

VALE OF WHITE HORSE LOCAL PLAN

UPDATE BULLETIN 1 - MAY 2016



INTRODUCTION >

This bulletin is the first in a series of progress updates on the Vale of White Horse District Council's Local Plan.

UPDATE OF LOCAL PLAN 2031 PART 1 >

Strategic Sites and Policies

The Local Plan 2031 Part 1 sets out the overall development strategy for the district and where new housing and employment should be located up to 2031. We are planning for 20,560 homes and 23,000 jobs together with the infrastructure such as new schools and roads to support this growth.

Following submission in March 2015, the Government appointed an independent Planning Inspector, Mr Malcom Rivett, to assess if the plan meets the Government's requirements for Local Plans. Public Examination hearing sessions were then held in September 2015 and February 2016. We expect to receive Mr Rivett's Interim Findings in June 2016.

The Inspector may report that the plan can be found sound and adopted if certain modifications are made to it. Depending on the scope of these modifications, further public consultation will be held on the proposed changes. Further information and updates will be available on the Council website and will be included in our next update bulletin.

WHY ARE WE DOING LOCAL PLAN PART 2? >

The Local Plan 2031 Part 2 will address the more detailed policies and the non-strategic site allocations of less than 200 homes not included in Part 1. It will also deal with our contribution to meeting Oxford's unmet need, and focus on supporting Didcot Garden Town.

This two part approach to our plan-making helps to ensure the timely adoption of the Local Plan 2031 Part 1, in seeking to meet the full district's housing need. This is important to ensure the Council has control over planning in the district and so, once the plan is adopted, will help to minimise speculative development proposals.

INTRODUCTION TO LOCAL PLAN 2031 PART 2 >

The Local Plan 2031 Part 2 will comprise of four key components:

1. OXFORD UN-MET HOUSING NEED

- We are working in partnership, through the Oxfordshire Growth Board and with the other Oxfordshire authorities, to plan for Oxford's un-met need.
- The Local Plan 2031 Part 2 will set out locations for housing that contributes to the agreed proportion of Oxford's un-met need to be located within the Vale.

2. NON – STRATEGIC SITES

- The Local Plan 2031 Part 1 identifies that 1,000 homes should be located in small (non-strategic) sites allocated in the Local Plan 2031 Part 2.
- The first step in identifying these sites will be a Call for Sites consultation to commence 10th June 2016.

3. DIDCOT GARDEN TOWN

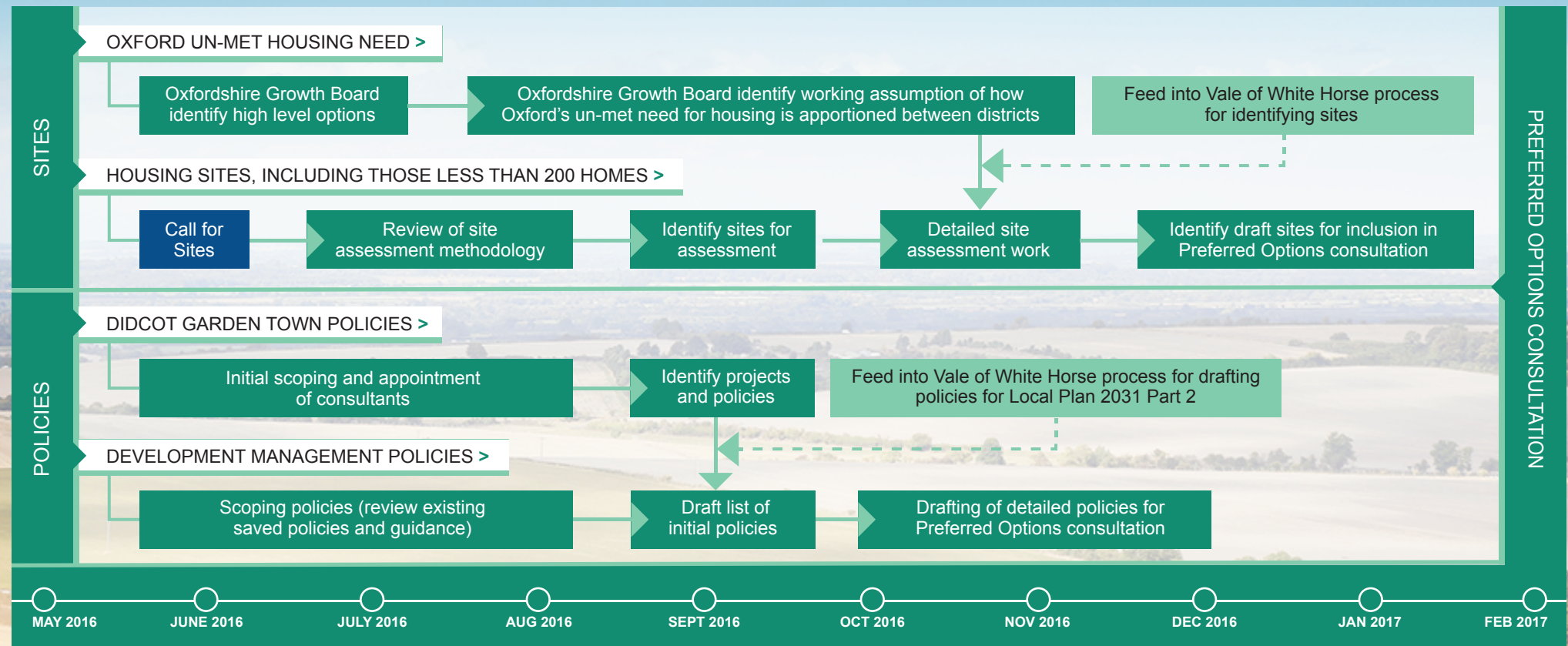
- The wider Didcot area forms part of Science Vale and has been designated by the Government as a Garden Town.
- We are working jointly with South Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council to ensure we plan effectively for job growth, housing need and supporting infrastructure across Science Vale, including the Didcot area.
- The Local Plan 2031 Part 2 will contain policies for the part of the Didcot Garden Town that lies within the Vale.

4. DETAILED DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES

- The plan will also contain more detailed planning policies that guide the day-to-day decision making on planning applications. These complement the strategic framework included within the Local Plan 2031 Part 1.
- The Local Plan 2031 Part 2 will replace a number of saved policies in the adopted Local Plan 2011 which will then be superseded.

LOCAL PLAN 2031 PART 2

INDICATIVE PROCESS



CALL FOR SITES >

As an early stage of work on the Local Plan 2031 Part 2, we need to be confident that we have a comprehensive list of sites that may be available for development for housing, employment and other uses. To assist with this task we will be asking landowners and agents who are interested in having their land considered for housing and economic development to submit information on their sites. This will then be used to help the council in its site assessment process to determine which sites are most suitable for development and inclusion in Local Plan Part 2.

Details on our Call for Sites consultation will be available on our website.

This is your opportunity to tell us if there is a site in the district you consider is appropriate for development or should be considered by the Council. It should be noted that submission of a site in this Call for Sites, or its inclusion in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) or Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) does not necessarily mean that it is suitable for development, or that it will be allocated in the plan, or receive planning consent.

The Call for Sites consultation period will start on **10th June 2016** and last for **SIX WEEKS**.