 1 Plan and the emerging Landscape Character Assessment will provide sufficient level of detail.	No

APPENDIX 3: ASSESSMENT OF SAVED LOCAL PLAN 2011 POLICIES RELATED TO GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Policy	Summary	Consistency with NPPF	Reasoning	Inclusion in Local Plan 2031 Part 2?
L3: Urban Open Space and Green Corridors	Within the Green Corridors development will only be permitted in certain circumstances	Not consistent	The policy is regularly used by the Countryside Officer but should be updated in Local Plan 2031 Part 2 to apply to all watercourses in the Vale.	Yes
L10: Safeguarding and Improving Public Rights of Way	Development over Public Rights of Way will not be permitted unless alternative provision can be made	Fully consistent	The policy is regularly used by Specialist Officers and the Development Management team but needs to be updated in Local Plan 2031 Part 2 to reflect national guidance.	Yes
L11: The Ridgeway	Development will not be permitted if it would harm the Ridgeway, important trees and hedgerows or diminish the enjoyment of its users	Fully consistent	These policies are rarely used by the Development Management team and Specialist Officers and no longer needs replacing in Local Plan 2031 Part 2 as these assets are sufficiently protected by national guidance (NPPG).	No
L12: The Thames Path	Development that would adversely affect the Thames Path will not be permitted	Fully consistent		No
L14: Wilts and Berks Canal L15: Wilts and Berks Canal	Restoration of the historic canal Proposed new route for the canal south of Abingdon	Fully Consistent	These policies are used by the Development Management team and need to be replaced in Local Plan 2031 Part 2. The Council continues to support the future restoration of the Wilts & Berks Canal.	Yes

APPENDIX 4: ASSESSMENT OF SAVED LOCAL PLAN 2011 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT POLICIES

Policy	Summary	Consistency with NPPF	Reasoning	Inclusion in Local Plan 2031 Part 2?
HE1: Preservation and Enhancement Implications for Development	Development affecting the setting of a conservation area will not be permitted unless it can be shown to preserve or enhance the area	Fully consistent	This policy is regularly used by Conservation Officers, but is currently out of date and needs replacing in Local Plan 2031 Part 2 to reflect national guidance.	Yes
HE4: Development within setting of listed building	Development within the setting of a listed building will not be permitted unless it respects the characteristics of the building	Consistent		Yes
HE5: Development involving alterations to a listed building	Alterations to a listed building will not be permitted if it is unsympathetic to the listed building or fails to retain features of special architectural or historic interest	Consistent		Yes
HE7: Change of use of listed building	Proposals for a change of use of a listed building will not be permitted unless it will not harm the building	Fully consistent		Yes
HE8: Historic Parks and Gardens	Development within or in the setting of a historic park or garden will only be permitted if there is no significant harm to the site	Fully consistent		This policy is regularly used by Conservation Officers, but is currently out of date and needs replacing in Local Plan 2031 Part 2 to reflect national guidance.

Policy	Summary	Consistency with NPPF	Reasoning	Inclusion in Local Plan 2031 Part 2?
HE9: Archaeology	An archaeological field evaluation is required where there are reasonable grounds for believing that important remains will be disturbed	Fully consistent	This policy is regularly used by Conservation Officers, but is currently out of date and needs replacing in Local Plan 2031 Part 2 to reflect national guidance. However there is no need to have three separate policies going forward.	Yes
HE10: Archaeology	Development will not be permitted if it would cause damage to the site or setting of nationally important archaeological remains	Fully consistent		Yes
HE11: Archaeology	Archaeology should be preserved in situ. Where this is not possible, recording should be undertaken	Fully consistent		Yes

APPENDIX 5: ASSESSMENT OF SAVED LOCAL PLAN 2011 POLICIES RELATED TO OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION

Policy	Summary	Consistency with NPPF	Reasoning	Inclusion in Local Plan 2031 Part 2?
H23: Open Space in new housing development	15% of residential area to be laid out as public open space	Fully consistent	This policy is regularly used by the Development Management team and is useful in determining this type of proposal, however an update to the policy should clearly define open space and what constitutes useable open space. There is no need to have separate policies on open space going forward.	Yes
L1: Playing Space	Development on existing outdoor playing space will only be permitted if a deficiency in such space will not be created or added to or in listed circumstances	Fully consistent		

Policy	Summary	Consistency with NPPF	Reasoning	Inclusion in Local Plan 2031 Part 2?
L2: Urban Open Space and Green Corridors	Development that would result in the loss of urban open spaces will not be permitted	Not consistent	This policy is regularly used by the Development Management team. There is no need to have separate policies on open space going forward.	Yes
L4: Allotments	Development on allotments will only be permitted where a deficiency in provision is not created or added to or where equal or better provision is achieved	Fully consistent	This policy is regularly used by the Development Management team. There is no need to have separate policies on open space going forward.	Yes
L7: Retention of small-scale local leisure facilities	Loss of existing local leisure facilities will not be permitted unless there is no longer a need or if alternative provision is made	Fully consistent	This policy is used by the Development Management team, however an update to the policy is required to clearly define what constitutes Leisure and Sports Facilities. There is no need to have separate policies on sport and leisure facilities going forward.	Yes
L8: Provision of small-scale local leisure facilities	Small-scale development for open space, sport and recreation will be permitted within or on the edge of settlements provided they meet certain criteria	Fully consistent		Yes
L9: The provision of countryside recreation facilities	Small-scale developments to provide facilities for informal countryside recreation will be permitted provided certain criteria are met	Fully consistent	This policy is regularly used by the Development Management team.	Yes
L13: Proposed Park at Folly Hill, Faringdon	Park to provide outdoor recreational opportunities proposed	Fully consistent	The policy is no longer applied by the Development Management team as the park at Folly Hill, Faringdon is now implemented and will be protected by other policies in the Local Plan 2031.	No

Policy	Summary	Consistency with NPPF	Reasoning	Inclusion in Local Plan 2031 Part 2?
L17: River Thames	Development along the River Thames will only be permitted where the special environmental qualities are protected or enhanced	Fully consistent	This policy is rarely applied by the Development Management team and could be merged other policies.	Yes
L18: Land South of the Abingdon Marina	Development need to facilitate the quiet recreational use of the area south of the Abingdon Marina will be permitted.	Fully consistent	This policy is no longer applied by the Development Management team and will be covered by other policies in the Local Plan 2031.	No

APPENDIX 6: ASSESSMENT OF SAVED LOCAL PLAN 2011 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH POLICIES

Policy	Summary	Consistency with NPPF	Reasoning	Inclusion in Local Plan 2031 Part 2?
DC9: The Impact of Development of Neighbouring Uses	Development will not be permitted if it would unacceptably harm the amenities of neighbouring properties and the wider environment	Fully consistent	The policy is regularly applied by the Environmental Health team.	Yes
DC10: The Effect of Neighbouring or Previous Uses on New Development	Development will not be permitted if it is likely to be affected by existing or potential sources or noise, emissions or pollution	Fully consistent	The policy is regularly applied by the Environmental Health team.	Yes
DC12: Water Quality and Resources	Development will not be permitted if it would adversely affect the quality of water resources	Fully consistent	Development Management team has commented that a part of this policy is useful. The point related to contaminated land is adequately covered by the NPPF	No

			<p>and the inclusion of a Part 2 Plan policy related to land affected by contamination.</p> <p>It is considered that this policy is sufficiently covered by Core Policy 43: Natural Resources in the Local Plan 2031 Part 1.</p>	
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