



Locality Commissioning Meeting – North East

<b>Date of Meeting:</b> 13 March 2019			<b>Paper No:</b> 2			
<b>Title of Paper:</b> Oxfordshire 2050 Local Plan						
<b>Is this paper for</b>	<b>Discussion</b>		<b>Decision</b>		<b>Information</b>	✓

<p><b>Purpose of Paper:</b></p> <p>To provide practices with information on the current public consultation to agree the strategic vision and objectives for future growth in Oxfordshire. This strategic plan will subsequently inform all District Local Plans.</p>
<p><b>Action Required:</b></p> <p>Practices are asked to comment on the two initial documents out for public consultation which set out the vision and objectives of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.</p>

<p><b>Author:</b> Rosie Rowe  <a href="mailto:Rosie.Rowe@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk">Rosie.Rowe@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Clinical Lead:</b> Dr Will O’Gorman</p>
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**Background**

As part of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal agreement with the Government, the six Oxfordshire authorities – Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council - have committed to producing a joint statutory spatial plan (JSSP), known as the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

The Oxfordshire Plan will provide an integrated strategic planning framework and evidence base to support sustainable growth across the county to 2050, including the planned delivery of new homes and economic development, and the anticipated supporting infrastructure needed.

As part of the formation of the plan, the authorities are committed to ensuring there will be early, proportionate and meaningful engagement between plan makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and statutory bodies.

The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination by 31 March 2020 and adopted by 31 March 2021, subject to the examination process.

## **Current Consultations**

### **1. Introducing the Oxfordshire Plan 2050**

The current consultation represents the start of a process of plan making, which will involve a wide consultation with communities and other key stakeholders over the next couple of years. This first stage, introducing the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, commenced on 11 February 2019 and will run for a 6 week period until 25 March 2019.

Planners would like to hear your views on the vision and aspirations set out in the document and whether we have identified the right issues in setting the context for the plan.

**The vision and objectives will have a bearing on how the plan develops in the future and discussions about spatial scenarios will effect the scale and pattern of development in Oxfordshire up to 2050.**

A series of topic papers have also been published which provide additional information on a range of themes including the environment, heritage and health and well being. The topic paper on healthy place shaping was produced by representatives from all the District Councils, Oxfordshire CCG and Public Health and Policy at Oxfordshire County Council. It describes the clear requirements of future development which are needed to ensure that growth results in the creation of healthy communities.

Whilst all the objectives identified in the plan are important, practices are encouraged to submit a response to the consultation which emphasises that developing strong and healthy communities needs to be a priority. To ensure that future District Local Plans have the necessary policy hooks to require appropriate future development, we need to ensure that the principles articulated in the topic paper are used to form a policy that is embedded in the final plan (not as subsidiary guidance). Therefore, we would also encourage health colleagues to recommend that there is a clear healthy place shaping policy in the plan.

The necessary consultation documents can be found and downloaded from the following website: <https://oxfordshireplan.inconsult.uk/consult.ti>

### **2. Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report**

The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report has been prepared to identify the scope and level of detail to be included in the Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The SA is a legal requirement in the production of the Local Plan and promotes sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the Plan's policy options will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.

The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 is committed to producing a spatial plan for the county that has sustainability at its core. The planners would like your views on whether the scope of the

document is appropriate as set out considering the role of the Oxfordshire Plan to help meet and manage Oxfordshire's growth needs and development ambition.

Whilst this is a more detailed document, the scoping report is important. Initial review of the 'population health and wellbeing section' (Section 3.21 and Table 3.3) has identified a number of gaps in its identification of key sustainability issues for Oxfordshire relating to the health and wellbeing challenges facing the Oxfordshire population:

- It does not recognise the increasing gap between years lived without disability and/or long-term conditions and overall life expectancy. The growth in long-term conditions will have profound implications and may create unsustainable demand for health and social care support unless action is taken to reduce future demand.
- Similarly, although it identifies that most comparative indicators show Oxfordshire is better than the England average, current lifestyles will impact on demand for health and care services amongst the whole population - not just older people or those from more deprived communities. This section should make clear that the whole population faces significant health challenges such as around obesity and mental wellbeing.
- This section also makes no mention of the need to cater for new models of care which aim to support independence for as long as possible and which require different health and care facilities. This needs to be identified as an additional priority.

These sustainability issues need to be reflected in section 4 and in the sustainability appraisal questions as set out in section 5. Additional questions might include:

- Promote active lifestyles to help address a range of key public health priorities including mental health and wellbeing, obesity, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and dementia?
- Make it easier for people to make healthier food choices.
- Reduce the gap between healthy life expectancy and overall life expectancy.
- Does the Plan takes account of and support new models of care with a health and care infrastructure that seeks to reduce the need for treatment and delay the need for care.

Comments on the sustainability appraisal scoping report can be made here:

<https://oxfordshireplan.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/SAscopingreport/consultationHome>

[https://oxfordshireplan.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Oxfordshire\\_Plan\\_Intro/consultationHome](https://oxfordshireplan.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Oxfordshire_Plan_Intro/consultationHome)

**Practices are asked to note that the deadline for response to this consultation is 25 March 2019.**