

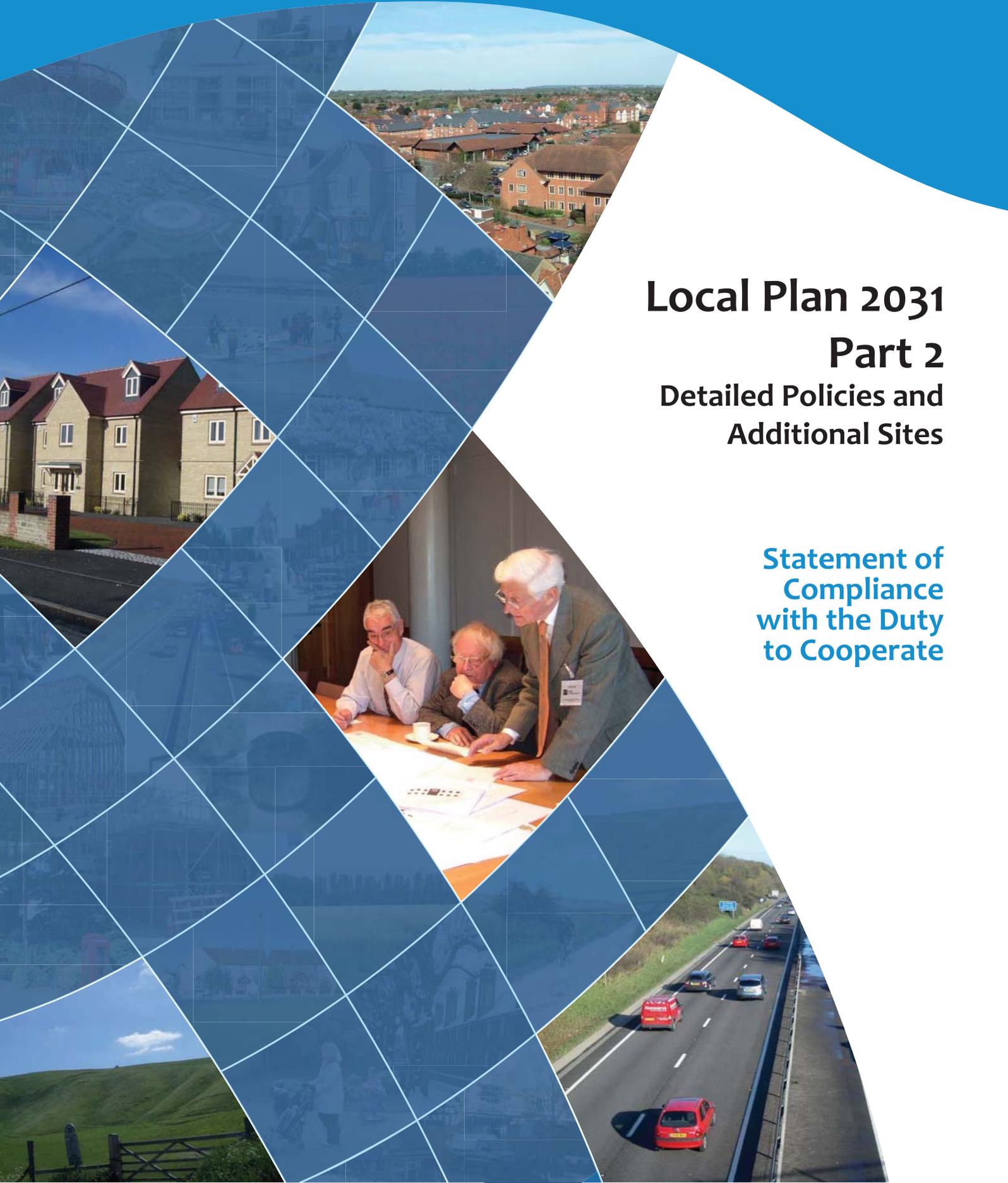


**Vale  
of White Horse**  
District Council

Submission Version  
February 2018

# Local Plan 2031 Part 2 Detailed Policies and Additional Sites

Statement of  
Compliance  
with the Duty  
to Cooperate





## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 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. 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.
- 1.2. This Statement of Compliance demonstrates how the Council has met this legal requirement relating to the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2: Detailed Policies and Additional Sites (hereafter referred to as the Part 2 plan). It demonstrates how the Council has complied with the duty to cooperate, through engaging constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with all relevant organisations in order to maximise the effectiveness of the preparation of the Part 2 plan.
- 1.3. The Part 2 plan will sit alongside the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 (hereafter referred to as the Part 1 plan) which was adopted in December 2016. The Part 1 plan includes the strategic priorities for the district to deliver sustainable development. It identifies the number of new homes and jobs to be provided in the area over the plan period, 2011 to 2031. It also identifies a number of district wide policies which provide strategic guidance on a number of topics.
- 1.4. The Part 2 plan includes policies and locations for housing to meet the agreed quantum of Oxford's unmet housing need to be addressed within the Vale of White Horse District. The Part 2 plan includes policies for the part of Didcot Garden Town that lies within the district, detailed development management policies to complement the Part 1 plan and allocates additional development sites for housing.
- 1.5. This Statement sits alongside the Duty to Cooperate Topic Paper which was published to support the Publication Version of the Part 2 plan in October 2017. The topic paper details how the Council has engaged with the duty to cooperate bodies on matters of strategic importance to inform the preparation of the Part 2 plan up until the Publication (Regulation 19) Version. This Statement does not duplicate the content of that topic paper and focuses on detailing how the Council has engaged with the duty to cooperate bodies since the Publication Version (October 2017) up until Submission (February 2018) of the Part 2 plan.
- 1.6. Significant work has been carried out to inform the Part 2 plan, and key stages of consultation have been undertaken with prescribed and other relevant bodies in accordance with legislation. These stages include statutory consultation processes Preferred Options (Regulation 18) from 9 March 2017 to 4 May 2017 and a Publication Versions (Regulation 19) consultation from 11 October 2017 to 22 November 2017. The Council has also undertaken ongoing engagement and informal liaison with neighbouring authorities and key statutory and prescribed bodies in preparing the Part 2 plan. These

discussions have informed policy development and the additional site allocations in the Part 2 plan.

1.7. The structure of this Statement reflects the following:

- **National Policy Context:** a brief summary of the key requirements set out in National Policy
- **Duty to Cooperate in the Vale of White Horse:** briefly summaries the duty to cooperate bodies and cooperation undertaken in relation to the part 1 plan
- **Meeting the Duty to Cooperate and Local Plan 2031 Part 2:** summarises the engagement that has taken place since Publication Version of the Part 2 plan and outlines any key actions the Council have committed to undertaking.

## **2. NATIONAL POLICY CONTEXT**

- 2.1 The duty to co-operate is a legal requirement of the plan preparation process and is set out in Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The 'duty' was introduced by the Localism Act, with further advice provided through National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the National Planning Practice Guidance. The topic paper provides further detail on national policy context however key requirements are highlighted below.
- 2.2 The duty to co-operate requires local planning authorities and other bodies to co-operate with each other on 'strategic matters' relevant to their areas. Within the context of the 'duty', strategic matters are those which cannot be addressed by a single local planning authority working alone.
- 2.3 Guidance states that local planning authority and officers are responsible for leading discussions, negotiations and action to ensure effective planning for strategic matters in their Local Plans. This requires a proactive, ongoing and focused approach to strategic planning and partnership working<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 For the examination of Local Plans, Inspectors first need to consider whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with the duty to co-operate. Following this, the Inspector can then assess the effectiveness of cooperation in addressing strategic matters, which forms part of the test of soundness of the plan.
- 2.6 The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) has published the following consultation 'Planning for the right homes in the right places' that sets out further measures identified in the recent Housing White Paper, to boost the supply of housing in England. The consultation sets out a number of proposals, which include the need to encourage local planning authorities to produce and maintain statements of common ground to improve their working relationship with other local planning authorities to meet housing and other needs across boundaries.
- 2.7 The Council has produced a number of statements of common ground with neighbouring authorities and key stakeholders which address many of the points raised in the consultation. The statements of common ground are available to view and access on the Council website.

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<sup>1</sup> National Planning Practice Guidance: Duty to Cooperate Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 9-004-20140306

### 3. DUTY TO COOPERATE IN THE VALE OF WHITE HORSE

#### *Duty to Cooperate Bodies*

- 3.1 The Local Planning Authorities to which the 'duty' applies to when preparing the Part 2 plan, are listed below:

The Oxfordshire authorities and housing market area:

- Oxfordshire County Council
- Oxford City Council
- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Cherwell District Council
- West Oxfordshire District Council

Neighbouring authorities:

- Cotswold District Council
- Gloucestershire County Council
- Swindon Borough Council
- West Berkshire Council
- Wiltshire Council

- 3.2 In addition to the Local Planning Authorities, other prescribed bodies subject to the Duty to Cooperate, are identified in the Town and County Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012<sup>2</sup> as amended by the National Treatment Agency (Abolition) and the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (Consequential, Transitional and Saving Provisions) Order 2013<sup>3</sup>.

- 3.3 Guidance states that these bodies play a key role in delivering local aspirations, and cooperation between them and local planning authorities is vital to make Local Plans as effective as possible on strategic cross boundary matters. The bodies should be proportionate in how they do this and tailor the degree of cooperation according to where they can maximise the effectiveness of plans<sup>4</sup>.

- 3.4 The prescribed bodies relevant to the Vale of White Horse are listed below:

- The Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Natural England
- Highways England
- Clinical Commissioning Groups (NHS)
- The Civil Aviation Authority
- Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Homes England (previously Homes Communities Agency)
- The Office of Rail and Road Regulation

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<sup>2</sup> Available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/regulation/4/made>

<sup>3</sup> Available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/235/made>

<sup>4</sup> National Planning Practice Guidance: Duty to Cooperate Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 9-005-20150402

- Highways Authorities (Oxfordshire County Council)
- Local Nature Partnership (Wild Oxfordshire)

3.5 The following duty to cooperate bodies are not considered to be as relevant to the strategic matters associated with the Part 2 plan, but have been consulted through the formal statutory processes:

- Mayor of London
- Transport for London
- Marine Management Organisation

***Vale of White Horse Adopted Local Plan 2031 Part 1 (December 2016)***

3.6 The Local Plan 2031 Part 1 was formally adopted by Vale of White Horse District Council on the 14 December 2016. The Part 1 plan addressed a number of strategic cross border issues with the Inspector concluded that the duty to cooperate had been met.

3.7 The Part 2 plan demonstrates the Council's commitment to ongoing working with its partners to ensure proper sustainable planning is achieved across administrative boundaries. Further detail is provided in the topic paper on these matters.

## **4. MEETING THE DUTY TO COOPERATE AND LOCAL PLAN 2031 PART 2**

- 4.1 The Council is committed to working with our partners to ensure that proper sustainable planning is achieved across administrative boundaries. Most of the strategic matters that reach across local authority boundaries have been addressed in the adopted Part 1 plan. These included the district-wide needs for development, including objectively assessed housing need and employment. The Council has engaged with Oxfordshire County Council, public bodies, other statutory consultees and stakeholders, including preparing technical evidence and planning policies to support the Part 2 plan, to ensure that strategic and cross boundary issues are adequately addressed and planned for.
- 4.2 The topic paper details how the Council has engaged effectively with the duty to cooperate bodies relating to cross boundary and strategic matters until the Publication Version of the Part 2 plan, as shown at Appendix 1 of the topic paper. The strategic matters are:
- working with other Oxfordshire authorities within the Housing Market Area (HMA) to plan for the agreed apportionment of the ‘working assumption’ figure for housing need that is unlikely to be met within Oxford City’s boundaries
  - working collaboratively with South Oxfordshire District Council, Oxfordshire County Council and other key stakeholders to prepare a masterplan for Didcot Garden Town
  - working jointly with South Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council to agree an approach to delivering strategic highway infrastructure across the Science Vale, including Didcot Garden Town, and
  - working through the Oxfordshire Growth Board and Natural England to undertake strategic studies to investigate transport scenarios and air quality effects within the SAC in light of the proposed growth planned for the authorities within Oxfordshire.
- 4.3 The Appendix provides detail of who the Council has cooperated with, the nature and timing of cooperation, and how engagement has influenced the preparation of the Publication version of the Part 2 plan, in line with national guidance<sup>5</sup>. The Appendix is structured around the following themes:
- Housing;
  - Infrastructure;
  - Transport;
  - Employment;
  - Water Supply; and
  - Natural Environment.

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<sup>5</sup> National Planning Practice Guidance: Duty to Cooperate Paragraph: 011 Reference ID: 9-011-20140306

***Duty to Cooperate following consultation on the Publication Version of the Part 2 plan (October 2017)***

- 4.4 The consultation on the Publication Version (Regulation.19) of the Part 2 plan provided a final opportunity for bodies to comment on the plan and clearly outline whether they were satisfied with the level of engagement that the Council has undertaken on strategic matters and if this has resulted in effective outcomes that are represented in the Part 2 plan.
- 4.5 Table 1 shows which duty to cooperate bodies responded to the Publication Version of the Part 2 plan and whether they considered the legal 'duty' has not been met for the Part 2 plan. The table shows representations were received from all of the Oxfordshire authorities, West Berkshire Council, all of the statutory bodies, and Oxfordshire CCG and Oxfordshire LEP. None of the bodies raised an objection on the grounds the legal 'duty' has not been met. The Council considers this to be strong evidence which demonstrates that the legal requirement has been met for the Part 2 plan.
- 4.6 Following the consultation on the Publication Version of the Part 2 plan, the Council has continued to effectively engage with the duty to cooperate bodies, to discuss strategic matters further, and to address any outstanding matters the bodies may have. The Council has prepared several Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) to demonstrate this.
- 4.7 SoCGs are intended to assist the Inspector in advance of the examination of the Part 2 plan highlighting matters of agreement between the Council and duty to cooperate bodies. The SoCGs clearly set out whether the parties agree the duty has been met for Part 2 plan. Table 1 details who the Council has/are preparing SoCGs with. In addition to the representations, the Council considers the SoCGs also provide strong evidence that the legal requirement of the duty to cooperate has been met.

**Table 1: Representations and Statements of Common Ground with the Duty to Cooperate bodies**

<b>Duty to Cooperate Body</b>	<b>Responded to Reg.19</b>	<b>Objection on Duty to Cooperate grounds</b>	<b>Preparation of Statements of Common Ground</b>
Oxfordshire County Council	Yes	No	Yes
South Oxfordshire District Council	Yes	No	Yes
Cherwell District Council	Yes	No	Yes
West Oxfordshire District Council	Yes	No	Yes
Oxford City Council	Yes	No	Yes
West Berkshire Council	Yes	No	No
Cotswold District Council	No	N/A	No
Gloucestershire County Council	No	N/A	No
Swindon Borough Council	No	N/A	Yes
Wiltshire Council	No	N/A	No
Environment Agency	Yes	No	Yes
Natural England	Yes	No	Yes
Historic England	Yes	No	Yes
Highways England	Yes	No	Yes
Clinical Commissioning Group	Yes	No	Yes
Oxfordshire LEP	Yes	No	Yes
Civil Aviation Authority	No	N/A	No
Homes England	No	N/A	No
Office of Rail and Road Regulation	No	N/A	No
Wild Oxfordshire (Local Nature Partnership)	No	N/A	No
Mayor of London	No	N/A	No
Transport for London	No	N/A	No
Marine Management Organisation	No	N/A	No

## **Strategic Matter 1: Oxford Un-Met Housing Needs**

- 4.8 The Part 2 plan sets out policies and locations for new housing to meet the Vale's proportion of Oxford's housing need, which cannot be met within Oxford City boundaries. The Part 2 plan seeks to address Vale's agreed apportionment figure of 2,200 in full, on land which the Council considers is demonstrably close to and accessible to Oxford City. This figure is to be met through a combination of strategic allocations in the Part 1 plan and additional allocations proposed in the Part 2 plan. Further detail on the Council's approach is set out within the Site Selection Topic Paper (October 2017).

### ***Publication Version Consultation Responses***

- 4.9 The Council formally consulted on the Publication Version of the Part 2 plan in October-November 2017 and informed all neighbouring authorities, prescribed and other relevant bodies in accordance with legislation. A full summary of the responses relating to this strategic matter can be found in the Consultation Statement<sup>6</sup>. Key comments from the consultation are highlighted below:
- Oxfordshire authorities broadly support the approach set out in the Part 2 plan where it relates to Oxford's Un-met housing needs. None of the authorities have objected to the Part 2 plan on the grounds that the duty to cooperate has not been met.
  - Oxford City Council welcome the amendments made to the Part 2 plan since the Preferred Options consultation. This relates to the provision for Oxford's needs solely being met within the Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area. Oxford City Council request that there is more specific reference within the text of the plan to clearly identify the preferred strategic sites in order to avoid Oxford needs being met at less accessible locations within the sub-area and to assist with the delivery of affordable housing.
  - Oxfordshire County Council broadly support the approach taken in Part 2 plan to delivering the agreed apportionment figure of 2,200 dwellings. They request an additional modification to the supporting text which seeks to add clarity on the potential for public transport, cycling and walking in the Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area.
  - South Oxfordshire District Council highlight that the unmet housing need identified for Oxford City is still a working assumption. They suggest that a commitment to review the Vale's contribution to meeting this need following the adoption of Oxford City's plan is included in Core Policy 4a.
  - West Oxfordshire District Council support the positive approach taken to address Oxford City's unmet housing need, and confirm that Vale of White Horse District Council has met the duty to cooperate in relation to this. West Oxfordshire District Council seek clarity on which additional sites will contribute towards Oxford's needs, and emphasise the importance of ensuring that sufficient affordable housing is provided.

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<sup>6</sup> Vale of White Horse District Council (2018), Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2 - Regulation 22 Statement available at: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/LPP2>

- Cherwell District Council support the approach taken to help address Oxford City's unmet need. Cherwell would welcome more detail in the housing trajectory to show the monitoring of the full Oxford's unmet housing needs apportioned to the Vale of White Horse.
- None of the other duty to cooperate bodies make specific comments on the strategic matter of Oxford's unmet housing needs, however a number of these bodies commented on the proposed additional allocations within the Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area.

### ***Engagement Process***

- 4.10 The Council has held duty to cooperate discussions and meetings with policy officers from each of the Oxfordshire authorities to go through their representations, and has sought to address any concerns through Statements of Common Ground.
- 4.11 The topic paper details the engagement undertaken through the Oxfordshire Growth Board process which the Council continues to engage in. The Council has also been part of the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Officers Group with the other Oxfordshire authorities where housing matters are discussed, including the delivery of affordable housing to meet Oxford's unmet need. The Council considers these meetings have provided an appropriate basis for further detailed discussions to commence between the Council and Oxford City to determine the means in which affordable housing is provided to meet Oxford City's unmet need which is outside of the Local Plan process. These discussions have begun and will continue following Submission of the Plan.
- 4.12 In addition to this, Government announced in the November Budget, the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal which provides £215 million of additional Government funding for Oxfordshire, along with a package of planning freedoms. The Deal offers £150 million for infrastructure, £60 million for affordable housing and £5 million capacity funding. This funding, over a five-year period, will support the ambition of building 100,000 new homes across Oxfordshire between 2011 and 2031 to address the county's housing shortage and expected economic growth. This level of housing growth is that identified by the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2014 and is consistent with what is included in the Vale's Local Plan 2031. This Deal is as a result of the collaboration between six Oxfordshire Authorities through the Oxfordshire Growth Board. A key part of the deal is for the Oxfordshire authorities to produce a Joint Strategic Spatial Plan for Oxfordshire to be submitted the Secretary of State in 2020.
- 4.13 The Council has been effectively engaging with the other Oxfordshire authorities and also Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership in relation to the Deal.
- 4.14 Details of the timings of engagement throughout the Part 2 plan process are included in Appendix 1.

## ***Key Actions and Summary***

- 4.15 The topic paper identifies a number of cross-boundary challenges and opportunities through the review of relevant plans and strategies, the stages of consultation and through ongoing engagement with neighbouring authorities relating to this strategic matter. These key challenges and opportunities are summarised in the topic paper, however have been updated in light of engagement since the Publication Version. They are as follows:
- continue to work positively with Oxford City Council and other Oxfordshire authorities, including through the Oxfordshire Growth Board and relating to the Oxfordshire Growth Deal, to plan for housing for Oxfordshire in the longer term
  - continue to work positively and constructively with Oxford City Council to agree an approach to the allocation of affordable housing relating to site allocations in the Part 2 plan to meet the agreed apportionment of Oxford City's un-met housing need. These discussions have begun through the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Officers Group and will continue through meetings between Oxford City and the Vale of White Horse policy and housing officers, and
  - provide clarity regarding the Council's approach to meeting its apportionment of Oxford City's unmet need. The Council have produced an Addendum to the Site Selection Topic Paper responding to this action.
- 4.16 In summary, the Oxfordshire authorities are broadly supportive of the Council's approach to meeting its apportionment of Oxford's unmet need. None of the authorities have objected to the Part 2 plan on the grounds that it does not comply with the duty to cooperate including relating to Oxford's unmet need and SoCGs have/are being prepared with all the Oxfordshire authorities.

## **Strategic Matter 2: Didcot Garden Town**

4.17 Local Plan 2031 Part 2 contains policies (Core Policy 16a: Didcot Garden Town) and proposals for the part of Didcot Garden Town that lies within the Vale of White Horse District, including a number of important development and design principles. Policies have emerged and been refined through the joint work undertaken on developing the masterplan to ensure consistency with the Didcot Garden Town Delivery Document.

### ***Publication Version Consultation Responses***

4.18 The Council formally consulted on the Publication Version of the Part 2 plan in October-November 2017 and informed all neighbouring authorities, prescribed and other relevant bodies in accordance with legislation. A full summary of the responses relating to this strategic matter can be found in the Consultation Statement<sup>7</sup>. Key comments from the consultation are highlighted below:

- South Oxfordshire District Council support the inclusion of Core Policy 16b: Didcot Garden Town and welcome that it mirrors the draft policy STRAT4 of their emerging Local Plan 2033. They note that this consistent approach reflects the joint work undertaken on this project
- Oxfordshire County Council makes limited reference to Didcot Garden Town. On the matter of public health, they support the additional guidance added to Core Policy 16a: Didcot Garden Town since the Preferred Options consultation on how development can facilitate improved health and wellbeing
- the Environment Agency suggest a modification to Figure 2.7: Didcot Garden Town Masterplan Principles to make reference to Core Policy 40 and Core Policy 43 of the adopted Part 1 plan to highlight the 110 litres per day standard for water efficiency in new housing developments as well as good water efficiency practices, and
- Historic England support principle five of Figure 2.7: Didcot Garden Town Masterplan Principles. They also make reference that there are a number of existing archaeological studies of parts of the proposed Garden Town area, and suggest a review of existing studies in compiling an extensive archaeological evidence base to underpin the masterplan.

### ***Engagement Process***

4.19 The Council has held duty to cooperate meetings with South Oxfordshire District Council, the Environment Agency and Historic England to discuss their representations made including relating to Didcot Garden Town. The points raised are principally of support and the suggested changes do not raise any issues of soundness of the Part 2 plan.

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<sup>7</sup> Vale of White Horse District Council (2018), Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2 - Regulation 22 Statement available at: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/LPP2>

- 4.20 Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council have agreed to prepare a joint Development Plan Document for Didcot Garden Town that will support the principles set out in Core Policy 16a of Local Plan 2031 Part 2, and policy STRAT4 of South Oxfordshire's emerging Local Plan 2033. The Council will engage effectively with the duty to cooperate bodies on the preparation of the Didcot Garden Town DPD.
- 4.21 Details of the timings of engagement throughout the Part 2 plan process are included in Appendix 1.

### ***Key Actions and Summary***

- 4.22 The topic paper identifies a number of cross-boundary challenges and opportunities through the review of relevant plans and strategies, the stages of consultation and through ongoing engagement with neighbouring authorities relating to this strategic matter. These key challenges and opportunities are summarised in the topic paper, however have been updated in light of engagement since the Publication Version. They are as follows:
- following the adoption of the Didcot Delivery Plan, Council to demonstrate commitment to producing a Didcot Garden Town Development Plan Document working jointly with South Oxfordshire, other neighbouring authorities and engaging effectively with the duty to cooperate bodies. The Council has identified this commitment within the updated Local Development Scheme for Vale of White Horse District Council published alongside the Submission Plan (February 2018), and
  - continue to work jointly with South Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire authorities to ensure we plan effectively for job growth and housing needs along with supporting infrastructure across the Science Vale, including Didcot Garden Town
- 4.23 In summary, the Council received comments mainly in support of the Didcot Garden Town masterplan principles and consider that the duty to cooperate has been discharged effectively on this strategic matter.

### **Strategic Matter 3: Transport Infrastructure**

- 4.24 The district contains a number of strategically important routes. These include the A34 which forms part of the Strategic Road Network (SRN), linking the district with Oxford City and the M40 to the north, and the M4 to the south. The A420 connects Oxford with Swindon, while the A417 connects areas such as Faringdon and Wantage with Reading to the south east.
- 4.25 On-going engagement and cooperation has taken place with Oxfordshire County Council throughout the preparation of the Part 2 plan on matters relating to highways and public transport, including the provision of infrastructure. The Council and Oxfordshire County Council have jointly prepared evidence base studies and worked closely to identify new land to be safeguarded for future transport schemes. The Council has regular Policy Liaison Meetings with Oxfordshire County Council to ensure the technical work related to transport infrastructure, such as the Evaluation of Transport Impact (ETI) and ongoing work to consider sustainable transport options, is effective and aligns with the Part 2 plan and the Local Transport Plan. Furthermore, the Council has worked collaboratively with the other Oxfordshire authorities, through the Oxfordshire Growth Board, to prepare an infrastructure strategy for Oxfordshire.
- 4.26 The Council has also worked closely with South Oxfordshire District Council, Network Rail, Oxford Bus Company, Stagecoach and Thames Travel relating to transport infrastructure.

#### ***Publication Version Consultation Responses***

- 4.27 The Council formally consulted on the Publication Version of the Part 2 plan in October-November 2017 and informed all neighbouring authorities, prescribed and other relevant bodies in accordance with legislation. A full summary of the responses relating to this strategic matter can be found in the Consultation Statement<sup>8</sup>. Key comments from the consultation are highlighted below:
- Oxfordshire County Council reference the ongoing work with the district council in preparing Evaluation of Transport Impacts (ETI) in respect of Local Plans. The ETI is based upon the Oxfordshire Strategic Model. Oxfordshire County Council raise concerns relating to transport impacts at Abingdon-on-Thames, Frilford Lights and cumulative impact from both growth in South Oxfordshire and the Vale. They therefore are seeking additional work to be completed prior to the examination hearings.
  - Oxfordshire County Council raise concerns relating to the cost of strategic transport infrastructure at the additional site allocations in the Publication Version of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and the impact on viability of the sites.

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<sup>8</sup> Vale of White Horse District Council (2018), Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2 - Regulation 22 Statement available at: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/LPP2>

- Oxfordshire County Council support the principle of safeguarding of land for future transport schemes, some of which relate to improvements to the strategic road network (A34) and which improve accessibility to Oxford.
- South Oxfordshire District Council are broadly supportive of the approach taken in the Part 2 plan to the provision of transport infrastructure. They note the importance placed on the cross-border package of highways improvements proposed, with particular reference given to the new road link and river crossing between Didcot and Culham Science Centre.
- Cherwell District Council note the additional land to be safeguarded to support the delivery of strategic highway schemes within the Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area.
- West Oxfordshire District Council highlight the importance of infrastructure improvements to support future growth in the area. They note the major connections between Witney and Abingdon-on-Thames (A415) and between Witney and Faringdon (A4095). Reference is made to the bridge at Newbridge which consists of Grade I and Grade II spans which they consider are not designed to carry modern traffic and are subject to weight restrictions. Therefore West Oxfordshire District Council seek additional text to recognise the impacts on the Newbridge and to set out a commitment for Vale of White Horse to work with West Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire County Council to investigate possible solutions for the constraint at this location. West Oxfordshire highlight the need for the Oxfordshire authorities to continue to work together to join up strategic land use and transport planning in the County.
- West Berkshire Council noted that they have no comments to make on the publication version of the Part 2 plan.
- Highways England note the strategic road network is a critical national asset and their comments relation to the potential impact of development on the A34 within the district, and to the M4 and M40 on its southern and eastern boundaries.
- Highways England are broadly supportive of the approach taken to transport infrastructure in the Part 2 plan, including the use of development templates (Appendix A of the Part 2 plan) which require a transport assessment to be submitted with any planning application in order to identify the measures that will be taken to adequately mitigate or compensate for any harmful transport impacts. Highways England considers that this approach aligns with the principles of the NPPF and its soundness requirements.
- Highways England welcome future engagement with the Council in order to identify and mitigate any traffic impacts that would impact the strategic road network.
- Natural England note the potential for likely significant effects on the air quality at Oxford Meadows Special Area of Conservation (SAC) as a result of in-combination growth with the other Oxfordshire authorities. This is discussed further under Strategic Matter 4 - Impact of Growth on Oxford Meadows SAC.

- Network Rail request that they are kept informed of any developments or works which are to be carried out in close proximity to railway lines. This includes consideration of drainage, overhead line equipment, ground stability and dust from works.

### ***Engagement Process***

- 4.28 The Council has held duty to cooperate meetings with several duty to cooperate bodies relating to this matter, including regular engagement with officers at Oxfordshire County Council and neighbouring authorities to discuss strategic transport matters.
- 4.29 The County Council raised concerns in their representation regarding the Evaluation of Transport Impact Assessment (ETI). In response and to address County's concerns, the Council's including South Oxfordshire are positively working together and have commissioned further ETI work to consider the cumulative impact of growth across both South and Vale. The initial findings are summarised in the Transport and Accessibility Topic Paper Addendum. The Council are committed to continued ongoing engagement on this matter.
- 4.30 The Council has updated its Infrastructure Delivery Plan which has been informed by engagement with key infrastructure providers including Oxfordshire County Council, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Thames Valley Police since Publication Version of the Part 2 plan. The update has also been informed by engagement with site promoters of the proposed additional allocations. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan is a live document and the Council will continue to engage constructively and effectivity on this matter with the County Council and other stakeholders.
- 4.31 The Council has discussed transport matters with West Oxfordshire District Council where they relate to the road network linking Witney with Abingdon-on-Thames, the A34 and Wantage and will continue to positively engage on this matter.
- 4.32 The Council has also engaged with Swindon Borough Council to discuss strategic matters, including planned growth along the A420. Growth is proposed along this corridor through both councils' respective Adopted Local Plans. This includes proposals for up to 8,000 dwellings at the New Eastern Villages, to the east of Swindon. This strategic matter was principally dealt with through the examination of Part 1 plan and Swindon Borough's Local Plan 2026.
- 4.33 The Part 2 plan proposes one additional allocation to the east of Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor (parish of Fyfield) which is located along the A420. This site will deliver a new link road connecting the A415 with the A420, which is intended to divert traffic away from the centre of Kingston Bagpuize to the west. Swindon Borough Council do not raise any objection to the site at East of Kingston Bagpuize, as demonstrated in the Statement of Common Ground.

- 4.34 As discussed under Matter 1 above, the Government announced the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal in November 2017, which is intended to support Oxfordshire's ambition to deliver 100,000 new homes between 2011 and 2031. It is a positive contribution to this ambition, and will offer up to £215 million as a 'down-payment' on investment in infrastructure and housing needed to deliver the Oxfordshire part of the Cambridge – Milton Keynes - Oxford corridor and a commitment from Government to further work with Oxfordshire to address barriers to growth and avoid unplanned speculative development. In addition, other funding announcements and initiatives in the Autumn Budget statement offer wider opportunities for Oxfordshire.
- 4.35 Funding received through the Deal, together with further anticipated funding from other opportunities will help accelerate the delivery of planned homes and in a way that ensures both existing and new communities created are properly supported by enhanced transport and social infrastructure. The Oxfordshire Partners and Government both view the Deal as the first part of a long-term commitment to Oxfordshire, with the measures announced in the Budget being "an initial package, intended to kick-start a process of meeting Oxfordshire's long-term potential" and a statement of support for our ambitions for Oxfordshire. Both Oxfordshire County Council and Vale Councils have signed up to this deal demonstrating support for the growth ambitions.
- 4.36 As part of the Cambridge – Milton Keynes - Oxford corridor, the Council are engaging with Highways England, Oxfordshire County Council and the other Oxfordshire authorities in relation to the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway. The Expressway could have benefits in helping to relieve traffic congestion on the A34 and bringing further investment to the Science Vale area, although it could also have significant environmental impacts that need careful consideration, depending on the exact route chosen. The Council will continue to engage in the process to ensure that matters of relevance to the district are considered appropriately, including better understanding of any forecast environmental impacts
- 4.37 Details of the timings of engagement throughout the Part 2 plan process are included in Appendix 1.

### ***Key Actions and Summary***

- 4.38 The topic paper identifies a number of cross-boundary challenges and opportunities through the review of relevant plans and strategies, the stages of consultation and through ongoing engagement with neighbouring authorities relating to this strategic matter. These key challenges and opportunities are summarised in the topic paper, however have been updated in light of engagement since the Publication Version. They are as follows:
- continue to work in partnership with other Oxfordshire authorities to plan for strategic infrastructure delivery across Oxfordshire, including consideration for cross border planning (beyond Oxfordshire) and beyond the plan period. This includes working the Oxfordshire

authorities on matters related to the Oxfordshire Growth Deal and maximising funding opportunities

- continue to work in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council, Highways England and other stakeholders to plan for future highway improvements and to support the delivery of the Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan 4. The Council are working with Oxfordshire County Council and South Oxfordshire on further modelling to assess the impact of cumulative growth further
- ongoing engagement with Oxfordshire County Council and key infrastructure and service providers to inform Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) to support the additional site allocations in the Part 2 plan. The Council has updated the Infrastructure Delivery Plan for Submission reflecting concerns raised by Oxfordshire County Council and will continue to engage with the County Council and other key stakeholders in the IDP process, and
- continue to work collaboratively with South Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council to plan for and deliver transport infrastructure in the Didcot Garden Town and wider Didcot area, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). A Statement of Common Ground has been prepared with South Oxfordshire District and Oxfordshire County Council respectively which demonstrates this commitment.

4.39 In summary, neighbouring authorities are broadly supportive with the respective Statements of Common Ground demonstrating this. Oxfordshire County Council raised concerns however the parties are working proactively together to develop further modelling and refine the infrastructure costs. None of the authorities or other duty to cooperate bodies have objected to the plan on the ground that the duty has not been complied with. The Council consider that the duty to cooperate has been discharged effectively on this strategic matter.

## **Strategic Matter 4: Impact of Growth on Oxford Meadows Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**

4.40 It is considered likely that planned growth across Oxfordshire will have an effect on the air quality within a small part of the Oxford Meadows SAC as it lies adjacent to the A34 and A40. The Council has engaged with the other Oxfordshire authorities through the Oxfordshire Growth Board and with Natural England in relation to this issue and preparing the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

### ***Publication Version Consultation Responses***

4.41 The Council formally consulted on the Publication Version of the Part 2 plan in October-November 2017 and informed all neighbouring authorities, prescribed and other relevant bodies in accordance with legislation. A full summary of the responses relating to this strategic matter can be found in the Consultation Statement<sup>9</sup>. Key comments from the consultation are highlighted below:

- Natural England highlight that the HRA currently does not assess the in-combination effects on air quality at Oxford Meadows with planned growth in Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and Oxford City. Natural England note that further engagement has taken place on this matter, including a joint meeting with all of the Oxfordshire local authorities to find an appropriate approach to in-combination assessments of air quality at Oxford Meadows SAC in their Local Plans, and
- none of the Oxfordshire authorities or other duty to cooperate bodies make specific reference to the impact of growth on Oxford Meadows SAC in their representations.

### ***Engagement Process***

4.42 Further engagement has taken place between Natural England and the Oxfordshire authorities with Natural England confirming they consider that any effects that may occur on Oxford Meadows SAC are likely to be as a result of the planned growth through Cherwell's partial review of their Local Plan and Vale's emerging Part 2 plan.

4.43 The Council has held duty to cooperate meetings with Natural England and Cherwell District Council to assess this matter in further detail and to agree an approach on how progress with assessing what effects are likely to occur at Oxford Meadows SAC as a result of planned growth. Cherwell and Vale of White Horse District Councils have submitted a joint note to Natural England in response to their request to consider the potential in combination outputs of the respective HRAs. The note considers what growth would be required across both districts in order to trigger critical air quality levels at or close to Oxford Meadows SAC.

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<sup>9</sup> Vale of White Horse District Council (2018), Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2 - Regulation 22 Statement available at: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/LPP2>

- 4.44 The note concludes that the potential for a likely significant effect to be triggered is very low, based on the examination of traffic changes expected as a result of larger developments. This is currently being reviewed by Natural England.
- 4.45 Details of the timings of engagement throughout the Part 2 plan process are included in Appendix 1.

### ***Key Actions and Summary***

- 4.46 The topic paper identifies a number of cross-boundary challenges and opportunities through the review of relevant plans and strategies, the stages of consultation and through ongoing engagement with neighbouring authorities in relation to this strategic matter. These key challenges and opportunities are summarised in the topic paper, however have been updated in light of engagement since the Publication Version. They are as follows:
- continue to engage proactively on this matter with Natural England. The parties are preparing a Statement of Common Ground which sets out the current position on this matter. The parties will seek to address to this matter in further detail through an updated Statement of Common Ground prior to the examination of the Part 2 plan. Also, continue to work collaboratively with neighbouring authorities and key stakeholders, through the Oxfordshire Growth Board to assist on this matter.
- 4.47 The Council consider that the duty to cooperate has been discharged on this strategic matter and the Council are engaging with Natural England and Cherwell District Council to overcome the outstanding concerns raised on this strategic matter.

## **Policy Development and Site Allocations for Local Plan 2031: Part 2**

- 4.48 The Council has engaged with all statutory and prescribed bodies as listed in Regulation 2 and 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, as part of the process of drafting policies and identifying additional site allocations to be included in the Part 2 plan. This includes informal engagement at key stages of plan preparation in addition to the formal stages of consultation.
- 4.49 In addition to the strategic matters discussed above, there are other cross boundary matters the Council have engaged effectively with the duty to cooperate bodies relating to:
- Housing;
  - Infrastructure;
  - Transport;
  - Employment;
  - Water Supply; and
  - Natural Environment.
- 4.50 This section provides details on matters not covered under the strategic sections and the engagement that has taken place since the Publication Version.

### ***Publication Version Consultation Responses***

- 4.51 The Council formally consulted on the Publication Version of the Part 2 plan in October-November 2017 and informed all neighbouring authorities, prescribed and other relevant bodies in accordance with legislation. A full summary of the responses relating to this strategic matter can be found in the Consultation Statement<sup>10</sup>. Key comments from the consultation are highlighted below:

#### ***Housing***

- South Oxfordshire support Development Policy 2: Space Standards and the inclusion of the optional space standards in this policy which reflects joint working on the Joint Housing Strategy.
- Oxfordshire County Council support the inclusion of additional references to health and wellbeing compared to the Preferred Options document.

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<sup>10</sup> Vale of White Horse District Council (2018), Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2 - Regulation 22 Statement available at: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/LPP2>

- Oxfordshire County Council have sought an amendment to the Plan relating to ensuring applications for major developments submit a Health Impact Assessment

### Employment

- Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) support Development Policy 11: Community Employment Plans (CEP's) which has been developed in cooperation with OxLEP. The Oxfordshire Growth Board has endorsed this approach at the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

### Infrastructure

- The Clinical Commissioning Group wish to continue working closely with the Council's planning teams to ensure the health of new and increasing population is high on the agenda. They note in the Appendices to the Part 2 plan, there are a number of references to 'contributions towards improved health care provision' and therefore the plan provides the opportunity to ensure health infrastructure is taking into consideration when large scale housing plans, smaller scale and care homes are submitted.

### Transport

- The Environment Agency raised concerns regarding the location of safeguarded transport schemes that are located within Flood zones 2 and 3

### Water Supply

- Environment Agency raised concerns regarding the proposed allocation of 90 dwellings on Land south-east of Marcham as the Water Cycle Study (WCS) has not assessed which Sewage Treatment Works this site will link to and thus will result in non-compliance with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

### Natural Environment.

- The Environment Agency support Development Policy 30: Watercourses and suggest minor amends to the policy.
- South Oxfordshire District Council support Development Policy 26: Air Quality, and Development Policy 30: Watercourses which reflect similar policies in their emerging plan and reflect joint working.
- South Oxfordshire District Council support Development Policy 34: Leisure and sports facilities as the provisions of this policy reflect the joint working the Councils have undertaken

### ***Engagement Process***

- 4.52 Further engagement has taken place with the Environment Agency, Oxfordshire County Council, Clinical Commissioning Group and South Oxfordshire District through discussions and meetings. The Council is proposing some additional modification in response to comments raised through the Publication Version of the Part 2 plan which is reflected in the agreed Statements of Common Ground including all of these bodies demonstrating ongoing engagement on these matters.
- 4.53 The Council have engaged with the Environment Agency to address their concerns relating to sewage capacity for the South East of Marcham site which has led to agreement on the assessment for the site. This can be seen in the Statement of Common Ground between the parties.

### ***Key Actions and Summary***

- 4.54 The topic paper identifies a number of cross-boundary challenges and opportunities through the review of relevant plans and strategies, the stages of consultation and through ongoing engagement with neighbouring relating to this strategic matter. These key challenges and opportunities are summarised in the topic paper, however have been updated in light of engagement since the Publication Version. They are as follows:
- continue to work closely and effectively with the duty to cooperate bodies on matters relating to housing, employment, natural environment, water supply, infrastructure and transport as highlighted above, and

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 This Statement of Compliance and the Duty to Cooperate Topic Paper combined provide a summary of the steps the Council has taken during the preparation of the Submission Part 2 plan, in order to meet the requirement of the Duty to Cooperate. The content of the Part 2 plan has been informed by strategies and plans of our neighbouring authorities and other key stakeholders, by responses to stages of consultation and by ongoing engagement activities.
- 5.2 The topic paper and this Statement illustrate a number of areas where the Part 1 plan already seeks to address cross-boundary issues. It has also highlighted strategic matters and cross-boundary challenges and opportunities, which the Council will continue to address through ongoing joint working with neighbouring authorities and other prescribed bodies.
- 5.3 It has been demonstrated that a high level of co-operation has been achieved and this is evident by the wide range of engagement processes which have taken place to inform the policies of Part 2 plan and its supporting evidence base. As a result of this, the Council considers that it has complied with the legal 'duty'.

## Appendix 1: Timing of engagement

### Strategic Matter 1: Oxford Un-met housing needs

#	Action	Date
1	Oxfordshire SHMA commissioned by the Oxfordshire Authorities (known as Oxfordshire Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership, or 'SPIP')	Early 2013
2	Statement of Cooperation agreed by the leaders of the Oxfordshire Authorities (SPIP)	16 Sept 2013
3	Commissioning of Economic Forecasting to inform the Oxfordshire SEP and SHMA agreed by officers from the Oxfordshire authorities and outlined at SPIP	Sept 2013
4	Oxfordshire SHMA finalised and published	April 2014
5	Oxfordshire Growth Board formed by the leaders of the Oxfordshire authorities (replacing SPIP). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Oxfordshire authorities agree it is unlikely that Oxford City can fully meet its housing needs and there is a need to agree on the level of unmet need.</li> <li>A project team is created to address the unmet housing needs of Oxford.</li> <li>Key principles are formed, including that the district Local Plans are sovereign and all work should feed into Local Plans for them to determine the spatial future of the districts.</li> </ul>	Nov 2014
6	Advice note on Oxford's Development Capacity discussed at Oxfordshire Growth Board (previously SPIP)	Aug 2015 (updated Dec 2015)
7	Initial list of spatial options developed for each district. Land Use Consultants (LUC) and BBP Regeneration commissioned to carry out a Spatial Options Assessment for meeting the Oxford's unmet housing need up to 2031.	Oct 2015
8	Oxfordshire Growth Board approved the working assumption of 15,000 is a working figure for Oxford's unmet housing need and is to be used as a benchmark for assessing the spatial options for growth.	Nov 2015
9	Check and Challenge workshop with all Oxfordshire authorities to examine the results of the Spatial Options Assessment Project	15 April 2016
10	"A Countywide Approach to Meeting the Unmet Housing Need of Oxford" prepared to inform the Oxfordshire Growth Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report reviews the process undertaken by the Oxfordshire authorities in accordance with the 'Duty to Cooperate'</li> <li>Report summarises the work streams commissioned, including the following outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Urban Capacity of Oxford</li> <li>Spatial Options Assessment</li> <li>The Study of the Oxford Green Belt</li> <li>Transport Infrastructure Assessment</li> <li>Education Impact Assessment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Sept 2016

#	Action	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report intended to inform the future review of Local Plans by the Oxfordshire authorities, and proposes an apportionment of un-met housing need for each district.</li> <li>The proposed apportionment for Vale of White Horse district is 2,200 dwellings.</li> <li>Oxfordshire Growth Board requested to endorse the recommendations of this report.</li> </ul>	
11	<p>Oxfordshire Growth Board consider the report above. Five of the six Oxfordshire authorities approve the apportionment of the agreed working figure for the un-met housing need for Oxford with a Memorandum of Co-operation signed which sets out the apportionment and timetable for delivery of the unmet housing need for Oxford.</p> <p>The Memorandum recognises that each local planning authority will remain responsible for the allocation of housing sites within its own district and through its own Local Plan process. The Memorandum recognises that Vale of White Horse District Council will seek to address its agreed apportionment through Local Plan 2031 Part 2, with an anticipated submission date of February 2018.</p>	26 Sept 2016
12	<p>Local Plan 2031 Part 1 adopted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Core Policy 2a includes a commitment to address the agreed apportionment of un-met housing need for the district within two years of adoption of the plan.</li> </ul>	Dec 2016
13	<p>Duty to Cooperate Meeting between policy officers of Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxford City Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emerging Local Plans and Vale's approach to meeting its apportionment of Oxford's unmet need are discussed as set out in the Preferred Options document</li> </ul>	February 2017
14	<p>Local Plan 2031 Part 2 - Preferred Options (Regulation 18)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addresses 2,200 of unmet housing need in full.</li> <li>Strategy proposes to allocate 80% of the agreed quantum within the Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area and 20% in the South-East Vale Sub-Area</li> <li>All duty to cooperate bodies notified.</li> </ul>	March 2017
15	<p>Duty to Cooperate Meeting between policy officers of Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxford City Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emerging Local Plans and Vale's approach to meeting its apportionment of Oxford's unmet need are discussed.</li> </ul>	Aug 2017
16	<p>Duty to Cooperate Meeting between policy officers of Vale of White Horse District Council and Cherwell District Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emerging Local Plans and Vale's approach to meeting its apportionment of Oxford's unmet need are discussed.</li> </ul>	Sept 2017
17	<p>Engagement between policy officers of Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposals set out in each respective Publication Version of the Local Plan were discussed.</li> </ul>	Sept 2017

#	Action	Date
18	Duty to Cooperate Meeting between policy officers of Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emerging Local Plans and Vale's approach to meeting its apportionment of Oxford's unmet need are discussed.</li> </ul>	Sept 2017
19	Duty to Cooperate Meeting between policy officers of Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxford City Council Vale's approach to meeting its apportionment of Oxford's unmet need are discussed as set out in Publication Version of the Part 2 plan.	Oct 2017
20	Local Plan 2031 Part 2 – Publication Version (Regulation 19) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategy amended following feedback received to Preferred Options.</li> <li>2,200 dwellings to be delivered in full within the Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area.</li> <li>All duty to cooperate bodies notified.</li> </ul>	Oct 2017
21	Oxfordshire Growth Deal announced as part of Autumn Budget. Engagement with the Oxfordshire authorities in agreeing a Delivery Plan for Oxfordshire.	Nov 2017 to Feb 2018
21	Officer attendance at the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Officers Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussed housing allocations policies specifically the approaches West Oxfordshire and Cherwell are proposing to deliver affordable housing to meet Oxford's need</li> </ul>	21 Dec 2017
22	Duty to Cooperate Meeting between policy officers of Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxford City Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss representations received from Oxford City to the Publication Version of Local Plan 2031 Part 2</li> <li>Agree in principle to the preparation of a Statement of Common Ground with a focus on this strategic matter</li> </ul>	10 Jan 2018
23	Engagement between policy officers of Vale of White Horse District Council and Cherwell District Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss representations received from Cherwell District Council to the Publication Version of Local Plan 2031 Part 2</li> </ul> <p>Agree in principle to the preparation of a Statement of Common Ground with a focus on this strategic matter</p>	Jan/Feb 2018
24	Engagement between policy officers of Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss representations received from South Oxfordshire District Council to the Publication Version of Local Plan 2031 Part 2</li> </ul> <p>Agree in principle to the preparation of a Statement of Common Ground with a focus on this strategic matter</p>	Jan/Feb 2018
25	Engagement between policy officers of Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council	Jan/Feb 2018

#	Action	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss representations received from West Oxfordshire District Council to the Publication Version of Local Plan 2031 Part 2</li> </ul> Agree in principle to the preparation of a Statement of Common Ground with a focus on this strategic matter	
26	Oxfordshire County Council formally sign up to the Oxfordshire Growth Deal	13 Feb 2018
27	Vale of White Horse District Council formally sign up to the Oxfordshire Growth Deal	14 Feb 2018
28	Respective Statements of Common Ground between Vale of White Horse District Council and the following authorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxford City Council</li> <li>• West Oxfordshire District Council</li> <li>• Cherwell District Council</li> <li>• South Oxfordshire District Council</li> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council</li> </ul>	Feb 2018
29	Regular engagement with other Oxfordshire authorities through Oxfordshire Growth Board Officers Group	Throughout

## Strategic Matter 2: Didcot Garden Town

#	Action	Date
1	South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Council joint bid for Didcot to be designated as a Garden Town	Mid 2015
2	Didcot awarded Garden Town status by the Government	Dec 2015
3	Formulation of a joint South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Team to deliver the bid	Early 2016
4	Interactive website launched by South and Vale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial masterplan published for comment and feedback</li> </ul>	Nov 2016
5	Stakeholder engagement in preparing the Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan.	Up until Jan 2017
6	Didcot Garden Town Proposed Delivery Plan consultation	Jan 2017
7	Vale of White Horse District Council - Local Plan 2031 Part 2 Preferred Options (Regulation 18) includes Core Policy 16b – Didcot Garden Town policy proposed alongside a number of Masterplan Principles. All duty to cooperate bodies notified.	Mar 2017
8	South Oxfordshire District Council – Local Plan 2033 Second Preferred Options (Regulation 19) includes STRAT4 – Didcot Garden Town policy and principles proposed. Wording of policy and principles align with that of the Vale Part 2 plan. All duty to cooperate bodies notified.	Mar 2017
9	Stakeholder engagement in preparing the Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan.	Jan to June 2017
10	Didcot Garden Town Proposed Delivery Plan consultation	June 2017
11	Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan published jointly by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils	Oct 2017
12	Vale of White Horse District Council - Local Plan 2031 Part 2 Publication Version (Regulation 19) includes Core Policy 16b – Didcot Garden Town policy and Masterplan principles continue to be proposed. All duty to cooperate bodies notified.	Oct 2017
13	South Oxfordshire District Council – Local Plan 2033 Final Publication Version (Regulation 19) includes STRAT4 – Didcot Garden Town policy and principles proposed. Wording of policy and principles align with that of the Vale Part 2 plan. All duty to cooperate bodies notified.	Oct 2017
14	Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire – Update Local Development Scheme (LDS) Feb 2018 which identifies a commitment and sets a timetable for delivering a Joint Didcot Garden Town DPD as discussed and agreed with South Oxfordshire District Council.	Feb 2018
15	Statement of Common Ground between Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils includes a commitment to the preparation of a Didcot Garden Town DPD	Feb 2018

### Strategic Matter 3: Transport Infrastructure

#	Action	Date
1.	Oxfordshire Growth Board agree to a joint piece of work known as the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets out the core project and investment required to ensure Oxfordshire can continue to grow sustainably.</li> <li>• Strengthen justification and evidence for securing funding.</li> </ul>	Oct 2016
2.	Evaluation of Transport Impacts (ETI) Stage 1 - was commissioned jointly with Oxfordshire County Council to inform the Preferred Options Local Plan 2031 Part 2. This stage considered six alternative geographical clusters and informed the grouping of developments into potential scenarios. Oxfordshire County Council were engaged in this process.	Nov 2016
3	Evaluation of Transport Impacts (ETI) Stage 1 – This stage considered five scenarios and informed the final development options to be tested. Oxfordshire County Council managed this process in partnership with Vale of White Horse District Council	Jan 2017
4	Regular Oxfordshire County Council Policy and/or Strategic Sites Liaison Meetings	Up until Mar 2017
5	Vale of White Horse District Council - Local Plan 2031 Part 2 Preferred Options (Regulation 18) Consultation. Evaluation of Transport Impacts Stage 1 Published. All duty to cooperate bodies notified.	Mar 2017
6	Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS) – Phase 1 published for consultation. Regular engagement with Oxfordshire authorities and infrastructure providers to inform the Strategy	Up until July 2017
7	Evaluation of Transport Impacts (ETI) Stage 2 – Following Preferred Options Consultation, Stage 2 considered three development options and tested the impact of mitigation under one of those options. Oxfordshire County Council managed this process in partnership with Vale of White Horse District Council. All duty to cooperate bodies notified.	July 2017
8	The Council commissioned SISTRA Limited to undertake a Sustainable Transport Study for the Abingdon and Oxford corridor. Oxfordshire County Council were engaged in this process.	March 2017 to Oct 2017
9	Regular Oxfordshire County Council Policy Liaison and/or Strategic Sites Meetings	March to Oct 2017
10	Vale of White Horse District Council - Local Plan 2031 Part 2 Publication Version (Regulation 19) Consultation. Evaluation of Transport Impacts Stage 2 Published	Oct 2017
11	Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS) – Phase 2 published. Identifies the priority strategic infrastructure investment needed to support jobs and housing growth in Oxfordshire. Regular engagement with Oxfordshire authorities and infrastructure providers to inform the Strategy	Nov 2017
12	Oxfordshire Growth Deal announced as part of Autumn Budget. Engagement with the Oxfordshire authorities in agreeing a Delivery Plan for Oxfordshire.	Nov 2017 to Feb 2018

#	Action	Date
13	Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council and the Vale of White Horse District Council working together on further modelling to assess the impact of cumulative growth.	Jan 2018 onwards
14	Update to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) which included engagement with Oxfordshire County Council and other infrastructure providers.	Jan – Feb 2018
15	Regular Oxfordshire County Council Policy Liaison and/or Strategic Sites Meetings	Nov 2017 onwards
16	Oxfordshire County Council formally sign up to the Oxfordshire Growth Deal	13 February 2018
17	Vale of White Horse District Council formally sign up to the Oxfordshire Growth Deal	14 February 2018
18	Statement of Common Ground between Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxfordshire County Council	Feb 2018

## Strategic Matter 4: Impact of Growth on Oxford Meadows Special Area of Conservation

#	Action	Date
1.	Statement of Common Ground between Vale of White Horse District Council and Natural England to inform the Examination in Public of Local Plan 2031 Part 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An updated Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) (Feb 2015) addresses the concerns raised by Natural England on the HRA conclusions for Oxford Meadows SAC.</li> </ul>	20 Aug 2015
2.	Local Plan 2031 Part 1 adopted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HRA (Feb 2015) takes a cautious approach to air quality impacts on Oxford Meadows SAC.</li> <li>A number of mitigation measures are proposed through the HRA and set out in various policies in the Part 1 plan.</li> </ul>	Dec 2016
3	Meeting with Natural England to discuss emerging Part 2 plan.	Feb 2017
4	Vale of White Horse District Council - Local Plan 2031 Part 2 Preferred Options (Regulation 18) Consultation. Habitats Regulations Assessment published. All duty to cooperate bodies notified.	March 2017
5	Meeting with Natural England to discuss emerging Part 2 plan and HRA including impact of growth on Oxford Meadows SAC.	Sept 2017
6	Vale of White Horse District Council - Local Plan 2031 Part 2 Publication Version (Regulation 19) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accompanied by an updated HRA. Considers that the existing air quality modelling which informed the HRA of Local Plan 2031 Part 1 tested a higher growth figure than that proposed in Local Plan 2031 Part 2.</li> <li>Concludes that the policy commitments set out in Local Plan 2031 Part 1 remain sufficient to ensure confidence that the Part 2 plan will not lead to likely significant effects on Oxford Meadows SAC.</li> </ul>	Oct 2017
7	Duty to Cooperate meeting with Natural England and the Oxfordshire Authorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discusses the consequences of the Wealden judgement and the implications that this may have for in combinations effects on Oxford Meadows SAC.</li> <li>Action on the Oxfordshire authorities to submit any data where relevant to Oxford Meadows SAC to inform what likely significant effects, if any, may occur.</li> </ul>	02 Nov 2017
8	Vale of White Horse District Council submit data as per the request of Natural England	14 Nov 2017
9	Duty to Cooperate meeting with Natural England to discuss their representations to the Regulation 19 publicity period, including in relation to Oxford Meadows SAC.	24 January 2018
10	Natural England provide feedback on data provided by the Oxfordshire authorities following the meeting held 02/11/2017.	26 January 2018

#	Action	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm that growth proposed by Cherwell's partial review of their Local Plan 2031 Part 1 and Vale's Local Plan 2031 Part 2 may give rise to a 1% increase in Nitrogen deposition in the vicinity of Oxford Meadows, which would subsequently require further assessment.</li> <li>• Request Cherwell and Vale of White Horse District Councils to work together on this matter.</li> </ul>	
11	Cherwell and Vale of White Horse District Councils submit a memo to Natural England, in response to their request for further consideration to be given to the potential in combination outputs of the respective HRAs	16 Feb 2018
12	<p>Statement of Common Ground between Vale of White Horse District Council and Natural England</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commit to further work with Cherwell District Council and Natural England to address any potential in combination effects on Oxford Meadows SAC</li> </ul>	Feb 2018

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