



WEST OXFORDSHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Name and date of Committee	<b>CABINET – 12 OCTOBER 2022</b>
Report Number	<b>Agenda Item 11</b>
Subject	<b>OXFORDSHIRE PLAN 2050</b>
Wards affected	ALL
Accountable member	Cllr Carl Rylett Cabinet Member for Planning and Sustainable Development Email: <a href="mailto:carl.rylett@westoxon.gov.uk">carl.rylett@westoxon.gov.uk</a>
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Summary/Purpose	To provide an update on the cessation of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 programme and the transition to a process focused on Local Plans.
Annexes	Annex A – Report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership 27 September 2022
Recommendation/s	a) That the content of this report including Annex A be noted
Corporate priorities	The cessation of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 programme means that Local Plans for the City and Districts will provide the framework for the long term planning of development in Oxfordshire. The emerging West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2041 will help to deliver the spatial elements of a broad range of corporate priorities as set out in the Council Plan.
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 has been the subject of several previous stages of public consultation. Further public consultation will take place as part of the preparation of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2041.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. Members will be aware that as part of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal, the City and District Councils have been working collaboratively on the Oxfordshire Plan to provide a strategic planning framework to guide future development in the period to 2050.
- 1.2. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 has been in preparation since 2018 with several stages of public consultation carried out and more planned ahead of formal submission and independent examination.
- 1.3. However, in August a joint statement was issued from the leaders of Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, and West Oxfordshire District Council announcing that because the authorities had been unable to reach agreement on the approach to planning for future housing needs within the framework of the Oxfordshire Plan, that the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 work programme will end with a transition to a process focused on Local Plans.
- 1.4. Attached for information at Annex A is a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership of 27 September 2022 which sets out in more detail the background to the Oxfordshire Plan, the decision to no longer progress it and the proposed way forward.
- 1.5. These next steps include the agreement of a number of principles outlining how the partners will take forward the Local Plan based approach (see paragraph 16 of Annex A) and turning the Oxfordshire Plan Advisory Group into a Planning Advisory Group with a new terms of reference and broader remit (see paragraph 17 of Annex A).

## **2. IMPLICATIONS FOR WEST OXFORDSHIRE**

- 2.1. The main implication of the decision to no longer progress the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 is on the emerging West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2041. Members will be aware that an ambitious timetable for the new Local Plan was agreed in July 2022 with the aim being to submit the final draft plan for examination by December 2023.
- 2.2. The rationale for this was that many of the important decisions on key issues such as housing and employment numbers and strategic locations for growth would have been determined through the Oxfordshire Plan with the Local Plan then effectively adding in more detail at the local level.
- 2.3. In the absence of the Oxfordshire Plan, it will be for the Local Plan process to determine many of these more significant strategic issues, with additional evidence likely to be needed – either commissioned individually by West Oxfordshire or jointly.
- 2.4. This creates a risk that the timetable set out in the current Local Development Scheme (July 2022) may not be able to be achieved. The LDS may therefore need to be updated at some point as the implications of the Oxfordshire Plan decision are better understood and worked through in practice.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1. This report raises no direct financial implications.

#### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1. None arising from this report.

#### **5. RISK ASSESSMENT**

5.1. In the absence of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, there is a risk that the current timetable for taking the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2041 through to submission and examination may not be achieved. As set out above, this may necessitate a revision to that timetable through a future update of the Local Development Scheme (LDS).

#### **6. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

6.1. This report raises no specific implications for any particular equality strand.

#### **7. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

7.1. This report raises no direct implications. It will be for the new Local Plan to establish an appropriate policy framework for tackling the climate and ecological emergency.

#### **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

8.1. None.

#### **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9.1. None.