



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Name and Date of Committee	COUNCIL – 19 JULY 2023
Subject	ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL PLAN CROSS PARTY MEMBER WORKING GROUP
Wards Affected	All
Accountable Member	Cllr Carl Rylett – Executive Member for Planning and Sustainable Development. Email: carl.rylett@westoxon.gov.uk
Accountable Officer	Charlie Jackson – Assistant Director, Planning and Sustainability. Email: charlie.jackson@publicagroup.uk
Report Author	Chris Hargraves – Planning Policy Manager. Email: chris.hargraves@westoxon.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	To consider the establishment of a cross-party Member Working Group to help inform the preparation of the new Local Plan 2041.
Annex	Annex A – Local Plan Cross Party Member Working Group Draft Terms of Reference
Recommendation	That Council Resolves to: a) Agree to the establishment of a new Local Plan Cross Party Member Working Group in accordance with the draft terms of reference attached at Annex A.
Corporate priorities	The preparation of a new Local Plan for West Oxfordshire will help to support all of the Council's corporate priorities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Putting Residents First;• Enabling a Good Quality of Life for All;• Creating a Better Environment for People and Wildlife;• Responding to the Climate and Ecological Emergency;• Working Together for West Oxfordshire.
Key Decision	NO

Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	NIL

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 West Oxfordshire District Council has committed to producing a new Local Plan covering the period up to 2041.
- 1.2 The plan is currently at the Regulation 18 'plan preparation' stage and is expected to take shape this year in response to further public consultation and supporting technical evidence.

2. LOCAL PLAN CROSS PARTY MEMBER WORKING GROUP

- 2.1 To ensure that the views of Members are taken fully into account during this formative stage of plan preparation, it is proposed that a new Local Plan Cross Party Member Working Group be established.
- 2.2 The Draft Terms of Reference for the proposed working group are attached at Annex A.
- 2.3 As per the terms of reference, the Group will comprise members of all political groups and will meet regularly over the next 12 months (e.g. every 8 weeks or more frequently as required) to discuss the emerging Local Plan and supporting evidence.
- 2.4 Key areas of focus in line with the emerging Local Plan are anticipated to be as follows:
 - 1. Tackling the climate and ecological emergency;
 - 2. Healthy, safe, strong and inclusive communities;
 - 3. An enhanced natural and built environment;
 - 4. Attractive, accessible and thriving places;
 - 5. Meeting the housing needs of all;
 - 6. A vibrant, resilient and diverse local economy.
- 2.5 The Group will be chaired by the Executive Member for Planning and Sustainable Development and primarily supported by the Council's Planning Policy Manager. Democratic Services will also provide support to the Group as appropriate.
- 2.6 The work of the Group will be complemented by all Member briefings/workshops to be held at appropriate junctures.
- 2.7 If Council agrees the recommendation to establish the working group then Group Leaders will be asked to nominate members to the working group.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1 Council could choose not to agree to the establishment of the Local Plan Cross Party Member Working Group.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The report raises no financial implications.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The report raises no legal implications.

6. RISK ASSESSMENT

6.1 The report presents no significant risks.

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT

7.1 N/A

8. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 N/A

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None.

(ENDS)