

To: Oxfordshire Growth Board
Title of Report: Oxfordshire Local Plans: Progress Report
Date: 28 January 2020
Report of: Oxfordshire Planning Policy Officer Group
Status: Open

Executive Summary and Purpose:

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

Recommendation:

That the Growth Board note the report.

Appendices:

None

Introduction

1. This report sets out current progress made by each of the five Oxfordshire Local Planning Authorities in adopting their own Local Plan, which aims to set the vision for the future of each area and a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities.

Cherwell District Council

2. 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 consultation on modifications in response to the advice note ended on 20 December 2019. The Council intends to formally submit the modifications early in the new year. Timeline for completion is uncertain as another Hearing may be required.

Oxford City Council

3. The Oxford 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.

4. The public hearing sessions took place between 3rd December and 19th December 2019. On the final day of hearings the Inspectors provided positive preliminary conclusions on the local plan including that their preliminary conclusion was that the housing requirement and housing capacity of the city are sound. The next stage will be for a consultation on modifications that have emerged through the examination process to be undertaken early this year with adoption as soon as possible following receipt of the final Inspectors report.
5. 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 take place in the next few months. Mike Hayden BSc(Hons) DipTP MRTPI has been appointed to examine the CIL Charging Schedule Review.

South Oxfordshire District Council

6. South Oxfordshire submitted the Local Plan 2034 for examination on 29 March 2019. Three sets of questions from the two appointed Inspectors were received in October 2019.
7. There was 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. The future direction for the emerging Local Plan was going to be considered as part of a discussion on the progress towards achieving the resolutions of the 18 July Council on 10 October 2019.
8. However on 9 October 2019 the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government issued a temporary direction on the Council in relation to the emerging Local Plan 2034. The direction was made under the provisions of Section 21A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). This means that the emerging plan has 'no effect whilst the direction is in force', this is set out in section 21A(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).
9. No work can be progressed in relation to the Local Plan examination. South Oxfordshire will continue their discussions with the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government and hope to seek clarity on the temporary direction.

Vale of White Horse District Council

10. The 6 week legal challenge period to the decision to adopt Local Plan 2031 Part 2: Detailed Policies and Additional Sites (LPP2) ended at the end of November, with no challenge having been received. LPP2, and its appendices are now available from the Council's website. LPP2 includes detailed development management policies which are to be the basis upon which all planning decisions are to be made.

11. The Vale Planning team are preparing a decision paper to be tabled at the February Council meeting for a Council decision to start preparations for a new local plan for the district.
12. LPP2 also commits the Council to preparing a number of SPDs, and work has already started on developing an SPD for the strategic allocation at Dalton Barracks. The current programme envisages an SPD being in place in the first half of the year, and by the autumn at the latest.

West Oxfordshire District Council

13. 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.
14. 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 were published for an 8-week period of consultation from 16 August – 11 October 2019. The final pre-submission draft will be published in early 2020 with a view to adoption by summer 2020.
15. The Council is also seeking to progress CIL and is aiming to publish a draft charging schedule for consultation in late February 2020.

Financial Implications

16. Financial implications to be considered by each local plan making authority.

Legal Implications

17. Legal implications to be considered by each local plan making authority.

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