

Topic Paper 1

Plan context and stages

February 2019

Purpose

1. The purpose of this Topic Paper is to provide background information on the context to the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and to reference the key documents and projects that are relevant to its production. Further versions of these Topic Papers may be produced at later stages in the Plan making process.

Oxfordshire Plan context

2. The Local Authorities in Oxfordshire have agreed to produce a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP), titled the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 ('the Plan'), building upon the existing joint working and partnership arrangements through the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

3. The Plan will cover the administrative area of Oxfordshire (all five constituent districts¹). The Local Authorities have committed to this process as they see the benefits of collectively agreeing the level of growth, the broad spatial location of that growth and in setting aspirations for place-making at a strategic level. All five Local Authorities will be formally asked to agree each decision-making stage of the process and at the final adoption stage. The process of asking to agree is individual to each authority and reliant on all Councils agreeing.



4. The Plan also offers an opportunity to formally consider the infrastructure needs collectively, to align strategies, and form part of any application for infrastructure funding through the Growth Deal or other sources.

¹ Cherwell District Council; Oxford City Council; South Oxfordshire District Council; Vale of White Horse District Council; West Oxfordshire District Council

Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal

5. The Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal² is recognition by government both of the track record of successful joint working in Oxfordshire and of its potential to contribute towards the successful sustainable growth of the country. In return for guaranteed funding for affordable housing, infrastructure and economic growth the Deal places commitments upon the constituent Oxfordshire Authorities to ensure that the following is undertaken:

- Plan for and support the delivery of 100,000 new homes to 2031
- All of the current suite of Local Plans submitted by April 2019
- Work to secure additional public and private funding to plan for and support the delivery of 100,000 homes by 2031
- The submission of a JSSP for Oxfordshire by March 2020.
- Work with Government to explore further opportunities to drive innovation in partnership, design and construction.
- Consideration of a Strategic Infrastructure Tariff (SIT)

6. Each Oxfordshire district is committed through the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal to submitting a Local Plan for examination by 1 April 2019. The districts are at different stages of Local Plan production, however each authority is well on the way to producing a Local Plan covering the period to 2031, 2034 or 2036. As stated in the Housing and Growth Deal Delivery Plan, 'The Oxfordshire authorities are committed to planning to meet the 100,000 housing requirement for Oxfordshire set out by the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) by 2031'. The Local Plans make provision for these homes and they allocate specific sites for development.

Oxfordshire Plan scope

7. A statement of common ground between the partner authorities was signed in March 2018³ and included matters that are relevant to the delivery of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal, with particular focus on the preparation of a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan for Oxfordshire.

8. The agreed Statement of Common Ground identified the following key matters for the Plan to set out:

- An overall strategy for the pattern and scale of development in Oxfordshire to 2050

² Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal (Nov 2017)

³ Oxfordshire Joint Statutory Spatial Plan [Statement of Common Ground](#) (Mar 2018) Oxfordshire Growth Board

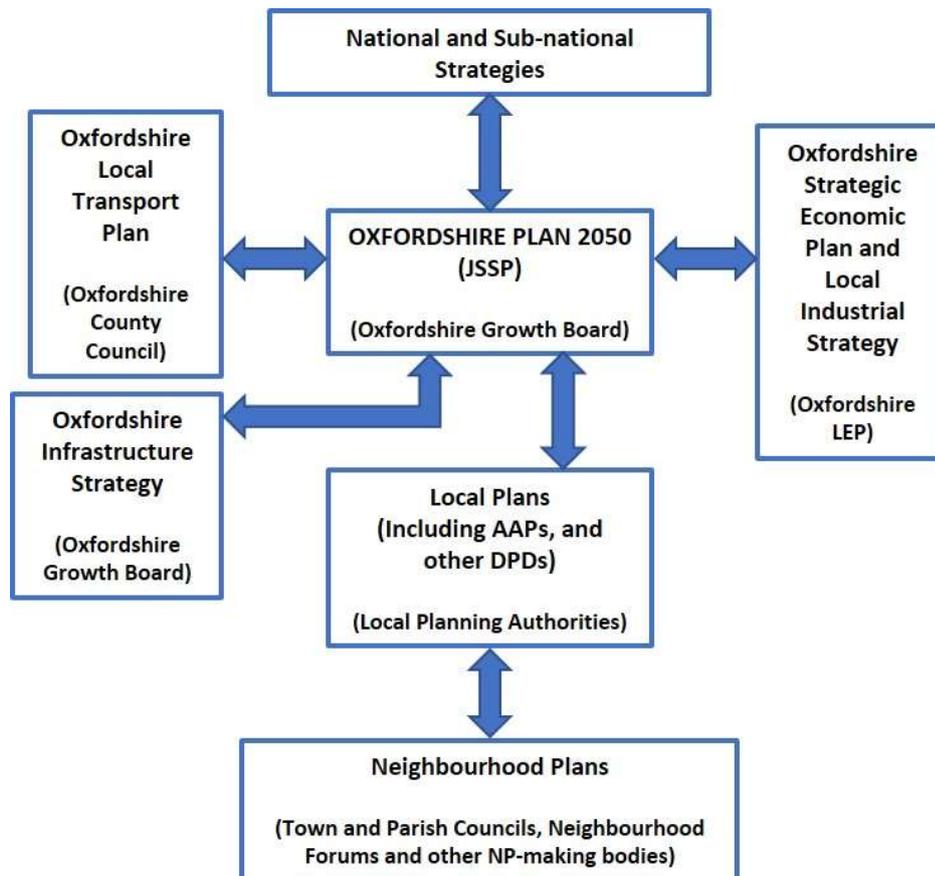
- Identify the number of new market and affordable homes and level of economic growth needed across Oxfordshire
- Identify an appropriate spatial strategy and strategic locations for new development based upon an understanding and appreciation of both the environmental quality and natural capital of Oxfordshire
- Outline the strategic transport and other infrastructure that needs to be provided to support sustainable growth

9. The scope of the Plan has been further developed through a Scoping Document which was agreed by all the partner authorities in September and October 2018.⁴

10. The Plan will build on the foundations set by the suite of current and emerging Local Plans and look at the strategic planning issues for the period up to 2050. The Plan will take into account the existing commitments made by this suite of plans through their site allocations as a baseline for the earliest part of the Plan period.

Relationship to other plans and documents

11. The Oxfordshire Plan will form part of a hierarchy of plans guiding development from a national level right down to neighbourhood level.



⁴ [Oxfordshire Joint Statutory Spatial Plan Scoping Document](#) (Oct 2018)

12. The Oxfordshire Plan will be a formal Development Plan Document, prepared under Section 28 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) which enables two or more local planning authorities to agree a joint Plan. It will form part of the development plan for each of the authorities in Oxfordshire and will be used in the formulation of more detailed plans locally and in determining planning applications where appropriate.

13. The Plan will form the framework within which subsequent Local Plans will be drafted. Subsequent Local Plans will need to be in broad conformity with the Plan and provide a detailed application of the strategic policies which it contains.

14. The geographical scope of the Plan and the long term outlook up to 2050 mean that it is best placed to make strategic decisions about the scale and broad distribution of growth across the whole of Oxfordshire. This will help to inform the preparation of Local Plans at a District level beyond the end of their current plan periods.

Stages of the Plan

15. We are at the first formal stage of the Plan's preparation which provides an introduction to the context and issues that the plan should seek to address. It contains a vision, aspirations and objectives for the Plan as a whole and introduces spatial scenarios (patterns of growth), that new development could follow.



Stage	Scope	Timescale
Issues (Regulation 18 Part 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision • Aspirations and Objectives • Spatial Scenarios 	Consultation Feb/Mar 2019
Options (Regulation 18 Part 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place-shaping principles • Policy options including level of housing and employment growth • Broad locations for new development 	Consultation Jun/Jul/Aug 2019
Draft Plan (Regulation 19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed policies 	Consultation Oct/Nov/Dec 2019
Submission Plan (Regulation 22)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed policies with minor amendments following Reg 19 consultation 	March 2020
Examination in Public (EiP) (Regulation 24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination by a Planning Inspector 	Sep 2020*
Receipt of Inspector's Report		Dec 2020
Adoption of the Plan		March 2021 (depending on the EiP)

*Examination dates and subsequent programme subject to confirmation from the Planning Inspectorate and views of Inspector