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## 1. **Introduction to the duty to co-operate**

- 1.1 The duty to co-operate is a legal requirement of the plan preparation process. The 'duty' was introduced by the Localism Act, with further advice on the 'duty' given in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the National Planning Practice Guidance.
- 1.2 In simple terms, the duty to co-operate requires local planning authorities and other bodies to co-operate with each other to address 'strategic matters' relevant to their areas. Within the context of the 'duty', 'strategic' matters are, in summary, those which involve cross boundary matters and which cannot therefore be addressed by a single local planning authority working alone. The extent to which any such 'strategic' matters are involved will evidently depend on the local circumstances and in some instances there may be few or genuinely no such issues.

### ***Legislative context***

- 1.3 The duty to co-operate is set out in Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It requires local authorities to work with neighbouring authorities and other prescribed bodies in preparing their Local Plan.
- 1.4 In conjunction with the introduction of the duty, a new and additional purpose of the independent examination was introduced, namely to consider whether the duty has been complied with in relation to the preparation of the development plan document<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.5 The duty to co-operate places a legal duty on local planning authorities, county councils in England and public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local Plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters.
- 1.6 Planning Inspectors must as a first step consider whether local plans have been prepared in accordance with the duty to co-operate. Secondly, the effectiveness of cooperation in addressing strategic matters also forms part of the testing of local plan soundness.
- 1.7 Section 33A of the 2004 Act states that the duty to co-operate:
- relates to a 'strategic matter' defined as sustainable development or use of land that has or is a county matter or would have a significant impact on at least two local planning areas or on a planning matter that falls within the remit of a county council
  - requires that councils and public bodies to 'engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis' to develop strategic policies, and

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<sup>1</sup> Section 20(5)(c) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

- requires councils to consider joint approaches to plan making<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.8 Each local planning authority or other prescribed body will have its own strategic priorities. It is important that, through exercising a collaborative approach to working, strategic matters and any strategic issues of particular or cross border significance are identified early on in the process with a view to demonstrating that co-operation between authorities has led to outcomes and actions.

***Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012***

- 1.9 Part 2 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 which came into effect on the 6th April 2012 expressly extends the duty to co-operate to include:
- the Environment Agency
  - English Heritage
  - Natural England
  - Mayor of London
  - the Civil Aviation Authority
  - the Homes and Communities Agency
  - Clinical Commissioning Groups<sup>3</sup>
  - the Office of the Rail Regulator
  - the Highways Agency
  - Transport for London
  - Integrated Transport Authorities
  - Highway Authorities
  - Marine Management Organisation
  - Local Enterprise Partnership
  - Local Nature Partnership
- 1.10 The regulations stress that these bodies are required to co-operate with local planning authorities on issues of common concern to ensure sound Local Plans are developed.

***National Planning Policy Framework 2012***

- 1.11 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which was published on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2012, gives guidance on the types of strategic matters where the duty may apply.
- 1.12 Strategic matters include:
- the homes and jobs needed in the area

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<sup>2</sup> Planning Advisory Service (2012) ‘A simple guide to Strategic Planning and the ‘Duty to Co-operate’; available at: <http://www.pas.gov.uk/40-a-simple-guide-to-strategic-planning>

<sup>3</sup> Primary Care Trusts were abolished on the 31 March 2013 as part of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, with their work taken over by Clinical Commissioning Groups

- the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development
- the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat)
- the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities
- climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape<sup>4</sup>.

1.13 The NPPF states that local planning authorities should work collaboratively with other bodies to ensure that cross boundary issues are properly addressed and reflected in local plans. It also highlights the importance of joint working to meet development requirements that cannot be wholly met within a single local planning area, through either joint planning policies or informal strategies such as infrastructure and investment plans<sup>5</sup>. In addition to the requirement to demonstrate that the plan has been prepared in accordance with the duty to co-operate, local authorities also need to demonstrate how joint working has influenced policy outcomes within the plan<sup>6</sup>, in order for the plan to be found sound at examination.

1.14 The NPPF sets out the tests of soundness which will be used in the examination of local plans. To be 'sound' the plan must be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy<sup>7</sup>.

### ***National Planning Practice Guidance 2013***

1.15 National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) was launched on 6 March 2014 with the intention of making all planning guidance available in one place in a clear and easy-to-use form<sup>8</sup>.

1.16 The Guidance includes a dedicated section on the duty to co-operate and expands on the role and function of it in the plan making process.

1.17 For the examination of local plans, "Local Planning Authorities must demonstrate how they have complied with the duty. If a Local Planning Authority cannot demonstrate that it has complied with the duty then the local plan will not be able to proceed further in examination"<sup>9</sup>. It

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<sup>4</sup> Paragraph 156 of the National Planning Policy Framework, Communities and Local Government, March 2012

<sup>5</sup> Paragraph 179 of the National Planning Policy Framework, Communities and Local Government, March 2012

<sup>6</sup> Paragraph 181 of the National Planning Policy Framework, Communities and Local Government, March 2012

<sup>7</sup> Paragraph 182 of the National Planning Policy Framework, Communities and Local Government, March 2012

<sup>8</sup> Planning Practice Guidance, available at <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk>

<sup>9</sup> Planning Practice Guidance, Duty to co-operate, Paragraph 001 Reference ID: 9-001-20140306

mentions that the process should produce “effective and deliverable policies on strategic cross boundary matters”.

- 1.18 The NPPG expands on the extent to which Local Planning Authorities should co-operate. It states that it

“... is not a duty to agree. But Local Planning Authorities should make every effort to secure the necessary cooperation on strategic cross boundary matters before they submit their local plans for examination. If another authority will not co-operate this should not prevent the authority bringing forward a local plan or from submitting it for examination. However the authority will need to submit comprehensive and robust evidence of the efforts it has made to co-operate and any outcomes achieved and this will be thoroughly tested at the examination. Local Planning Authorities should discuss their particular circumstances with the Planning Inspectorate prior to submitting the local plan.”<sup>10</sup>

- 1.19 In looking at what outcomes are expected from the duty to co-operate, the NPPG states that cooperation “should produce effective policies on strategic cross boundary matters. Inspectors testing compliance with the duty at examination will assess the outcomes of cooperation and not just whether local planning authorities have approached others”<sup>11</sup>.

- 1.20 The NPPG advises that authorities submit robust evidence of the efforts they have made to co-operate on strategic cross boundary matters. This could be in the form of a statement submitted to the examination. Evidence should include details about who the authority has co-operated with, the nature and timing of cooperation and how it has influenced the local plan.

- 1.21 Where Local Planning Authorities are at different stages of local plan preparation, the NPPG states that

“...the respective Local Planning Authorities should try to enter into formal agreements, signed by their elected members, demonstrating their long term commitment to a jointly agreed strategy on cross boundary matters. Inspectors will expect to see these agreements at the examination. A key element of the examination will be to ensure that there is sufficient certainty through the agreements that an effective strategy will be in place for strategic matters when the relevant local plans are adopted”<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> Planning Practice Guidance, Duty to co-operate, Paragraph 003 Reference ID: 9-003-20140306

<sup>11</sup> Planning Practice Guidance, Duty to co-operate, Paragraph 010 Reference ID: 9-010-20140306

<sup>12</sup> Planning Practice Guidance, Duty to co-operate, Paragraph 017 Reference ID: 9-017-20140306

## 2. Strategic Context

### *Vale of White Horse – A Strategic Portrait*

#### *Oxfordshire*

- 2.1. The Vale of White Horse district lies along the western edge of the south-east region of England, in the county of Oxfordshire. It is a district council under Oxfordshire County Council, and shares the county with a number of other local authorities:
- Oxford City Council;
  - South Oxfordshire District Council;
  - Cherwell District Council; and
  - West Oxfordshire District Council
- 2.2. The county as a whole also acts as the housing and economic market area, of which Oxford city is at its heart.

#### *Settlement Pattern*

- 2.3. Vale of White Horse district falls between the larger centres of Oxford to the north-east, and Swindon to the south-west. It contains three market towns and two 'local service centres'. One of these local service centres, Botley, consists of parts of North Hinksey and Cumnor parishes and is a mainly residential area on the outskirts of the city of Oxford.
- 2.4. To the south-east boundary lies the town of Didcot in neighbouring South Oxfordshire. Along with the market town of Wantage in Vale of White Horse, Didcot forms a key gateway to the area known as Science Vale, a strategic focus for economic and employment growth that crosses the administrative boundaries of these districts and includes internationally important employment locations such as Harwell Campus and Culham Science Centre. For Didcot, some of the predicted growth to the west of the town extends into the Vale district.

#### *Our neighbours*

- 2.5. The county of Berkshire lies to the south of the district, and Vale of White Horse shares this boundary with West Berkshire Council.
- 2.6. The south-west region lies immediately to the west of the district. Here, the Vale of White Horse shares administrative boundaries with the unitary authorities of Wiltshire and Swindon. Significant growth is predicted to come forward here through the Swindon Local Plan and accompanying Eastern Villages Supplementary Planning Document. It is important that development to the east of Swindon is managed and delivered cohesively with planned growth in the Western Vale sub-

area, which includes the market town of Faringdon and the larger villages of Shrivenham and Stanford-in-the-Vale.

- 2.7. The district also shares a very small part of its boundary, roughly two and a half miles of the river Thames, with Cotswold District Council, in the county of Gloucestershire.

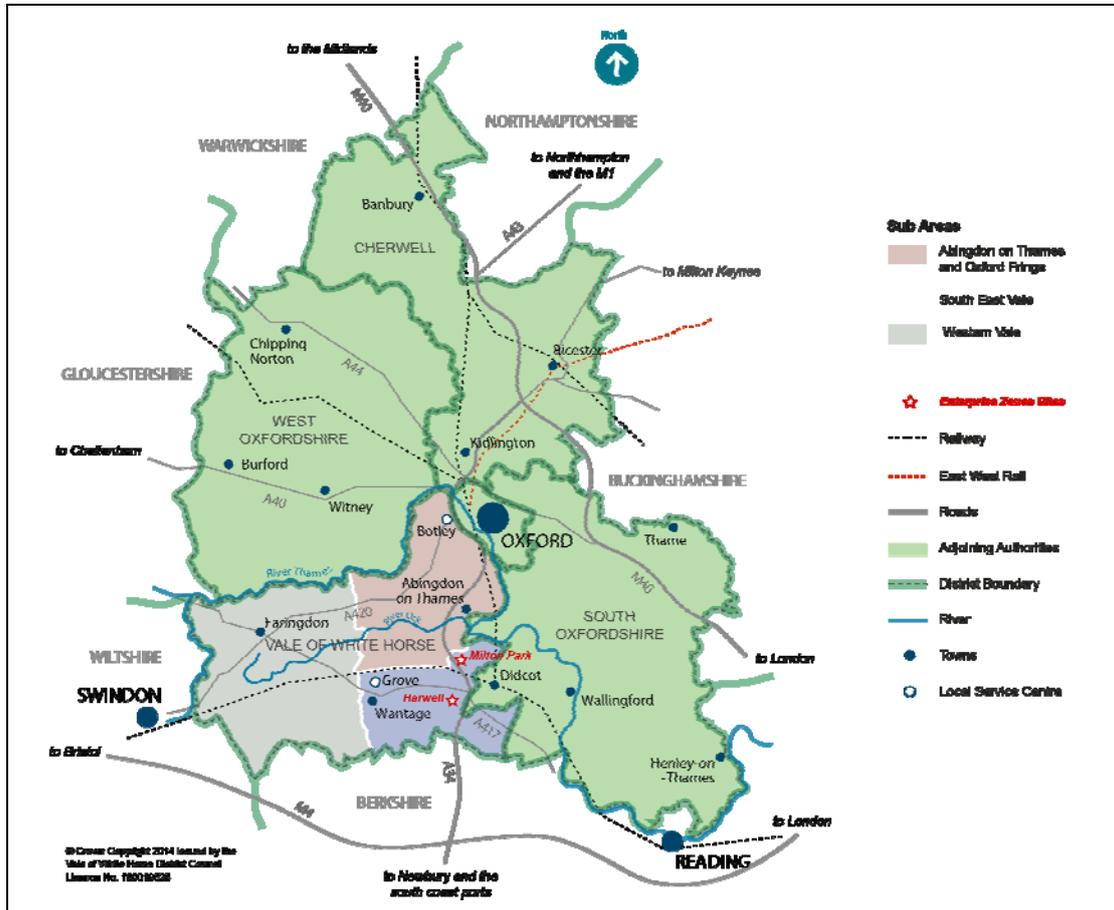


Figure 1: The Vale of White Horse district and its wider setting

### Transport

- 2.8. The A34 intersects with the district, and plays a key strategic role in connecting the area with the M4 and M5 to the south, and the M40 to the north. This provides it with key linkages to cities such as Oxford, Southampton, Birmingham and London.
- 2.9. Other important routes that pass through the district include the A420 which connects Oxford with Swindon, and the A417 that links the district with Reading and Gloucester.
- 2.10. In terms of rail infrastructure, Vale of White Horse is traversed by the Great Western Main Line, connecting London (Paddington) with Bristol (Temple Meads), and the Cherwell Valley Line, which connects Didcot with Banbury, via Oxford.

### ***Environment and the Landscape***

- 2.11. The district has extensive areas of high-grade agricultural land, a varied landscape character and important areas of nature conservation value. The river Thames acts as the northern boundary for the district, and also for part of the eastern boundary from just south of Oxford at Kennington, to north of the village of Appleford, where it continues on to Dorchester, Shillingford and Wallingford.
- 2.12. There are two Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), twenty three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and one national nature reserve in Vale of White Horse. Immediately adjacent to the north east corner of the district lies Oxford Meadows SAC which is bisected by the A34 strategic highway as it leaves the district.
- 2.13. The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty covers a large area that spans the entire southern part of the district, and extends into the neighbouring counties of Wiltshire, Berkshire and Hampshire. It was designated in 1972 and is currently managed by a Council of Partners comprising of county councils, district councils and a number of prescribed and non-prescribed bodies.
- 2.14. The historic route of the Wilts and Berks Canal traverses the district from Acorn Bridge, east of Swindon, to Ock Meadow Nature Reserve south west of Abingdon-on-Thames, a distance of approximately 20 miles. Work is ongoing with the restoration of the canal, with the intention that it can be fully restored to a navigable state in the long term (beyond the Local Plan period). Work also continues on restoring the sections of canal in Wiltshire and Swindon, providing a north south link between the River Kennet at Melksham and River Thames at Cricklade. The canal branches off to the east at Swindon to form the route which passes through the Vale of White Horse.

### ***Economy***

- 2.15. The Vale of White Horse district has a strong and diverse local economy. It is home to a significant concentration of innovative science and technology-based industries that are strong drivers for economic development and investment at a regional, national and international level. Oxfordshire's 'knowledge spine' extends from Bicester to the north in Cherwell, through Oxford City and on to Science Vale in the districts of Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire.
- 2.16. Science Vale has attracted significant government investment to help unlock and maximise the area's world class assets and economic potential, including City Deal, Local Growth Fund and Enterprise Zone status for Harwell Campus and Milton Park. It is also home to around 13% of research and development jobs within the South-East of England.

## **Summary**

2.17. The predicted growth envisaged for the Oxfordshire market area, and in particular for the area known as Science Vale, gives rise to a number of 'strategic matters' for the district that require close co-operation with neighbouring authorities and prescribed bodies. These matters are summarised as follows, and looked at in more detail in Section 3:

- Identifying the objectively assessed need for housing in the Oxfordshire Housing Market Area and agreeing a process to meeting any unmet need from neighbouring local authorities
- Housing and Transport Infrastructure (A420) to the east of Swindon (Eastern Villages) and the Western Vale sub area of Vale of White Horse district
- Meeting the needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
- The effective and coordinated delivery of housing, employment and infrastructure across Science Vale
- Identifying employment growth for the Oxfordshire economic market area and ensuring that there is sufficient land, housing and infrastructure available to accommodate this growth
- Identifying the need of visitor accommodation required to complement economic growth in Southern Oxfordshire
- Ensuring the growth in Oxfordshire and the surrounding region can be successfully accommodated on the strategic transport network, such as the A34
- Ensuring the quality provision and protection of water resources within the district and also ensuring that the wider needs are accommodated where necessary
- Ensuring that growth in Oxfordshire does not result in adverse impacts to flooding, both here and in neighbouring authorities that may be affected
- Ensuring that growth in the district does not significantly impact upon the key qualities of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Ensuring that growth in the district does not negatively impact upon important habitats and species both here, and across the wider area
- Ensuring that growth does not impact upon the key views, aspects and setting of Oxford City

### **3. Strategic Planning Priorities**

- 3.1. The Local Plan 2031 Part 1 has, through its preparation and evolution, identified a number of strategic matters which have required co-operation with our neighbouring authorities and other prescribed bodies. These have resulted in a number of key influences at various stages of the plan making process. The Strategic Objectives identified in Section 3 of Local Plan 2031 Part 1 which give rise to cross boundary matters are set out below. Further details of these strategic matters are set out in Appendices 1 and 2.

#### **Building healthy and sustainable communities**

- 3.2. Strategic Objective 1: To 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 for affordable housing

##### Cross boundary issues

- Identifying the objectively assessed need for the Oxfordshire Housing Market Area and agreeing a process to meeting any unmet need from neighbouring local authorities
- Ensuring growth to the east of Swindon and in the Western Vale sub area is delivered without any adverse impact on the local and wider infrastructure

- 3.3. Strategic Objective 2: To cater for existing and future residents' needs including the needs of different groups in the community and provision for a growing older population

##### Cross boundary issues

- Identifying the objectively assessed need for the Oxfordshire Housing Market Area and meeting any unmet need from neighbouring local authorities
- Meeting the needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- 3.4. Strategic Objective 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

##### Cross boundary issues

- The effective and coordinated delivery of housing, employment and infrastructure across Science Vale

- 3.5. Strategic Objective 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.

Cross boundary issues

- Meeting the needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

**Table 1: Strategic Issues relating to building healthy and sustainable communities**

Strategic Issues (incl. associated Strategic Objectives)	Partners	Joint working – evidence / arrangements / agreements
<p><b>Identifying the objectively assessed need for the Oxfordshire Housing Market Area and agreeing a process to meeting any unmet need from neighbouring local authorities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxford City Council</li> <li>• South Oxfordshire District Council</li> <li>• Cherwell District Council</li> <li>• West Oxfordshire District Council</li> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council</li> <li>• Homes and Communities Agency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Statement of Cooperation agreed by leaders of each council (Sept 2013)</li> <li>• Strategic Housing Market Assessment for Oxfordshire (SHMA) finalised and agreed by leaders of each council (April 2014)</li> <li>• Post-SHMA process to agree the quantity and distribution of un-met need from Oxford City is underway</li> <li>• Commitment from Vale of White Horse District Council through <i>Core Policy 2: Cooperation on Unmet Housing Need for Oxfordshire</i></li> <li>• Updated Vale of White Horse District Council Local Development Scheme 2015 – 2018 reflects and timetables potential local plan work to meet this commitment</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ensuring growth to the east of Swindon and in the Western Vale sub area is delivered without any adverse impact on the local and wider infrastructure</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swindon Borough Council (SBC)</li> <li>• Western Vale Villages (WVV)</li> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Statements of Common Ground agreed.</li> <li>• First agrees to SBC and VOWHDC meeting their own housing need within their respective districts</li> <li>• Second commits OCC to preparing an A420 strategy Oxford to Swindon, and identify</li> </ul>

Strategic Issues (incl. associated Strategic Objectives)	Partners	Joint working – evidence / arrangements / agreements
		<p>areas for improving safety and traffic flows along and around this key routeway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vale of White Horse District Council have responded to consultation on a number of planning applications for growth on the eastern edge of Swindon (Eastern Villages)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Meeting the needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Oxfordshire District Council</li> <li>• Oxford City Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment completed (Feb 2013)</li> <li>• Update to existing assessment completed (Sept 2014)</li> <li>• <i>Core Policy 27: Meeting the housing needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People</i> included in Local Plan 2031 Part 1.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The effective and coordinated delivery of housing, employment and infrastructure across Science Vale</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Oxfordshire District Council</li> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Science Vale Area Action Plan (DPD) currently under preparation</li> <li>• The provision of 6.5 hectares of employment land at Milton Park to accommodate need for the town of Didcot as identified in South Oxfordshire District Council's adopted Core Strategy<sup>13</sup></li> <li>• Vale ETI study jointly funded and</li> </ul>

<sup>13</sup> Policy CSEM2 of the adopted South Oxfordshire Core Strategy (December 2012), available at <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/core-strategy/adopted-core-strategy>

Strategic Issues (incl. associated Strategic Objectives)	Partners	Joint working – evidence / arrangements / agreements
		commissioned with Oxfordshire County Council has informed the Vale IDP and is informing updates to the Local Transport Plan and transport mitigation package for the Science Vale area in SODC and VOWH.

### Supporting economic prosperity

- 3.6. Strategic Objective 5: Support a strong and sustainable economy within the district, including the visitor economy.

#### Cross boundary issues

- Identifying employment growth for the Oxfordshire economic market area and ensuring that there is sufficient land, housing, and infrastructure available to accommodate this growth
- Identifying the need of visitor accommodation required to complement economic growth in Southern Oxfordshire

- 3.7. Strategic Objective 6: Support the continued development of Science Vale as an internationally significant centre for innovation and science based research and business.

#### Cross boundary issues

- Identifying employment growth for the Oxfordshire economic market area and ensuring that there is sufficient land, housing, and infrastructure available to accommodate this growth
- The effective and coordinated delivery of housing, employment and infrastructure across Science Vale

- 3.8. Strategic Objective 7: 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

#### Cross boundary issues

- No significant cross boundary issues

**Table 2: Strategic Issues relating to supporting economic prosperity**

<b>Strategic Issues (incl. associated Strategic Objectives)</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Joint working – evidence / arrangements / agreements</b>
<p><b>Identifying employment growth for the Oxfordshire economic market area and ensuring that there is sufficient land, housing and infrastructure available to accommodate this growth</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire LEP</li> <li>• Oxford City Council</li> <li>• South Oxfordshire District Council</li> <li>• Cherwell District Council</li> <li>• West Oxfordshire District Council</li> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council</li> <li>• Oxford Brookes University</li> <li>• University of Oxford</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic Forecasting to inform the Oxfordshire SEP and SHMA</li> <li>• Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan completed (March 2014)</li> <li>• Oxford and Oxfordshire City Deal (Jan 2014)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Identifying the need of visitor accommodation required to complement economic growth in Southern Oxfordshire</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Oxfordshire District Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Hotel Needs Assessment completed (July 2014)</li> </ul>
<p><b>The effective and coordinated delivery of housing, employment and infrastructure across Science Vale</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Oxfordshire District Council</li> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Science Vale Area Action Plan (DPD) currently under preparation</li> <li>• Vale Evaluation of Transport Impacts study jointly funded and commissioned with Oxfordshire County Council has informed the Vale Infrastructure Delivery Plan and is informing updates to the Local Transport Plan and transport mitigation package for Science Vale in South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council.</li> </ul>

## Sustainable transport and accessibility

### 3.9. Strategic Objective 8: Reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable modes of transport

#### Cross boundary issues

- Ensuring the growth in Oxfordshire and the surrounding region can be successfully accommodated on the strategic transport network, such as the A34

### 3.10. Strategic Objective 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

#### Cross boundary issues

- The effective and coordinated delivery of housing, employment and infrastructure across Science Vale
- Identifying employment growth for the Oxfordshire economic market area and ensuring that there is sufficient land, housing and infrastructure available to accommodate this growth
- Ensuring growth to the east of Swindon and in the Western Vale sub area is delivered without any adverse impact on the local and wider infrastructure
- Ensuring the growth in Oxfordshire and the surrounding region can be successfully accommodated on the strategic transport network, such as the A34

**Table 3 – Strategic issues relating to sustainable transport and accessibility**

Strategic Issues (incl. associated Strategic Objectives)	Partners	Joint working – evidence / arrangements / agreements
<p><b>Ensuring the growth in Oxfordshire and the surrounding region can be successfully accommodated on the strategic transport network, such as the A34</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council</li> <li>• Highways Agency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highways Agency currently preparing comprehensive A34 route based strategy</li> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council A34 Baseline Statement for section within county</li> <li>• Core Policy 34: A34 Strategy commits Vale of White Horse District Council to continue to work, where possible, with the Highways Agency and Oxfordshire County Council in the preparation/ development of the</li> </ul>

Strategic Issues (incl. associated Strategic Objectives)	Partners	Joint working – evidence / arrangements / agreements
<p><b>The effective and coordinated delivery of housing, employment and infrastructure across Science Vale</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Oxfordshire District Council</li> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council</li> </ul>	<p>strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Science Vale Area Action Plan (DPD) currently under preparation</li> <li>• Vale Evaluation of Transport Impacts study jointly funded and commissioned with Oxfordshire County Council has informed the Vale Infrastructure Delivery Plan and is informing updates to the Local Transport Plan and transport mitigation package for Science Vale in South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Identifying employment growth for the Oxfordshire economic market area and ensuring that there is sufficient land, housing and infrastructure available to accommodate this growth</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire LEP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Oxford City Council</li> <li>○ South Oxfordshire District Council</li> <li>○ Cherwell District Council</li> <li>○ West Oxfordshire District Council</li> <li>○ Oxfordshire County Council</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Oxford Brookes University</li> <li>• University of Oxford</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan completed (March 2014)</li> <li>• Oxford and Oxfordshire City Deal (Jan 2014)</li> <li>• Addendum to the Employment Land Review Update to inform the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 (Aug 2014)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ensuring growth to the east of Swindon and in the Western Vale sub area is delivered without any adverse impact on the local and wider infrastructure</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swindon Borough Council (SBC)</li> <li>• Western Vale Villages (WVV)</li> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Statements of Common Ground agreed.</li> <li>• First agrees to SBC and VOWHDC meeting their own housing need within their respective districts</li> <li>• Second commits OCC to preparing an A420</li> </ul>

Strategic Issues (incl. associated Strategic Objectives)	Partners	Joint working – evidence / arrangements / agreements
		<p>strategy Oxford to Swindon, and identify areas for improving safety and traffic flows along and around this key routeway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responses to a number planning applications for growth on the eastern edge of Swindon (Eastern Villages)</li> </ul>

### Protecting the environment and responding to climate change

#### 3.11. Strategic Objective 10: Maintain and improve the natural environment including biodiversity, landscape, Green Infrastructure and waterways

##### Cross boundary issues

- Ensuring the quality provision and protection of water resources within the district and also ensure that the wider needs are accommodated where necessary
- Ensuring that growth in Oxfordshire does not result in adverse impacts to flooding, both here and in neighbouring authorities that may be affected
- Ensuring that growth in the district does not significantly impact upon the key qualities of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Ensuring that growth does not impact upon the key views, aspects and setting of Oxford City

#### 3.12. Strategic Objective 11: Ensure all new development achieves high quality design standards and conserves and enhances the natural, historic, cultural and landscape assets of the Vale.

##### Cross boundary issues

- Ensuring the quality provision and protection of water resources within the district and also ensure that the wider needs are accommodated where necessary
- Ensuring that growth in Oxfordshire does not result in adverse impacts to flooding, both here and in neighbouring authorities that may be affected
- Ensuring that growth in the district does not significantly impact upon the key qualities of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

- Ensuring that growth in the district does not negatively impact upon important habitats and species in the wider area
- Ensuring that growth does not impact upon the key views, aspects and setting of Oxford City

**3.13.** Strategic Objective 11: 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.

Cross boundary issues

- Ensuring the quality provision and protection of water resources within the district and also ensure that the wider needs are accommodated where necessary
- Ensuring that growth in Oxfordshire does not result in adverse impacts to flooding, both here and in neighbouring authorities that may be affected
- Ensuring that growth in the district does not negatively impact upon important habitats and species in the wider area

**Table 4 – Strategic issues relating to protecting the environment and responding to climate change**

<b>Strategic Issues (incl. associated Strategic Objectives)</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Joint working – evidence / arrangements / agreements</b>
<b>Ensuring the quality provision and protection of water resources within the district and also ensuring that the wider needs are accommodated where necessary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Agency</li> <li>• Thames Water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Cycle Study (Phase 1) complete</li> <li>• Phase 2 underway</li> <li>• Informal consultation (x4) with partners to inform strategic site selection process. This was in addition to formal local plan consultations.</li> <li>• Land safeguarded against development that would preclude the future provision of the Upper Thames Reservoir (<i>Core Policy 14</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Ensuring that growth in Oxfordshire does not result in adverse impacts to flooding, both here and in neighbouring authorities that may be affected.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council</li> <li>• Environmental Agency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council lead flood authority</li> <li>• <i>Core Policy 4: Flood Risk</i> prepared through consultation with and feedback from Oxfordshire County</li> </ul>

Strategic Issues (incl. associated Strategic Objectives)	Partners	Joint working – evidence / arrangements / agreements
<p><b>Ensuring that growth in the district does not significantly impact upon the key qualities of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Wessex Downs AONB Council of Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Natural England</li> <li>○ West Berkshire District Council</li> <li>○ South Oxfordshire District Council</li> <li>○ Wiltshire Council</li> <li>○ Swindon Borough Council</li> <li>○ Hampshire County Council</li> <li>○ Test Valley Borough Council</li> <li>○ Oxfordshire County Council</li> </ul> </li> <li>• English Heritage</li> <li>• Natural England</li> </ul>	<p>Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopted North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2014-19</li> <li>• Responses received through formal consultation processes of emerging Local Plan</li> <li>• Dedicated meetings with Natural England, AONB board and English Heritage to discuss proposed strategic site allocations within the AONB and mitigation measures proposed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ensuring that growth in the district does not negatively impact upon important habitats and species here, and across in the wider area</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural England</li> <li>• Cherwell District Council</li> <li>• West Oxfordshire District Council</li> <li>• Oxford City Council</li> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Plan commitment to additional monitoring at Oxford Meadows SAC</li> <li>• HRA agreed to form part of the process of assessment of options to address potential unmet housing need in the Oxfordshire housing market area</li> <li>• Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy commissioned with South Oxfordshire District Council</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ensuring that growth does not impact upon the key views, aspects and setting of Oxford City</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxford City Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preservation of Oxford's Landscape setting through the retention of saved policy NE8 (Local Plan 2011)</li> </ul>

#### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1. The Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 1, through its preparation, has identified a wide range of strategic matters. The tables above show in various ways how the council has engaged constructively with its strategic neighbours and prescribed bodies on these matters. It also shows where evidence of joint working has taken place, and where key arrangements and agreements have been formulated through strategic policies, a statement of co-operation, and statements of common ground.
- 4.2. The council recognises that full agreement has not yet been achieved with some other parties on a small number of strategic matters, including matters where important work is underway but ongoing. However it has demonstrated that in all situations a high level of co-operation has been achieved and this is evident in the strategic policies, supporting text and evidence base which make up the Local Plan 2031 Part 1.
- 4.3. As a result of this, the council considers that it has complied with the legal 'duty'. Any outstanding matters of cooperation where agreement has not yet been secured can be considered as part of the examination, in terms of the effectiveness of the policies contained within the Local Plan 2031 Part 1.

## Appendix 1: Strategic Planning Issues

### Issue 1

<b>1. Strategic Planning issue</b>
<b>Identifying the objectively assessed need for the Oxfordshire Housing Market Area and agreeing a process to meeting any unmet need from neighbouring local authorities</b>
<b>2. Evidence base</b>
Joint Oxfordshire Statement of Co-operation agreed by leaders of all local authorities - September 2013 Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) April 2014
<b>3. Strategic Partners</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oxford City Council</li><li>• South Oxfordshire District Council</li><li>• Cherwell District Council</li><li>• West Oxfordshire District Council</li><li>• Oxfordshire County Council</li><li>• Homes and Communities Agency</li></ul>
<b>4. Actions</b>
<p><b>Action:</b> To jointly commission an Oxfordshire SHMA to provide the housing market area with an Objectively Assessed Housing Need for the whole area and also for each local planning authority area. The SHMA will also provide key outputs with respect to the provision of specialist housing, including housing for older people.</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> Oxford City Council; South Oxfordshire District Council; Cherwell District Council; West Oxfordshire District Council; Oxfordshire County Council</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> Oxfordshire SHMA commissioned jointly by all the Oxfordshire district councils and supported by Oxfordshire County Council. Consultants appointed. Follow on action identified to agree a process to deal with the outcomes of the SHMA and any un-met need that may arise from one or more authorities while the SHMA work was being undertaken.</p> <p><b>Date:</b> May 2013</p>
<p><b>Action:</b> To outline matters on which the six Oxfordshire local authorities will continue to cooperate, and set out how the parties will manage the outcomes of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment should any of the Local Planning Authorities not be able to meet their full objectively assessed housing need.</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> Oxford City Council; South Oxfordshire District Council; Cherwell District Council; West Oxfordshire District Council; Oxfordshire County</p>

Council

**Outcome:** “Oxfordshire Statement of Cooperation” agreed by the leaders of each local planning authority. Partners use the existing SPIP (Spatial Planning and Infrastructural Partnership) arrangement to act as a co-ordinating body for joint working. SPIP Executive to meet every six weeks and SPIP Board every three months. SPIP will be supported by OPPO (Oxfordshire Planning Policy Officer Group) to help deliver the technical work required as part of the agreed process, and meet every six weeks or more often as required. OPPO comprises of at least one experienced planning officer from each of the partners.

**Date: 5 September 2013**

**Action:** Stakeholder workshop held to consider the emerging findings of the SHMA and to discuss key methodological issues, attended by key stakeholders, including prescribed bodies, developers and their agents, representatives from adjoining authorities, as well as representatives from neighbourhood forums across Oxfordshire.

**Partners:** Oxford City Council; South Oxfordshire District Council; Cherwell District Council; West Oxfordshire District Council; Oxfordshire County Council

**Other attendees:** Cotswold District Council; Campaign to Protect Rural England, Environmental Agency, Homes and Communities Agency, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council; Stratford-on-Avon District Council; University of Oxford, West Berkshire County; Oxford Preservation Trust; Oxford Local Nature Partnership (NB – many others were invited to the event but did not attend)

**Outcome:** Workshop held in Oxford Town Hall. Other one-to-one meetings have been held since this.

**Date:** 1 November 2013

**Action:** Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment finalised and agreed through SPIP which identifies the objectively assessed housing need for each of the local planning authorities.

**Partners:** Oxford City Council ; South Oxfordshire District Council; Cherwell District Council; West Oxfordshire District Council; Oxfordshire County Council

**Outcome:** Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment Final Report agreed by the leaders of the local planning authorities. Economic Forecasting to inform the Oxfordshire SEP and SHMA final report also published.

**Date:** 4 March 2014 (SPIP Board); Report published April 2014

## 5. Outcomes from strategic working

The Local Plan 2031 Part 1 seeks to address, in full, the objectively assessed housing need of the Vale of White Horse district which stems from the Oxfordshire SHMA.

In tandem with this, the district council continues to work constructively with our partners on meeting un-met need arising from Oxford City. This is captured in the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 through *Core Policy 2: Cooperation on Unmet Housing Need for Oxfordshire*. This policy commits the council to undertake a full or focused partial review of the Local Plan 2031, or allocation of appropriate housing sites through a subsequent DPD, should the district be required to accommodate any unmet housing need. This is reflected in the

2015-2018 Local Development Scheme.

While work continues on an HMA-wide solution to address un-met need, in view of the scale of Vale's own housing need, supply backlog and lack of a five year housing land supply, Vale of White Horse District Council consider that the needs of the Vale and the HMA as a whole are best served by first meeting the council's own housing need including backlog as quick as possible.

#### **6. Ongoing cooperation**

Since the publication of the Oxfordshire SHMA, the SPIP process has been replaced with the Oxfordshire Growth Board, which is a joint committee comprising of voting and non-voting members. Voting members comprise of the leaders of the Oxfordshire local authorities, with non voting members including the Oxfordshire LEP, Oxfordshire Skills Board, Oxford Universities, Homes and Communities Agency, Environmental Agency, Network Rail and Highways Agency. The Growth Board is charged with the delivery of the projects agreed in the City Deal and Growth Deals that fall to the councils. It is continuing the process of addressing the un-met need and future agreement on how and where this will be best met will come through this process.

The process and timetable for addressing un-met need will be agreed by all leaders through the Oxfordshire Growth Board and will act as a monitor to ensure timely delivery of this strategically important piece of work. The Growth Board and its Executive Officers Group is supported by a Programme Manager and a post-SHMA Project Team of district and county council officers (including Vale representation), the Homes and Communities Agency and Environment Agency which meet on a fortnightly basis to report on progress made on the work programme.

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## **Issue 2**

### **1. Strategic Planning issue**

**Ensuring growth to the east of Swindon and in the Western Vale sub area is delivered without any adverse impact on the local and wider infrastructure**

### **2. Evidence base**

- Statement of Common Ground with Swindon Borough Council
- Statement of Common Ground with Swindon Borough Council, Oxfordshire County Council and Western Vale Villages (Consortium)
- Oxfordshire County Council Local Transport Plan 4

### **3. Strategic Partners**

- Swindon Borough Council
- Oxfordshire County Council
- Western Vale Villages (Consortium)

#### 4. Actions

**Action:** To arrange a meeting with the relevant partners to discuss concerns raised by Western Vale Villages about the levels of unplanned, speculative development along the A420 (within the Vale of White Horse district) and also the proposed 'Eastern Villages' development to the east of Swindon. Issues were raised through the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2029 Part 1 consultation held in February 2013.

**Partners:** Swindon Borough Council; Oxfordshire County Council; Western Vale Villages

**Outcome:** Meeting held with all partners in attendance to discuss the issues at hand. Western Vale Villages raised concerns that there needed to be greater co-operation between planners and highways departments than in the past. Concerns were also raised that the suggested improvements to the A420 by Swindon Borough Council could lead to an increase in 'rat-running' in the vicinity. Oxfordshire County Council agreed that there was a need to do more joined-up thinking to overcome the issues raised.

**Date:** 2 July 2013

**Action:** To agree common ground between Swindon Borough Council and Vale of White Horse District Council with respect to housing growth in their respective areas.

**Partners:** Swindon Borough Council

**Outcome:** Statement of Common Ground agreed and signed. Both authorities agree that their objectively assessed housing need can be best accommodated within their own respective administrative boundaries, and do not expect to ask the other to accommodate any un-met need, should it arise.

**Date:** 31 March 2014

**Action:** To agree common ground between Swindon Borough Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and Western Vale Villages with respect to transport matters surrounding the A420 between Oxford and Swindon.

**Partners:** Swindon Borough Council; Oxfordshire County Council; Western Vale Villages

**Outcome:** Statement of Common Ground agreed and signed by all partners. An agreement of trip rates that will be used by both authorities in their transport modelling, to reflect the envisaged growth to the east of Swindon and in the Western Vale sub area of Vale of White Horse district. An agreement also that Oxfordshire County Council will prepare a route based strategy for the A420, to be informed by transport study work already undertaken and that planned in Swindon and Oxfordshire, and will take into account development policies and proposals in both authorities.

**Date:** 31 March 2014

#### 5. Outcomes from strategic working

Recognition of this cross boundary issue and reference to the statement of common ground between all partners is identified in paragraph 5.119 of the Local Plan 2031 Part 1. Capacity issues on the A420 are also identified in paragraph 5.124-5.126 as well as reference to the progression of a route based strategy as part of the work to update Oxfordshire County Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP). *Core Policy 21: Safeguarding of Land for Strategic Highway Improvements within the Western Vale Sub-Area* protects specific junctions on the A420 which will require upgrading.

#### 6. Ongoing cooperation

Future meetings scheduled to discuss the Statement of Common Ground. Oxfordshire County Council is progressing with work on their Local Transport Plan 4, of which the preparation of an A420 strategy is proposed in light of this strategic matter. Further updates may be required upon completion of the strategy by Oxfordshire County Council. These will be identified through the Local Transport Plan and/or through Local Plan 2031 Part 2.

### Issue 3

#### 1. Strategic Planning issue

#### Meeting the needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

#### 2. Evidence base

- Gypsy Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Needs Assessment (Feb 2013)
- Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Needs Assessment update (Sept 2014)

#### 3. Strategic Partners

- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Oxford City Council

#### 4. Actions

**Action:** To jointly prepare a needs assessment for Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople to greater understand their future requirements for Southern Oxfordshire and Oxford City, through cooperation and consultation with key stakeholders and neighbouring local authorities. The outputs of this assessment will determine what need, if any, should be accommodated through emerging Local Plans or other development plan documents.

**Partners:** South Oxfordshire District Council; Oxford City Council

**Outcome:** Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Need Assessment

published alongside Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2029 Part 1 consultation (Feb 2013). The assessment identified a need of 13 pitches for the district in the period up to 2029. A similar need was identified for South Oxfordshire but there was no additional need identified for Oxford City. The granting of eight pitches on land outside of Shrivenham more than addressed the short term (five year supply) needs of the district.

**Date:** 28 February 2013

**Action:** To provide an update to the existing need assessment to align with a new local plan period up to 2031 (instead of 2029). The update also takes into account a series of cases where other needs assessments have been tested at Examination in Public, public enquiries and planning appeals, to ensure evidence is robust.

**Partners:** South Oxfordshire District Council; Oxford City Council

**Outcome:** Update to the existing needs assessment published alongside the Vale of White Horse Local Plan additional consultation "Housing Delivery Update" (February 2014). Updates on net migration and additional supply fundamentally retained a district-wide need of 13 pitches up to 2031, which maintained a five year supply of pitches in the district. No changes occurred to the needs of Oxford City, however the need of South Oxfordshire rose from 13 pitches up to 19 pitches.

**Date:** 21 February 2014

## 5. Outcomes from strategic working

The outcomes of the needs assessment and its update are accommodated in paragraphs 6.24-6.26 of Local Plan 2031 Part 1. This supporting text also recognises the joint working with South Oxfordshire District Council and Oxford City Council. *Core Policy 27: Meeting the housing needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People* sets out the council's strategy for the delivery of future pitches. While the council currently has a five year supply of pitches at present, it may seek to address the remaining (five) pitches through allocations in Local Plan 2031 Part 2, should it not be addressed in the meantime.

## 6. Ongoing cooperation

Monitoring of Core Policy 27 is set out in Appendix H of Local Plan 2031 Part 1, and includes continued cooperation with key stakeholders to address challenges to delivery. Future updates to the needs assessment are expected to be prepared in conjunction with neighbouring authorities to ensure strategic matters of importance are addressed consistently. We will continue to work with South Oxfordshire District Council and Oxford City Council to ensure the accommodation needs of gypsies, travellers and travelling show people are planned for appropriately.

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## Issue 4

<b>1. Strategic Planning issue</b>
<b>The effective and coordinated delivery of housing, employment and infrastructure across Science Vale</b>
<b>2. Evidence base</b>
Science Vale Housing and Employment Study (Joint study prepared with South Oxfordshire District Council – October 2014) Science Vale Area Action Plan (Development Plan Document) in preparation
<b>3. Strategic Partners</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Oxfordshire District Council</li> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council</li> </ul>
<b>4. Actions</b>
<p><b>Action:</b> To agree and commit to a timetable for the delivery of a joint plan between Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council that will have a strong focus on delivery and implementation and on successful place making of Science Vale. The area of Science Vale includes the key employment sites of Harwell Campus and Milton Park in Vale of White Horse, along with Culham Science Centre in South Oxfordshire. The area also includes the towns of Wantage, in Vale, and Didcot, in South Oxfordshire, both of which are expected to accommodate significant population growth over the plan period up to 2031.</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> South Oxfordshire District Council</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> The Local Development Scheme (LDS) for both local planning authorities were updated early in 2014 to include the Joint Science Vale AAP. The LDS sets out the role of the AAP, its coverage, conformity and key stages in the timetable to deliver this development plan document.</p> <p><b>Date:</b> Vale of White Horse District Council – Approved by Cabinet member on 13 February 2014 South Oxfordshire - Approved by Cabinet member on 21 February 2014</p>
<p><b>Action:</b> To undertake a joint study to provide more detail on the predicted level of growth to be experienced across Science Vale. This will provide more clarity to inform the Science Vale Area Action Plan and the emerging local plans of both local planning authorities.</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> South Oxfordshire District Council</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> Science Vale Housing and Employment Study completed by same consultants who were employed to undertake the Oxfordshire SHMA, to ensure consistency a high level of accuracy.</p> <p><b>Date:</b> October 2014</p>
<p><b>Action:</b> To undertake an Issues and Scope consultation as per the Local Development Scheme, including a number of public exhibitions and events to be held at various locations across Science Vale in both administrative</p>

districts.

**Partners:** South Oxfordshire District Council

**Outcome:** Consultation underway on Science Vale Area Action Plan at time of submission of Local Plan 2031 Part 1 for examination.

**Date:** 27 February 2015

### 5. Outcomes from strategic working

The Joint Science Vale AAP development plan document is currently being prepared in co-operation with South Oxfordshire District Council. The AAP is reflected in paragraphs 5.79 – 5.85 of the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 and recognises the importance of joint work in this strategically important area.

### 6. Ongoing cooperation

The Joint Science Vale AAP is expected to progress in line with the updated Local Development Scheme. A dedicated joint projects team (employed by both district councils) will continue to progress this work in tandem with both councils' emerging Local Plans. This will continue to be monitored through the Local Development Scheme of both local planning authorities.

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## Issue 5

### 1. Strategic Planning issue

**Identifying employment growth for the Oxfordshire economic market area and ensuring that there is sufficient land, housing and infrastructure available to accommodate this growth**

### 2. Evidence base

- Oxford and Oxfordshire City Deal (Jan 2014)
- Economic Forecasting to Inform the Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan and Strategic Housing Market Assessment (28 February 2014)
- Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan (March 2014)
- Addendum to the Employment Land Review Update (August 2014)
- Science Vale Housing and Employment Study (Joint study prepared with South Oxfordshire District Council – October 2014)

### 3. Strategic Partners

- Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Oxford City Council
- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Cherwell District Council
- West Oxfordshire District Council
- Oxfordshire County Council

- Oxford Brookes University
- University of Oxford

#### 4. Actions

**Action:** To set out the actions that the region (Oxford and Oxfordshire) will take to create new jobs, support research and business and improve housing and transport.

**Partners:** Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership; Oxford City Council; South Oxfordshire District Council; Cherwell District Council; West Oxfordshire District Council; Oxfordshire County Council; Oxford Brookes University; University of Oxford

**Outcome:** Oxford and Oxfordshire City Deal signed by Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg. Projects that form part of City Deal include the speeding up of development of 7,500 homes across the county; helping small and medium enterprises to get better business support through a Growth Hub; improvements to local roads and transport, including the first phase of the new 'Science Transit' public transport scheme; and creating more than 500 new apprenticeships for young people

**Date:** 30 January 2014

**Action:** To produce evidence base work to prepare a set of economic forecasts for Oxfordshire which would be used to inform the county's Strategic Housing Market Assessment (and also the Oxfordshire LEP's emerging Strategic Economic Plan) to ensure that the economic growth of the market area can be assessed as a whole. This would bring the SHMA in line with expected new national guidance that was in draft format at the time.

**Partners:** Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership; Oxford City Council; South Oxfordshire District Council; Cherwell District Council; West Oxfordshire District Council; Oxfordshire County Council

**Outcome:** Final report completed and agreed by the leaders of the local planning authorities involved.

**Date:** Final Report completed on 28 February 2014. Report agreed by leaders to be published on website at SPIP Board meeting held on 4 March 2014.

**Action:** To prepare a Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) for the county to determine the extent of the Single Local Growth Fund will come to Oxfordshire to direct growth in the county in the medium to long term.

**Partners:** Local Enterprise Partnership; Oxford City Council; South Oxfordshire District Council; Cherwell District Council; West Oxfordshire District Council; Oxfordshire County Council

**Outcome:** Oxfordshire LEP Strategic Economic Plan published early in 2014.

**Date:** Delegated decision by Executive Board to finalised SEP on 4 March 2014

**Action:** To prepare an addendum to the Employment Land Review Update (March 2013) to identify the expected number of jobs arising from the Economic Forecasting to inform the Oxfordshire SEP and SHMA (see action above) which require designated employment land and to ensure that there is a sufficient supply available in the district to accommodate this growth.

**Outcome:** An addendum to the Employment Land Review Update completed in August and published alongside the submission version of the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 (November 2014)

**Date:** Commissioned April 2014. Completed 11 August 2014

### **5. Outcomes from strategic working**

The outputs from the Economic Forecasting prepared by Cambridge Econometrics and SQW have provided a key evidence base which has informed the Oxfordshire SHMA. This piece of work is the most up to date evidence base for employment projections for the district and wider market area. It recognises strategically important economic growth along the “Knowledge Spine” linking Science Vale with Oxford and further north to Bicester.

A significant level of growth is predicted in Science Vale and this has been accommodated in the Local Plan 2031 Part 1. An addendum to the Employment Land Review Update identifies how many jobs of the total of 23,000 envisaged for the Vale of White Horse are to be accommodated on designated employment land within the district, and this is set out in *Core Policy 6: Meeting Business and Employment Needs*. Important masterplanning of strategic employment sites such as Harwell Campus and the mixed use site at Didcot are to be progressed through the Joint Science Vale Area Action Plan to ensure a cohesive approach to the delivery of these sites which are located close to Didcot. The large brownfield site at Didcot A is guided by Core Policy 16 and paragraph 5.78 recognises the importance that development proposals for this site are considered jointly with South Oxfordshire District Council.

Further policies on employment provision in the district (Core Policy 28 and 29), as well as further and higher level education (Core Policy 30) and tourism/visitor economy (Core Policy 31) provide sufficient flexibility for economic growth in the district.

### **6. Ongoing cooperation**

Future updates to such evidence will continue to be brought forward through continued cooperation with the other Oxfordshire local authorities and key stakeholders through mediums such as the Oxfordshire Growth Board.

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## **Issue 6**

### **1. Strategic Planning issue**

**Identifying the need of visitor accommodation required to complement economic growth in Southern Oxfordshire**

### **2. Evidence base**

- Joint Hotel Needs Assessment

### **3. Strategic Partners**

- South Oxfordshire District Council

#### 4. Actions

**Action:** To commission a piece of work with the joint Economic Development team to assess the hotel needs within South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse in order to greater understand the requirement for both districts over the next 15 years. It will include an assessment of current supply and demand, projected changes, guidance on how best to attract operators, and an initial assessment of the potential for the development of other forms of visitor accommodation. This is to reflect the long standing view of both councils that there is a lack of hotel space across both districts and in particular for Science Vale.

**Partners:** South Oxfordshire District Council

**Outcome:** Joint Hotel Needs Assessment completed and published alongside Local Plan 2031 Part 1 pre-submission consultation.

**Date:** Completed July 2014, published on website 7 November 2014

#### 5. Outcomes from strategic working

Reference is made to the Joint Hotel Needs Assessment in paragraph 6.43 of Local Plan 2031 Part 1, and confirmed the need for a significant increase in hotel supply in the Science Vale area. It also identifies some of the broad locations where future hotel accommodation could be situated outside of Science Vale, in the market towns of Abingdon-on-Thames, Wantage and on the fringe of Oxford City at Botley. Consequently, reference is made in *Core Policy 11: Botley Central Area* for the possible provision of a hotel on this site.

#### 6. Ongoing cooperation

The Joint Science Vale Area Action Plan may consider the allocation of further sites in Science Vale. There are currently a number of sites which are seeking to provide hotel accommodation across Science Vale, namely through the comprehensive masterplanning of Harwell Oxford Campus; at the Didcot A brownfield site and at Didcot Gateway (in South Oxfordshire).

### Issue 7

#### 1. Strategic Planning issue

**Ensuring the growth in Oxfordshire and the surrounding region can be successfully accommodated on the strategic transport network, such as the A34**

#### 2. Evidence base

- Oxfordshire County Council Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2030
- Infrastructure Delivery Plan (March 2015)
- Evaluation of Transport Impacts (ETI) Study to inform the Vale of White

<p>Horse District Council Local Plan 2031: Part 1 Strategic Sites and Policies (November 2014)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council Local Transport Plan 4 (emerging)</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Strategic Partners</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council</li> <li>• Highways Agency</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Actions</b></p>
<p><b>Action:</b> To engage constructively and on an ongoing basis with Oxfordshire County Council and other key stakeholders to identify the infrastructure necessary to support the delivery of the Local Plan 2031 Part 1</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> Oxfordshire County Council; Highways Agency; National Rail (and others providers of health, water, gas and other services and utilities across the district)</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> Vale of White Horse District Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan updated to inform the submission of the Local Plan 2031 Part 1. Update includes a breakdown of costs of infrastructural projects such as upgrades/improvements to the strategic highways network (A34), the Harwell Link Road, duelling of the A4130 and A417 corridor improvements.</p> <p><b>Date:</b> March 2015</p>
<p><b>Action:</b> To work constructively with Oxfordshire County Council to obtain a detailed understanding of the impacts that the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 will have on the highway network, including the testing of a range of strategic development sites for potential inclusion in the plan.</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> Oxfordshire County Council</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> Five separate stages of the Evaluation of Transport Impacts (ETI) study have been completed by Oxfordshire County Council at various key points in the plan making process. This has played an important role in the determination and allocation of strategic development sites to ensure that there are no significant adverse impacts on the local and wider highways network.</p> <p><b>Date:</b> Phase 1 completed February 2013; Phase 2 completed September 2013; Phase 3 completed February 2014; Phase 4 completed July 2014; Phase 5 (to inform submission version of the Local Plan 2031 Part 1) completed November 2014</p>
<p><b>5. Outcomes from strategic working</b></p>
<p>The Vale of White Horse District Council has regularly engaged with Oxfordshire County Council and the Highways Agency through evidence base work, informal and formal consultation as part of the plan making process. Key strategic policies which have emerged as a result of this close working include Core Policy 7 (Providing Supporting Infrastructure) and subsequent sub area strategy Core Policies 12, 17 and 21. Core Policy 34 which commits the council to continued engagement with the Highways Agency, Oxfordshire County Council and other partners to develop and implement a route based strategy for the A34, including the development of an air quality monitoring</p>

framework associated with the A34 within the Vale of White Horse District.

## 6. Ongoing cooperation

As identified above, the council is committed to ongoing work on the strategic highways network through Core Policy 34. The IDP is a live document which will be updated regularly through consultation with the relevant bodies. We will continue to work with Oxfordshire County Council on the progression of Local Transport Plan 4 towards its completion.

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## Issue 8

### 1. Strategic Planning issue

**Ensuring the quality provision and protection of water resources within the district and also ensuring that the wider needs are accommodated where necessary**

### 2. Evidence base

- Water Cycle Study Phase 1
- Water Resource Management Plan 14 (Thames Water)
- Thames River Basin Management Plan (Environmental Agency)

### 3. Strategic Partners

- Environmental Agency
- Thames Water

### 4. Actions

**Action:** To ensure that there is a sufficient land safeguarded to allow for the provision of sufficient water supply for London and the surrounding region to accommodate the predicted growth into the foreseeable future.

**Partners:** Thames Water

**Outcome:** Through effective cooperation with Thames Water, the local plan seeks to ensure that there is sufficient land safeguarded for the provision of a new reservoir in the district to accommodate this strategic need and for it to be supported by a sound policy.

**Date:** Draft policy and safeguarding first consulted on 28 February 2013, updated policy consulted 7 November 2014

**Action:** To ensure that there is sufficient provision of clean water, safe disposal of wastewater and protection from flooding for existing and future development over the plan period.

**Partners:** Environmental Agency; Thames Water

**Outcome:** Phase 1 of the Water Cycle Study prepared in cooperation with

partners.

**Date:** Commissioned: 30 September 2013. Work Completed: November 2014

**Action:** To ensure that there is sufficient provision of clean water and safe disposal of wastewater for existing and future developments over the plan period.

**Partners:** Environmental Agency; Thames Water

**Outcome:** Requirements added where necessary to the strategic site development templates (Appendix A of Local Plan 2031 Part 1) clearly stating what enhancements are necessary to the water and/or wastewater facilities to accommodate the growth.

**Date:** Local Plan 2031 Part 1 Consultation – 7 November 2014

## 5. Outcomes from strategic working

*Core Policy 14: Upper Thames Reservoir* safeguards land for one of three reservoir storage options identified in Thames Water's Water Resource Management Plan 14 (WRMP14). The policy has been included in the draft Local Plan 2031 Part 1 since the February 2013 consultation, but has been adjusted and amended in line with feedback from relevant partners. Further minor modifications are sought to the policy and supporting text to ensure its soundness for examination.

*Core Policy 43: Natural Resources* sets out requirements for all development proposals to make efficient use of water, while also causing no deterioration in, and where possible, achieving improvements in water quality.

## 6. Ongoing cooperation

Land will continue to be safeguarded to the south west of Abingdon-on-Thames for the reservoir until a decision is made by the Secretary of State in 2019 on the preferred option. Early and ongoing consultation/communication with our partners through the development management process will ensure that no adverse impacts will occur to water and wastewater facilities in the district.

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## Issue 9

### 1. Strategic Planning issue

**Ensuring that growth in Oxfordshire does not result in adverse impacts to flooding, both here and in neighbouring authorities that may be affected.**

### 2. Evidence base

- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (July 2013)
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Addendum (October 2014)

### 3. Strategic Partners

- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Environmental Agency
- Thames Water

#### 4. Actions

**Action:** To prepare a comprehensive Strategic Flood Risk Assessment jointly with South Oxfordshire to update existing studies with changes in legislation and flood risk policy. The assessment will provide comprehensive flood risk data for both districts which can be applied to Sequential and Exception Tests; identifying other sources of flooding; surface water runoff and drainage, guidance on making development safe; river restoration and enhancement, defences and assets, and developer contributions to flood risk improvements.

**Partners:** South Oxfordshire District Council; Environmental Agency; Thames Water

**Outcome:** Strategic Flood Risk Assessment completed in July 2013.

**Date:** Commissioned: 30 January 2013; Work Completed: 3 July 2013

**Action:** To produce an addendum to the aforementioned Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to take account of the 21 new sites proposed for allocation in the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 1, along with an update on significant policy and other changes since July 2013, notably the National Planning Practice Guidance on Flood Risk published in early 2014.

**Partners:** Environmental Agency

**Outcome:** Addendum completed in October 2014 and published as part of the November 2014 consultation for the Local Plan 2031 Part 1. It shows updated flood zones where they have been amended, and clearly identifies any areas of concern with the strategic development sites in terms of fluvial and surface water flooding. Addendum also identifies studies required to accompany an application for development.

**Date:** Commissioned: 16 Sept 2014; Work Completed: 22 Oct 2014

#### 5. Outcomes from strategic working

Outputs of the original Joint SFRA (July 2013) were implemented at the early stage of plan preparation, used as part of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment to discount sites which were significantly constrained by Flood Zones 2 and 3. Through the preparation of the SFRA, its addendum, and through formal and informal consultation with the Environmental Agency and Thames Water, the council is now in a position where it can allocate a range of strategic site allocations which are not significantly affected by flooding or at significant risk of flooding in the future.

#### 6. Ongoing cooperation

Early and ongoing consultation/communication with our partners through the development management process will ensure that no significant adverse impacts will occur as a result of flooding or flood risk through the local plan.

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### Issue 10

<b>1. Strategic Planning issue</b>
<b>Ensuring that growth in the district does not significantly impact upon the key qualities of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</b>
<b>2. Evidence base</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape Capacity Study 2014: Site Options (2014)</li> <li>• North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2014 – 2019</li> <li>• East Harwell Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Report (July 2014)</li> </ul>
<b>3. Strategic Partners</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural England</li> <li>• North Wessex Downs AONB Unit</li> <li>• English Heritage</li> </ul>
<b>4. Actions</b>
<p><b>Action:</b> Commission a Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal (LVIA) of the land surrounding Harwell Campus to assess the capacity of parcels of land surrounding the campus to accommodate future residential development. This work is an extension of the Landscape Capacity Study 2014 which was commissioned to inform the strategic site selection process leading up to the ‘Housing Delivery Update’ consultation held in February 2014. It is in response to objections received from a number of key stakeholders with respect to the then proposed strategic site selection on land east of Harwell Campus, located within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> None at this stage, key internal action arising as a result of objections from Natural England, North Wessex Downs AONB Board, Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), and other stakeholders through the ‘Housing Delivery Update’ February 2014 consultation.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> LVIA completed July 2014</p> <p><b>Date:</b> July 2014</p>
<p><b>Action:</b> To arrange for meetings with key stakeholders to discuss outputs of the LVIA work completed with them in detail.</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> Natural England; English Heritage; North Wessex Downs AONB Unit</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b></p> <p>1) A meeting with Natural England took place in July 2014 while the LVIA was still in draft format. Concerns raised by Natural England with respect to the time lag for mitigation planting to take effect, and also what else would follow if development was allowed within the AONB. Natural England advised that</p>

alternatives need to be assessed with regard to the Duty to Cooperate, that the plan should look at the alternative option of not meeting the Objectively Assessed Need figure within the district. The response from Vale of White Horse included reference to the significant challenges neighbouring Oxfordshire districts face in addressing their objectively assessed housing needs, together with potential un-met need arising from Oxford City. The Vale of White Horse also commented that the majority of neighbouring West Berkshire is currently designated AONB also, further restricting opportunities for sustainable development to accommodate growth at Harwell Campus. The local plan sustainability appraisal sets out how reasonable alternative options were identified and assessed. Action agreed to arrange further consultation with the AONB Unit to discuss the approach to the LVIA.

2) A meeting with the North Wessex Downs AONB Unit and English Heritage took place in August 2014. The methodology and approach take were discussed, including breaking down of the land parcels into smaller parcels for analysis. Importance of retaining the designated enterprise zone land within Harwell Campus for employment was identified in response to the question on why this land was not most suitable for housing. AONB unit agreed that approach taken in LVIA was more appropriate, but advised that the unit's previous objections had not changed, that they considered development in the AONB to be inappropriate and were concerned that the exceptional circumstances were not demonstrated. English Heritage advised that although there are no archaeological concerns, it may not be possible to dismiss for example the significance of the Ridgeway.

**Date:** Meeting with Natural England: 7 July 2014; Meeting with NWDAONB and English Heritage: 7 August 2014

## 5. Outcomes from strategic working

The actions above show that Vale of White Horse District Council has proactively undertaken evidence base work to address objections raised by a number of key stakeholders, and has proactively engaged with prescribed bodies to discuss the strategic issues associated with development in the North Wessex Downs AONB. Work to date has included the significant reduction in the amount and area of proposed development on the land east of Harwell Campus, supported by detailed mitigation measures.

The council attaches a high level of importance to protecting, preserving and where possible enhancing the landscape of the district, as set out in *Core Policy 44: Landscape*. Local Plan 2011 saved policy *NE6: The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty* will continue to apply to development proposals until it is reviewed through Local Plan 2031 Part 2.

A number of requirements are attached to the site development templates (Appendix A) for East of Harwell Campus and North of Harwell Campus, with proposals having regard to the LVIA and a requirement to be sensitively planned to reflect their location within the AONB.

The council have cooperated with prescribed bodies and other key stakeholders, and responded to concerns and objections raised through the formal consultation process. The council maintains a high level of protection

of the AONB, but believes that the exceptional circumstances exist for allocating land for development on the edge of Harwell Campus, and recognises that while there may not be agreement on this strategic issue, it believes that it has cooperated positively and effectively on the matter.

## 6. Ongoing cooperation

The monitoring of development within the North Wessex Downs AONB is set out in *Appendix H Monitoring and Implementation Framework (CP44: Landscape)* with the total number of permissions and developments within designated AONB areas acting as an indicator. Should targets not be achieved, Vale of White Horse District Council will review issues and actions available, and seek to cooperate with key stakeholders to address challenges faced as a result of this.

We will continue to work constructively through the North Wessex Downs AONB Council of Partners and other local authorities to help deliver the objectives of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB.

## Issue 11

### 1. Strategic Planning issue

**Ensuring that growth in the district does not negatively impact upon important habitats and species both here, and across in the wider area**

### 2. Evidence base

- Habitats Regulations Assessment (Sept 2014)
- Green Infrastructure Strategy (in preparation)

### 3. Strategic Partners

- Cherwell District Council
- Natural England
- Berks Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust

### 4. Actions

**Action:** To commission a joint Green Infrastructure Strategy with South Oxfordshire District Council to set out the main priorities, policies and standards for the delivery of new green infrastructure to meet the identified need.

**Partners:** South Oxfordshire District Council

**Outcome:** This piece of work is currently in preparation. *Core Policy 45: Green Infrastructure* is already in place to accommodate the outputs of the strategy upon its completion (expected prior to EiP). Paragraph 6.117 makes

reference to this piece of joint working with South Oxfordshire District Council.  
**Date:** Commissioned 15 September 2014; Currently in preparation

**Action:** To reconcile the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) prepared alongside the publication version of Local Plan 2031 Part 1 so that the outputs relating to Oxford Meadows SAC are consistent with the outcomes of a separate HRA produced to inform Cherwell's submission version of their Local Plan. This is at the request of Natural England, who concurred with the conclusion set out in Cherwell's HRA.

**Partners:** Natural England; Cherwell District Council (via OPPO)

**Outcome:** The HRA has been updated for submission (March 2015). HRA work forms part of how the housing market area will address un-met need from Oxford City. The recommended addition to the monitoring arising from the HRA has been incorporated as a minor change to the Local Plan.

**Date:** Completed February 2015

### 5. Outcomes from strategic working

The evidence prepared, in the form of the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) has been updated to ensure that it is reflective of the present situation with respect to the Oxford Meadows SAC. Additional monitoring criterion has been added to Core Policy 34: A34 Strategy to ensure that no adverse impacts occur to the air quality in the region of the SAC.

*Core Policy 46: Conservation and Improvement of Biodiversity* states that "the highest level of protection will be given to sites and species of international nature conservation importance (Special Areas of Conservation and European Species).

### 6. Ongoing cooperation

The Oxfordshire authorities are undertaking more detailed studies to investigate air quality within the SAC adjacent to the A34 and A40, which will in turn inform specific mitigation interventions. As identified above, additional monitoring criterion has been added to Core Policy 34 to ensure no adverse air quality impacts occur to the SAC until the more detailed studies are completed.

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## Issue 12

### 1. Strategic Planning issue

**Ensuring that growth does not impact upon the key views, aspects and setting of Oxford City**

### 2. Evidence base

- Oxford Views Study (currently in preparation for publication)
- Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011: Policy NE8: The Landscape

Setting of Oxford
<b>3. Strategic Partners</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxford City Council</li> <li>• Oxford Preservation Trust</li> <li>• English Heritage</li> </ul>
<b>4. Actions</b>
<p><b>Action:</b> To ensure that the character of Oxford city’s skyline and its wider setting is protected from the impacts of high buildings and major development. Oxford City Council has worked with Oxford Preservation Trust and English Heritage during 2014 to produce and assessment of Oxford View Cones.</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> Oxford City Council</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> Retain Local Plan 2011 <i>NE8: The Landscape Setting of Oxford</i> and its associated view cones as a saved policy and review this policy against the outcomes of the Oxford View Study through the preparation of Local Plan 2031 Part 2, through consultation with Oxford City Council and other relevant partners and bodies.</p> <p><b>Date:</b></p>
<b>5. Outcomes from strategic working</b>
Paragraph 6.114 of Local Plan 2031 Part 1 makes reference to the emerging Oxford View Study and recognises that its outcomes may support more detail landscape policies in the Local Plan 2031 Part 2.
<b>6. Ongoing cooperation</b>
The existing view cones will be protected through saved policy NE8, and any amendments to this will take into account the outcomes of the Oxford Views Study when work commences on Local Plan 2031 Part 2, through consultation with Oxford City Council, English Heritage, Oxford Preservation Trust and other relevant bodies where appropriate.

## Appendix 2: Audit trail of key decisions and processes

### Issue 1: Identifying the objectively assessed need for the Oxfordshire Housing Market Area and agreeing a process to meeting any unmet need from neighbouring local authorities

#	Action	Date
1.	New Oxfordshire SHMA commissioned by all leaders at SPIP	Early 2013
2.	Draft Statement of Cooperation discussed at SPIP meeting	20/06/2013
3.	Statement of Cooperation agreed by all leaders at SPIP meeting	16/09/2013
4.	Commissioning of Economic Forecasting to inform the Oxfordshire SEP and SHMA agreed by officers at OPPO meeting and outlined at SPIP meeting	Sept 2013
5.	Stakeholder Workshop with key stakeholders and neighbouring local authorities to discuss SHMA process to date	01/11/2013
6.	Draft report of Economic Forecasting to Inform the Oxfordshire SEP and SHMA finalised	28/02/2014
7.	Draft outcomes of SHMA discussed at SPIP meeting	04/03/2014
8.	Post-SHMA process discussed at SPIP meeting, including recommendation to seek advice from 'critical friends' to assist in program process steps	27/03/2014
9.	Oxfordshire SHMA finalised	April 2014
10.	Meeting with 'critical friend' Keith Holland (Planning Inspectorate) attended by representatives from all Oxfordshire Local Authorities	28/07/2014
11.	Duty to Cooperate letter sent to all neighbouring authorities requesting if there are any new matters arising under the 'duty' which Vale of White Horse District Council should consider in the emerging local plan. Letter acknowledges that further work is required in the Oxfordshire HMA to address any unmet need that may arise. Letter offers potential meeting to discuss matters if required.	05/08/2014
12.	Letter received from Oxford City Council requesting duty to cooperate meeting to discuss outstanding issues relating to Oxford's un-met housing need,	08/08/2014
13.	Duty to cooperate meeting with Oxford City Council. Matters discussed include local plan/other policy work updates from both councils. Oxford City Council did not agree with	28/08/2014

	the approach taken by Vale of White Horse District Council with progressing their local plan prior to Oxford's un-met need being addressed. No resolution made on this matter but work ongoing through the Growth Board in accordance with the Oxfordshire Statement of Cooperation.	
14.	SPIP process replaced with Oxfordshire Growth Board – first meeting includes update on complexities of the process for dealing with unmet housing need.	12/09/2014
15.	Post SHMA Strategic Work Programme discussed at Oxfordshire Growth Board meeting	20/09/2014
16.	Oxfordshire Growth Board meeting further discussed the post SHMA work programme, including setting out indicative milestones for delivery, tasking officers to develop these into a work programme (scheduled to return to Growth Board in April 2015). The officer working group includes Vale representatives and meets fortnightly.	20/11/2014 (to date)
17.	Executive Officer Group meeting	16/01/2015
18.	Project group meeting	27/03/2015
19.	Project group meeting	09/03/2015

All key information, including agendas, minutes and resulting documents available to view on the Oxfordshire Growth Board website at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/oxfordshire-growth-board> Key documents also available as part of the Examination Library

**Issue 2: Housing and Transport Infrastructure (A420) to the east of Swindon (Eastern Villages) and the Western Vale sub area of Vale of White Horse district**

#	Action	Date
1.	Meeting to discuss concerns raised by Western Vale Villages with respect to growth in Swindon, Vale of White Horse and the subsequent impact on the A420	02/07/2013
2.	Joint response by Vale of White Horse District Council, Swindon Borough Council and Oxfordshire County Council to concerns raised by Western Vale Villages	17/07/2013
3.	Joint meeting between Vale of White Horse District Council, Swindon Borough Council and Oxfordshire County Council to discuss cross boundary matters further	07/01/2014
4.	Joint meeting between Vale of White Horse District Council, Swindon Borough Council, Oxfordshire County Council and Western Vale Villages to discuss draft Statement of Common Ground	17/03/2014
5.	Statement of Common Ground agreed with Swindon Borough Council	31/03/2014
6.	Statement of Common Ground agreed with Swindon Borough Council, Oxfordshire County Council and Western Vale Villages	31/03/2014
7.	Joint meeting between Vale of White Horse District Council, Swindon Borough Council, Oxfordshire County Council and Western Vale Villages to discuss the transport assessment prepared by Bob Hindhaugh	02/07/2014
8.	Joint meeting with Vale of White Horse District Council, Swindon Borough Council, Wiltshire Council (by phone) and Oxfordshire County Council (apologies) for updates on cross boundary issues.	08/09/2014
9.	Oxfordshire County Council consultation on emerging Local Transport Plan 4 which includes the provision for the preparation of an A420 strategy	05/02/2015

Statements of Common Ground available as part of the Examination Library  
 Minutes/Actions arising from joint meetings and response to Western Vale Villages available at request of Inspector  
 Details of Oxfordshire County Council consultation on their emerging Local Transport Plan 4 available to view using the following [link](https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/CO_LTP4/consultationHome)  
[https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/CO\\_LTP4/consultationHome](https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/CO_LTP4/consultationHome)

### Issue 3: Meeting the needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

#	Action	Date
1.	Consultants jointly commissioned by Vale of White Horse District Council, South Oxfordshire District Council and Oxford City Council to begin work on Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople	October 2012
2.	Email invite to stakeholders to take part in a telephone interview through the duty to co-operate to inform the needs assessment	23/10/2012
3.	Draft Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Needs Assessment	December 2012
4.	Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Needs Assessment finalised	February 2012
5.	Email from consultants requesting update to Needs Assessment in light of a number of case studies where such assessments have been challenged elsewhere in the country	02/01/2014
6.	Draft Update to Needs Assessment received	04/03/2014
7.	Responded to Wiltshire Council consultation on emerging Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document (Scope). Response raises no issues to the scope of the document at this stage.	16/05/2014
8.	Response sent as part of ORS interview to inform assessment of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople for the Berkshire authorities.	20/06/2014
9.	Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Needs Assessment Update finalised	25/09/2014

Final Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Needs Assessment and its subsequent update are available as part of the Examination Library. Other information available at request of Inspector

**Issue 4: The effective and coordinated delivery of housing, employment and infrastructure across Science Vale**

#	Action	Date
1.	Agreement between South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council to proceed jointly on the preparation of the Science Vale Area Action Plan (DPD)	February 2014
1a	Updated Local Development Scheme for Vale of White Horse District Council agreed by Cabinet Member and includes timetable for delivery of Science Vale AAP	13/02/2014
1b	Updated Local Development Scheme for South Oxfordshire District Council agreed by Cabinet Member and includes timetable for delivery of Science Vale AAP	21/02/2014
2.	Joint projects team formed – funded equally by both district councils	Spring 2014
3.	Science Vale Housing and Employment Study completed to provide clarity on growth for Science Vale area crossing administrative boundaries.	October 2014
4.	Issues and Options Consultation on Science Vale Area Action Plan commences	27/02/2014

Most up to date Local Development Scheme available at: [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/planningpolicy](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/planningpolicy) Older versions available at request of Inspector  
 Science Vale Housing and Employment Study available as part of the Examination Library (supporting evidence)  
 Details of Issues and Options Consultation on the Science Vale Area Action Plan available at [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/sciencevale](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/sciencevale)

**Issue 5: Identifying employment growth for the Oxfordshire economic market area and ensuring that there is sufficient land, housing and infrastructure available to accommodate this growth**

#	Action	Date
1.	Oxford and Oxfordshire City Deal signed by Deputy Prime Minister	30/01/2014
2.	Commissioning of Economic Forecasting to Inform the Oxfordshire SEP and SHMA agreed by officers at OPPO meeting and outlined at SPIP meeting	Sept 2013
3.	Economic Forecasting to Inform the Oxfordshire SEP and SHMA finalised	28/02/2014
4.	Oxfordshire LEP Strategic Economic Plan finalised by Executive Board	04/03/2014
5.	Commission work on an Addendum to the Employment Land Review Update to take account of the outputs of the Economic Forecasting to Inform the Oxfordshire SEP and SHMA	April 2014
6.	Addendum to the Employment Land Review Update completed	11/08/2014
7.	Science Vale Housing and Employment Study completed to provide clarity on growth for Science Vale area crossing administrative boundaries.	October 2014

Oxford and Oxfordshire City Deal available as part of Examination Library or alternatively at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/city-deal-oxford-and-oxfordshire>

Economic Forecasting to inform the Oxfordshire SEP and SHMA available as part of the Examination Library or alternatively at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/oxfordshire-growth-board>

The Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan available as part of the Examination Library or alternatively (with details of meetings) at <http://www.oxfordshirelep.org.uk/cms/content/oxfordshire-strategic-economic-plan>

**Issue 6: Identified the need of visitor accommodation required to complement economic growth in Southern Oxfordshire**

#	Action	Date
1.	South and Vale Economic Development Team contact South and Vale Planning Policy teams requesting involvement in forthcoming joint Hotel Needs Assessment	August/Sept 2013
2.	Consultants appointed	November 2013
3.	Consultants undertake study to inform assessment	March 2014
4.	Draft Joint Hotel Needs Assessment received	May 2014
5.	Joint Hotel Needs Assessment finalised	July 2014

The final Joint Hotel Needs Assessment for Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council is available as part of the Examination Library.

**Issue 7: Ensuring the growth in Oxfordshire and the surrounding region can be successfully accommodated on the strategic transport network, such as the A34**

#	Action	Date
1.	Oxfordshire County Council Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2030 (revised) published. Plan includes a number of infrastructural improvements across the district and in particular for Science Vale. Plan also highlights the importance of the A34 in providing high quality links for business.	April 2012
2.	Evaluation of Transport Impacts (Stage 1) completed to inform Local Plan 2029 Part 1 consultation	February 2013
3.	Response received from the Highways Agency to draft Local Plan 2029 Part 1 consultation	09/05/2013
4.	Response received from Oxfordshire County Council to draft Local Plan 2029 Part 1 consultation	09/05/2013
5.	Informal consultation on short list of potential strategic site allocations	02/08/2013
6.	Response received from Oxfordshire County Council to informal consultation	29/08/2013
7.	Evaluation of Transport Impacts (Stage 2) undertaken to test a range of new (additional) strategic development site options for possible inclusion in the Local Plan 2031	September 2013
8.	Further informal consultation on short list of potential strategic site allocations	11/10/2013
9.	Response received from Highways Agency to informal consultation	23/10/2013
10.	Response received from Oxfordshire County Council to informal consultation	28/10/2013
11.	Further informal consultation on short list of potential strategic site allocations	11/11/2013
12.	Further informal consultation on short list of potential strategic site allocations	25/11/2013
13.	Response received from Highways Agency to informal consultation	26/11/2013
14.	Response received from Oxfordshire County Council to informal consultation	27/11/2013
15.	Response received from Oxfordshire County Council to informal consultation	10/12/2013
16.	Response received from Oxfordshire County Council to informal consultation	17/12/2013
17.	Evaluation of Transport Impacts (Stage 3) completed to inform 'Housing Delivery Update' consultation	February 2014

18.	Response received from the Highways Agency to draft Local Plan consultation 'Housing Delivery Update'	02/04/2014
19.	Response received from Oxfordshire County Council to draft Local Plan consultation 'Housing Delivery Update'	17/04/2014
20.	Oxfordshire County Council Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2031 update for Science Vale Area Strategy	May 2014
21.	Evaluation of Transport Impacts (Stage 4) undertaken to test a range of new (additional) strategic development site options for possible inclusion in the Local Plan 2031	July 2014
22.	Infrastructure Delivery Plan updated to inform the submission version of the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 consultation	October 2014
23.	Evaluation of Transport Impacts (Stage 5) completed to inform the submission version of the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 consultation	November 2014
24.	Response received from the Highways Agency to submission version of the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 consultation	19/12/2014
25.	Response received from Oxfordshire County Council to submission version of the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 consultation	23/12/2014

Information on the existing and emerging Local Transport Plans being prepared by Oxfordshire County Council available at;  
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/local-transport-plan>

Evaluation of Transport Impacts (ETI) November 2014 available as part of the Examination Library.

Other information, including response to formal and informal consultations are available at the request of the Inspector

**Issue 8: Ensuring the quality provision and protection of water resources within the district and also ensuring that the wider needs are accommodated where necessary**

#	Action	Date
1.	Meeting with Thames Water to discuss relevant policies to be covered in the emerging Vale of White Horse Local Plan	06/12/2012
2.	Draft Policy on safeguarding of land for Upper Thames Reservoir consulted on as part of draft Local Plan 2029 Part 1	28/02/2013
3.	Requirements for the provision of new or upgrading of existing water and wastewater facilities and associated infrastructure included with site development templates of the Local Plan 2029 Part 1 consultation	28/02/2013
4.	Response received from Environmental Agency to Local Plan 2031 Part 1 consultation	24/05/2014
5.	Commissioning of Phase 1 of the Water Cycle Study	30/09/2013
6.	Informal consultation on short list of potential strategic site allocations	02/08/2013
7.	Response received from Thames Water to informal consultation	20/08/2013
8.	Further informal consultation on short list of potential strategic site allocations	22/08/2013
9.	Response received from Environmental Agency to informal consultation	28/08/2013
10.	Further informal consultation on short list of potential strategic site allocations	11/10/2013
11.	Response received from Environmental Agency to informal consultation	24/10/2013
12.	Response received from Thames Water to informal consultation	25/10/2013
13.	Further informal consultation on short list of potential strategic site allocations	11/11/2013
14.	Response received from Environmental Agency to informal consultation	02/12/2013
15.	Response received from Thames Water to informal consultation	05/12/2013
16.	Response received from Thames Water to informal consultation	19/12/2013
17.	Requirements for the provision of new or upgrading of existing water and wastewater facilities and associated infrastructure included with site development templates of the Local Plan Consultation "Housing Delivery Update"	21/02/2014
18.	Response received from Environmental Agency to "Housing Delivery Update"	04/04/2014

	consultation	
19.	Letter sent to Thames Water requesting an update on the status of safeguarding land for the Upper Thames Reservoir	29/05/2014
20.	Response to letter dated 29/05/2014 from Thames Water confirming need to continue to safeguard this land	18/06/2014
21.	Completion of Phase 1 of the Water Cycle Study	November 2014
22.	Revised Policy on safeguarding of land for Upper Thames Reservoir consulted on as part of submission version of Local Plan 2031 Part 1	07/11/2014
23.	Requirements for the provision of new or upgrading of existing water and wastewater facilities and associated infrastructure included with site development templates (Appendix A) of the submission version of Local Plan 2031 Part 1	07/11/2014
24.	Response received from Environmental Agency to November 2014 consultation	19/12/2014

Evidence base studies available as part of the Examination Library  
Key issues arising from representations received through formal consultations prior to November 2014 are set out in the respective Topic Papers. Responses received to formal consultations, informal consultations and other documentation referred to in the list are available at the request of the Inspector.

**Issue 9: Ensuring that growth in Oxfordshire does not result to adverse impacts to flooding, both here and in neighbouring authorities that may be affected.**

#	Action	Date
1.	Joint Strategic Flood Risk Assessment commissioned with South Oxfordshire District Council	30/01/2013
2.	Joint Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Completed	03/07/2013
3.	Informal consultation on short list of potential strategic site allocations	02/08/2013
4.	Response received from Thames Water to informal consultation	20/08/2013
5.	Further informal consultation on short list of potential strategic site allocations	22/08/2013
6.	Response received from Environmental Agency to informal consultation	28/08/2013
7.	Further informal consultation on short list of potential strategic site allocations	11/10/2013
8.	Response received from Environmental Agency to informal consultation	24/10/2013
9.	Response received from Thames Water to informal consultation	25/10/2013
10.	Further informal consultation on short list of potential strategic site allocations	11/11/2013
11.	Response received from Environmental Agency to informal consultation	02/12/2013
12.	Response received from Thames Water to informal consultation	05/12/2013
13.	Response received from Thames Water to informal consultation	19/12/2013
14.	An addendum to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment specifically to assist with the progression of the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 was commissioned	16/09/2014
15.	Addendum to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment completed	22/10/2014

The Joint Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and its subsequent addendum form part of the Examination Library.

**Issue 10: Ensuring that growth in the district does not significantly impact upon the key qualities of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

#	Action	Date
1.	Joint South Oxfordshire/Vale of White Horse PAS Duty to Cooperate event, including workshops and discussions	29/10/2012
2.	Core policy on Landscape consulted as part of Draft Local Plan 2029 Part 1 consultation	28/02/2013
3.	Response received from North Wessex Downs AONB Unit to Local Plan consultation	30/04/2013
4.	Response received from Natural England to Local Plan consultation	03/05/2013
5.	Landscape Capacity Study to inform the strategic site selection process commissioned	20/08/2013
6.	Draft Landscape Capacity Study received	20/12/2013
7.	Landscape Capacity Study to inform the strategic site selection process completed	February 2014
8.	Draft strategic site allocation located within the AONB consulted as part of the formal Local Plan consultation "Housing Delivery Update"	21/02/2014
9.	Response received from North Wessex Downs AONB Unit to Local Plan consultation	02/04/2014
10.	Response received from Natural England to Local Plan consultation	04/04/2014
11.	Landscape Visual Impact Assessment for land adjacent to Harwell Campus commissioned	10/06/2014
12.	Draft Landscape Visual Impact Assessment for land adjacent to Harwell Campus received	03/07/2014
13.	Meeting with Natural England to discuss draft LVIA outputs, including approach and methodology	07/07/2014
14.	Landscape Visual Impact Assessment for land adjacent to Harwell Campus completed	25/07/2014
15.	Meeting with English Heritage and North Wessex Downs AONB Unit to discuss LVIA outputs, including approach and methodology undertaken	07/08/2014
16.	Core policy on Landscape, along with two strategic site allocations located within the AONB consulted as part of submission version of Local Plan 2031 Part 1 consultation	07/11/2014
17.	Response received from North Wessex Downs AONB Unit to Local Plan consultation	10/12/2013
18.	Response received from Natural England to Local Plan consultation	19/12/2013

The Landscape Capacity Study and Landscape Visual Impact Assessment

evidence form part of the Examination Library. Responses made to formal consultations, informal consultations and notes of meetings can be made available at the request of the Inspector.

**Issue 11: Ensuring that growth in the district does not negatively impact upon important habitats and species both here, and across the wider area**

#	Action	Date
1.	Consultants commissioned to prepare a Habitats Regulations Assessment to inform the emerging Vale of White Horse District Council. (Previous HRA work was completed to inform the Preferred Approach to the Core Strategy in 2010)	May 2012
2.	Habitats Regulations Assessment completed to inform Draft Local Plan 2029 Part 1 consultation	March 2013
3.	Updated Habitats Regulations Assessment completed to inform the Local Plan consultation "Housing Delivery Update" accommodating proposed changes to the local plan and feedback from previous consultation	10/02/2014
4.	Meeting with Natural England to discuss aligning conclusions on Oxford Meadows SAC with those contained in the HRA prepared by Cherwell District Council	07/07/2014
5.	Updated Habitats Regulations Assessment completed to inform the submission version of Local Plan 2031 Part 1 accommodating proposed changes to the local plan and feedback from previous consultation	Sept 2014
6.	Commissioned joint Green Infrastructure Strategy with South Oxfordshire District Council	15/09/2014
7.	Response received from Natural England to Local Plan Consultation raising issue that HRA conclusions for Oxford Meadows SAC has not been aligned with that of the HRA prepared by Cherwell District Council.	19/12/2014
8.	Response received from Berk Bucks Oxon Wildlife Trust highlighting concerns with respect to air quality at Oxford Meadows SAC	19/12/2014
9.	Updated Habitats Regulations Assessment to in response to issue raised through most recent consultation	February 2015

The Habitats Regulations Assessment form part of the Examination Library. Responses made to formal consultations, informal consultations

and notes of meetings can be made available at the request of the Inspector.

**Issue 12: Ensuring that growth does not impact upon the key views, aspects and setting of Oxford City**

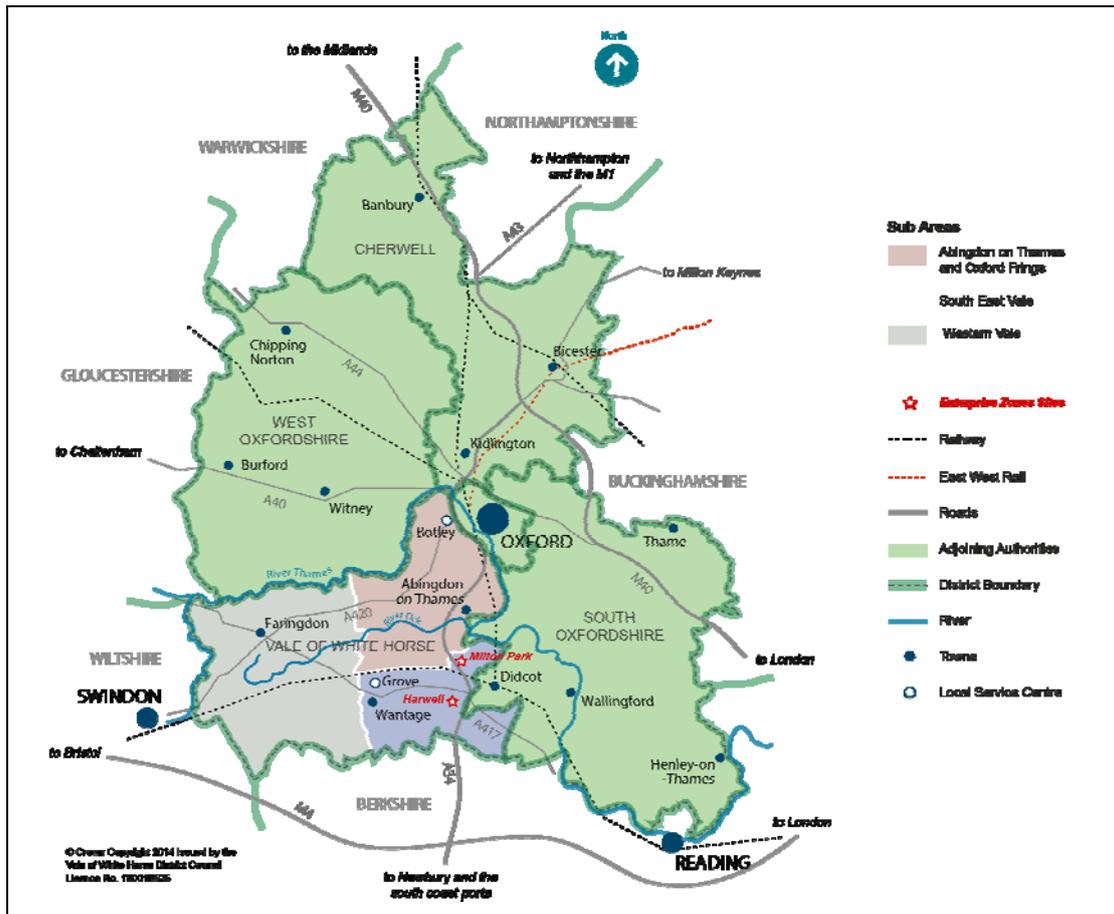
#	Action	Date
1.	The retention of Local Plan 2011 policy NE8 as a saved policy in the Draft Local Plan 2029 Part 1 which was consulted on	28/02/2013
2.	The continued retention of Local Plan 2011 policy NE8 as a saved policy in the submission version of the Local Plan 2031 Part 1, and for the policy to be reviewed through Part 2.	07/11/2014

**Appendix 3: Glossary of bodies engaged  
(taken from the Vale of White Horse District Council statutory  
notification list for Local Plan consultations – November 2014)**

<b>Abbrev.</b>	<b>Local Authorities</b>	<b>Prescribed</b>
SODC	South Oxfordshire District Council	
CDC	Cherwell District Council	
OxCity	Oxford City Council	
WODC	West Oxfordshire District Council	
OCC	Oxfordshire County Council	Yes
SBC	Swindon Borough Council	
WC	Wiltshire Council	
CotsDC	Cotswold District Council	
GCC	Gloucestershire County Council	
WBC	West Berkshire Council	
<b>Environment/Nature/Conservation</b>		
NE	Natural England	Yes
EA	Environment Agency	Yes
EH	English Heritage	Yes
MMO	Marine Management Organisation	Yes
OLNP	Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership "Wild Oxfordshire"	Yes
AONB	North Wessex Downs AONB	
<b>Transport</b>		
HA	Highways Agency	Yes
NR	Network Rail	Yes
LOX	London Oxford Airport (Civil Aviation Authority)	(Yes)
<b>Local Economy</b>		
OLEP	Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership	Yes
<b>Police</b>		
TVP	Thames Valley Police	
<b>Homes/Health/Recreation</b>		
NHS	NHS England - Primary Healthcare Oxfordshire, Bucks and Berks	
NHS	NHS Property Services	
OxNHS	Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust	
HCA	Homes and Communities Agency	Yes
HSE	Health and Safety Executive	
OCCG	Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (Acute and Community Services)	Yes
SCCG	Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	Yes
SE	Sport England Local Office	
<b>Government/Defence</b>		
PINS	Planning Inspectorate	
PAS	Planning Advisory Service	
	MP (Oxford West and Abingdon Constituency)	
	MP (Wantage Constituency)	
MOD	Defence Infrastructure Organisation (MOD),	
ONR	The Office for Nuclear Regulation	
<b>Utilities</b>		

SSE	Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution (SSE)	
SGN	Southern Gas Networks	
NG	Entec on behalf of National Grid UK Transmission	
RWE	RWE npower (Didcot A power station)	
TW	Thames Water Property Services	
BG	British Gas	
UKPN	UK Power Networks	
MOA	MONO Consultants Ltd for Mobile Operators Association (MOA)	
TCA	The Coal Authority (Planning and Local Authority Liaison Department)	
BT	British Telecom	
NGPP	National Grid Plant Protection	
WWU	Wales and West Utilities	

## Appendix 4 Map of strategic planning area



Alternative formats of this publication  
are available on request

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

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