

To: Oxfordshire Growth Board
Title of Report: Oxfordshire Local Plans: Progress Report
Date: 24 September 2019
Report of: Oxfordshire Planning Policy Officer Group
Status: Public

Executive Summary and Purpose:

To update the Growth Board with progress towards Local Plans adoption across the county.

Recommendation:

That the Growth Board note the report.

Appendices:

None.

Introduction – progress to date.

Cherwell

- 1) The council are undertaking a Partial Review of the adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2031, Part 1 to incorporate the Growth Board’s apportionment of Oxford’s unmet housing needs to Cherwell. The proposed review was approved by Council in March 2018 and submitted to the Planning Inspector. A Preliminary Hearing was held in September 2018 and Hearing Sessions took place in February 2019. The Inspector’s Post-Hearings Advice Note was received on 13th July and modifications in response to the advice note are being prepared, with informal submission to the Inspector on 20th September 2019. It is intended that consultation on the proposed modifications will commence at the end of September/ beginning of October, with a view to formally submitting the modifications at the end of the year. Timeline for completion is uncertain as another Hearing may be required.

Oxford

- 2) Oxford are preparing a Local Plan to 2036. Oxford City Local Plan 2036 was submitted for examination on 22nd March 2019. Planning Inspectors Jonathan Bore MRTPI and Nick Fagan BSc(Hons) DipTP MRTPI have been appointed to undertake an independent examination into the soundness of the Oxford City Local Plan. The timetable is therefore now mainly in the control of the appointed Inspectors. The Inspectors have asked several initial questions to which the council has responded. This correspondence is available online at

www.oxford.gov.uk/localplanexamination. The Inspectors have indicated informally that public hearing sessions will take place from 3rd Dec to 19th Dec 2019.

- 3) Oxford City has also submitted a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule review for examination. The timeline for examination of this review is likely to follow the Local Plan examination. Nick Fagan BSc(Hons) DipTP MRTPI have been appointed to examine the CIL Charging Schedule Review.

South Oxfordshire

- 4) South Oxfordshire submitted the Local Plan 2034 for examination on 29 March 2019. No hearings or initial questions have been received to date since the Local Plans submission for examination.
- 5) Since the Local Plans submission there has been a change to the controlling party at the Council from Conservative to a Coalition. The Local Plan has been a key emerging Council policy that the coalition has wished to review. Council met on 18th July and resolved to:

“(1) express its determination to maintain its housing land supply and avoid speculative development;
(2) express its continued support for the Housing and Infrastructure Fund (HIF) funding and infrastructure projects that could be delivered by it;
(3) ask officers to explore with Oxfordshire County Council, Homes England and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government options for protecting the HIF funding whilst enabling the council to address concerns about the current emerging Local Plan 2034 including (but not limited to) climate change issues, Oxford City’s unmet housing need, and to report back to Cabinet and Council;
(4) recognising that the Climate Change Emergency is all too real and is recognised to be of key and statutory importance under the Climate Change Act 2008 and the associated objective of “zero carbon by 2050”, express its wish to do all that it can to respond through the Local Plan process;
(5) agree that as soon as practicable, alongside satisfactory progress being made on resolving issues in the emerging Local Plan, work on a subsequent Local Plan shall commence, strengthening climate change considerations.”

- 6) The future direction for the emerging Local Plan is going to be considered as part of a discussion on the progress towards achieving the resolutions of the July Council. Cabinet will be held on 3 October 2019 and Council on 10 October 2019.

Vale of White Horse:

- 7) Local Plan 2031 Part 2: Detailed Policies and Additional Sites was submitted for Examination on 23 February 2018. Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2) sets out the

strategic policies and locations for the agreed quantum of housing to meet Oxford City's unmet housing need within the district. It also contains policies for the part of Didcot Garden Town that lies within the district as well as detailed development management policies to complement the Local Plan Part 1, replacing the saved policies of the Local Plan 2011, and allocating additional development sites for housing and other uses.

- 8) The Planning Inspector issued his final report on Local Plan 2031 Part 2 (LPP2) to the Council on 25 June 2019. The Inspector's report concludes that the Plan is 'Sound'. The adoption (of the LPP2) will be considered at a future meeting with Full Council. This is scheduled to take place on 9 October 2019.

West Oxfordshire

- 9) The West Oxfordshire Local Plan (2011 – 2031) was formally adopted in September 2018. There are no current plans to commence a review at this point in time.
- 10) Work has started on a new Area Action Plan (AAP) for the Oxfordshire Cotswolds Garden Village. An initial issues and options consultation took place in summer 2018 and preferred options have been published for an 8-week period of consultation from 16 August – 11 October 2019. The final pre-submission draft will be published in late 2019/early 2020 with a view to adoption by summer 2020.

Financial Implications

- 11) Financial implications to be considered by each local plan making authority.

Legal Implications

- 12) Legal implications to be considered by each local plan making authority.

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