

Executive response to recommendations on from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8 July 2026 – Local Plan Regulation 19

Recommendation	Agreed Y / N?	Comment	Responsible Executive Member (name, title)	Lead Officer (name, title)
1. That consideration is given to ensuring that development does not box in the Witney Sewage Treatment Works (Land South of Witney Strategic Location for Growth).	Y	Agree that the text of the draft Plan should be amended to emphasise the importance of future development to the south of Witney not prejudicing the future potential expansion of the Witney STW. This is reflected in a proposed change to Policy WIT5 – Land South of Witney Strategic Location for Growth as shown in the Local Plan Addendum.	Councillor Liz Leffman, Executive Member for Planning and Infrastructure	Andrew Thomson – Planning Policy Manager
2. That Mass Rapid Transport is defined within the Local Plan as being a fast, high quality, high frequency mode of transport.	Y	Agree that the text of the draft Plan could usefully be amended to provide a clearer definition of Mass Rapid Transit (MRT). This is reflected in a proposed change to the supporting text of Policy SP5 – A40 Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Corridor as well as a proposed addition to the Glossary of Terms as shown in the Local Plan Addendum.		
3. That the protection of best and most versatile agricultural land is strengthened within the Local Plan.	Partial Y	Agree that the text of the draft Plan should be revised in relation to the use of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land to ensure consistency with national policy on this issue which requires		Andrew Thomson – Planning Policy Manager

		planning policies and decisions to take account of the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. This is included in the Local Plan Addendum.		
4. That the Local Plan recognises that there is more than one football club in Carterton and is more balanced in giving other sports the same weight and indicators (Land North of Carterton Strategic Location for Growth).	Y	Agree that the text of the draft Plan should make this more explicit. Changes are therefore proposed to paragraphs 8.1.6, 8.1.85 and the Policy CA6 Development Template. These changes are included in the Local Plan Addendum.		Andrew Thomson – Planning Policy Manager
5. That the Infrastructure Delivery Plan is published before full Council considers the Local Plan.	N	There is no statutory requirement for the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) to be published at the point a decision is taken on whether or not to formally publish a draft Local Plan under Regulation 19. The IDP is a technical piece of supporting evidence prepared by external consultants who have advised that whilst it will be available to inform the Regulation 19 consultation expected to commence in August, it will not be available for the Council meeting on 22 July. Members could opt to defer consideration to a later Council meeting, but this would place the overall timetable for submission by the end of December 2026 into considerable doubt.		Andrew Thomson – Planning Policy Manager
6. That the example of a specific business relocating is removed (Land West of Witney Strategic Location for Growth).	N	The supporting text to Policy WIT6 includes reference to the hypothetical possibility of Witney Lakes Resort relocating to the west, which, if it were		Andrew Thomson – Planning Policy Manager

		to happen, could provide an opportunity for a more comprehensive form of development along Downs Road. There is no inference in the text or policy that this will or must happen, rather it is simply recognised as a hypothetical possibility. The owners of Witney Lakes resort will have the opportunity to respond to the consultation along with other key stakeholders.		
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