

VALE OF WHITE HORSE LOCAL PLAN

UPDATE BULLETIN 4 – OCTOBER 2016



INTRODUCTION >

This bulletin is the fourth 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 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.

In our previous Local Plan Update Bulletin 3 we explained that the Inspector's main Interim Findings indicated that the plan is likely to be found sound, subject to main modifications. The Council consulted on the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 Main Modifications for eight weeks from 20 July 2016 to 14 September 2016. This consultation is now closed.

The Council received a total of 178 comments from 70 individual participants.

The comments have been forwarded on to the Inspector for his consideration in preparing his Final Report. We may expect to receive the Inspector's Report in November 2016, with a view to adopt the plan in January 2017.

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI) UPDATE

We are updating our Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) to reflect changes to legislation and national policy. This document sets out our approach on how to get involved in the planning process and what to expect from the council when you do.

We consulted on an update to the SCI alongside the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 Main Modifications (July to September 2016).

The consultation is now closed and the document is currently being finalised to take into account the consultation responses received.

It is expected that the SCI will be published in December 2016.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LDS)

We have updated our Local Development Scheme (LDS). This is a national requirement that asks councils to set out a timetable for producing and updating the documents that make up their Development Plan for the area.

A key change is the removal of a stage for 'Issues and Options' consultation in the preparation of Local Plan 2031 Part 2. This will allow the Council to ensure the plan is completed quickly.

However, the council continues to recognise the importance of engagement and consultation with key stakeholders, including town and parishes and neighbourhood planning groups in preparing the Local Plan 2031 Part 2.

For this reason, there will be two significant stages of public consultation during the preparation of Local Plan 2031 Part 2. These are:

- **Preferred Options (February 2017)**
- **Publication Version (October 2017)**

We anticipate submitting Local Plan 2031 Part 2 to the Secretary of State in early 2018



COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) AND SECTION 106 (S106)

We are preparing a Section 106 Supplementary Planning Document for public consultation in November 2016. We anticipate that the Community Infrastructure Levy will be examined by the Planning Inspector in December 2016.

- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) can be used to levy financial contributions on new development.
- Section 106 is a legal agreement that sets out obligations to mitigate planning impacts on-site.

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LOCAL PLAN 2031 PART 2 AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE

SUPPORT FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

We are continuing to support neighbourhood planning in the District. Please get in touch with the neighbourhood planning team especially if we have not met with your group recently.

Email planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

We have updated our Vale of White Horse Neighbourhood Planning Guidance document.

For more information please visit:
www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/planningpolicy

We also encourage you to apply for Government support for neighbourhood planning. Please visit:
<http://mycommunity.org.uk/take-action>



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING SUCCESS

The residents of Longworth recently voted to make their neighbourhood plan, with 79% of votes in favour of adopting the plan.

ALLOCATE A SITE FOR HOUSING IN A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Where a neighbourhood plan identifies land for housing development this is called 'allocating a site' - the planning evidence should be of sufficient quality to satisfy an independent examiner and reduce the risk of legal challenge. Where this is the case, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) or Housing Needs Assessment may be needed to support your plan.

Some of these tasks may appear to be onerous, technical or expensive, but they should be proportionate to the neighbourhood plan. We can offer guidance on what needs to be done to achieve a successful plan and would welcome the opportunity to assist you.

UPDATE OF LOCAL PLAN 2031 PART 2

We are currently preparing our Local Plan 2031 Part 2 for Preferred Options consultation (February 2017)

1. OXFORD UN-MET HOUSING NEED

- Oxfordshire Growth Board has agreed the apportionment of Oxford City's un-met need to be located within Vale of White Horse.
- The Council has agreed to take an apportionment of 2,200 homes of Oxford's unmet need to be addressed within the Vale.
- This figure will feed into our Local Plan 2031 Part 2 process to identify suitable locations for housing to meet this need.
- It is necessary for the Council to consider all 'reasonable and realistic' alternative sites, and given the nature of the Vale and its proximity to Oxford this will need to include consideration for some Green Belt sites. However at the present time, the Council has not concluded as to whether an additional Green Belt Review will be needed to inform this process. This will be set out in the Preferred Options document to be published in February 2017.

2. NON - STRATEGIC SITES

- Our Call for Sites consultation closed 22 July 2016.
- We are currently assessing all the sites to determine those most suitable for allocation in Local Plan 2031 Part 2.
- The Council will consult on its preferred options site allocations in February 2017 as part of the Preferred Options consultation.

3. DIDCOT GARDEN TOWN

- The Council is continuing to work 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 council is continuing to work with key stakeholders to prepare a suite of detailed Development Management policies for inclusion within Local Plan 2031 Part 2.
- The policies will complement the strategic policies in the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 and will help to guide day-to-day decision making on planning applications.