

Minutes



OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE

Listening Learning Leading

Council

Held on Thursday 19 September 2024 on the rising of the preceding Cabinet meeting at The Great Hall, Cholsey, Wallingford, OX10 9GW

Present:

Councillors: Kellie Hinton (Chair), Ken Arlett, Pieter-Paul Barker, James Barlow, Tim Bearder, Robin Bennett, David Bretherton, Sam Casey-Rerhaye, Sue Cooper, Peter Dragonetti, Maggie Filipova-Rivers, Stefan Gawrysiak, Mike Giles, Ali Gordon-Creed, Georgina Heritage, Sam James-Lawrie, Katharine Keats-Rohan, Mocky Khan, James Norman, Andrea Powell, Leigh Rawlins, David Rouane, Anne-Marie Simpson, Ed Sadler, Ian Snowdon, Andrew Tinsley, David Turner, Freddie van Mierlo and Tony Worgan

Officers: Emily Barry (Democratic Services Officer), Steven Corrigan (Democratic Services Manager), Tim Oruye (Head of Policy and Programmes), Adrianna Partridge (Deputy Chief Executive – Corporate and Communities), and Vivien Williams (Interim Head of Legal and Democratic)

27 Declarations of interest

None.

28 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Kate Gregory, Alexandrine Kantor, Axel Macdonald, Denise Macdonald, Ben Manning, Zia Mohammed and Jo Robb.

29 Urgent business and chair's announcements

The chair advised that there was no urgent business and provided housekeeping announcements.

30 Public participation

None.

31 Joint Local Plan 2041 - Approval of Publication Version and Next Steps

Council considered Cabinet's recommendations, made at its meeting immediately preceding the Council meeting on the approval of the publication version of the Joint Local Plan 2041.

Councillor Simpson, Cabinet Member for Planning, introduced the item and moved Cabinet's recommendations. In doing so she began by expressing her delight that she was able to present a plan to Council which reflected the policies which so many members had been campaigning on and pursuing with diligence and enthusiasm at recent elections and during their time as councillors. The Regulation 19 Joint Local Plan (the Plan) presented to Council marked the culmination of collaborative work commenced in March 2021 with Vale of White Horse District Council. The Plan would set a higher policy requirement for new development leading to more sustainable development in each district. The Plan would secure nature recovery, more affordable housing, a substantial response to climate change and protect landscapes. She advised that the Plan was being brought forward earlier than anticipated. The revision to the timeline was in response to an offer from the Deputy Prime Minister to submit a plan within one month of the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) coming into force. Whilst the Plan had been accelerated, she emphasised that effective consultation had been undertaken with the public who had responded positively. In addition, 35 member steering group sessions had been undertaken and 14 all member roundtable sessions. She reminded Council that to enable the submission of the Plan in December it was necessary to agree the Plan as drafted. Unpicking elements of the Plan at this stage risked running into problems with the Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulation Assessment and Viability Assessment which would prevent the early submission, and with it the advantages, of the Plan. She thanked Councillor Foulsham, Vale of White Horse District Council's Cabinet Member for Policy and Programmes, who had provided her with support and guidance during the development of the Plan.

Members welcomed the Plan which was ambitious for residents and the environment. Members welcomed the policies included to provide housing for residents – affordable, rental and of different sizes and types with a 50 per cent affordable mix. They welcomed the policies to protect the environment, tackle climate change, promote nature recovery, build sustainable communities and the inclusion of policies applicable to development including embodied carbon, biodiversity net gain and dark skies mapping. A number of members welcomed the deallocation of sites and particularly Chalgrove airfield which did not meet the social and environmental policies of the Plan, was unlikely to be achievable with an objection from the Civil Aviation Authority and was considered undeliverable in light of the continued use of the site by Martin Baker.

Whilst the majority of members who expressed a view strongly welcomed the Plan some issues and observations were raised. Views were expressed that the Plan did not include policies to safeguard public houses, that the deliverability of the Plan was reliant on infrastructure and particularly the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) roads, that the Plan was not locally driven, that the Plan still referenced dwellings per hectare which would not address a tendency to provide larger dwellings when the need was for smaller and cheaper homes.

RESOLVED:

1. that the Joint Local Plan 2041 Publication Version (Appendix 1 of the report of the Head of Policy and Programmes to the meeting of Cabinet on 19 September 2024), Proposed Joint Local Plan Policies Map Publication Version (Appendix 2 of the report of the Head of Policy and Programmes to the meeting of Cabinet on 19 September 2024) and supporting documents be made available for a six-week period under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
2. that following the six-week period, to authorise the Head of Policy and Programmes, in consultation with the South Cabinet member for Planning and the Vale Cabinet member for Policy and Programmes, to submit the Joint Local Plan 2041 Publication Version and all associated documents, together with a Statement including how the responses to the Preferred Options Joint Local Plan have been taken into account and a summary of the main issues raised in the publication stage responses, to the Secretary of State for independent examination under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
3. to authorise the Head of Policy and Programmes in consultation with the South Cabinet member for Planning and the Vale Cabinet member for Policy and Programmes, to make non-material changes and corrections to the Joint Local Plan 2041 and supporting documents, to address editorial, typographical and grammatical errors, up to the publicity period
4. to authorise the Head of Policy and Programmes in consultation with the South Cabinet member for Planning and the Vale Cabinet member for Policy and Programmes, to propose changes and corrections to the Joint Local Plan 2041 and supporting documents, including policy updates, editorial, typographical and grammatical errors, during and following the publicity period, plan submission and during examination
5. to authorise the Head of Policy and Programmes, once the Joint Local Plan 2041 has been submitted for examination, to invite the examining Inspector(s) to recommend any modifications they consider to be necessary in accordance with section 20(7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
6. to approve the Joint Local Development Scheme (August 2024), attached at Appendix 3 of the report of the Head of Policy and Programmes to the meeting of Cabinet on 19 September 2024.

The meeting closed at 7:42pm

Chair

Date