



Oxfordshire Joint Statutory Spatial Plan

Local Development Scheme

July 2021

Produced by



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Introduction - Purpose of the Local Development Scheme

This is an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) for the Oxfordshire Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP). It will be endorsed by the Oxfordshire Growth Board and then formally approved by the five Oxfordshire District Planning Authorities.

The Oxfordshire authorities consider it important that stakeholders are engaged in the preparation of the JSSP; this LDS explains how the JSSP will be produced and when, so that it is clear when people will be able to get involved. It outlines the programme for completion and adoption of the Plan over the period to 2023.

The LDS will be revised in agreement with the five Oxfordshire District Planning Authorities as necessary and rolled forward on a regular basis to take account of progress in the preparation of the JSSP and monitoring.

Background

The five District Planning Authorities, Oxfordshire County Council and the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OXLEP) agreed the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal with Government in 2018. Under the terms of the Deal the local authorities have committed to producing an Oxfordshire Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP) for submission by September 2022 and adoption by May/June 2023, subject to the examination process. These revised dates reflect agreement reached with MHCLG and reported to the Oxfordshire Growth Board in November 2020.

The JSSP will be a formal Development Plan Document (DPD), 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.

The JSSP will provide an Oxfordshire-wide, integrated strategic planning framework and supporting evidence base to support sustainable growth across the county to 2050, including the planned delivery of new homes and economic development, and the anticipated supporting infrastructure needed.

Section 15 of the Act requires local planning authorities to prepare and maintain an LDS which specifies:

- the local documents which are to be development plan documents.
- the subject matter and geographical area to which each development plan document is to relate.
- which development plan documents are to be prepared jointly with one or more other local planning authorities.
- any matter or area in respect of which the authorities have agreed (or propose to agree) to the constitution of a joint committee under Section 29 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).
- the timetable for the preparation and revision of the development plan documents; and
- such other matters as are prescribed.

The JSSP will set the strategic framework for the preparation of local plans in Oxfordshire covering each District; as a development plan document, on adoption it will become part of the Development Plan for each local planning authority area. In view of its importance in establishing the strategic direction of growth for Oxfordshire as a whole it is appropriate that

an LDS is prepared for it in its own right. This LDS is only concerned with the preparation of the JSSP.

In October 2018 a draft Statement of Common Ground was published setting out the basis on which the five Local Planning Authorities were preparing the JSSP, with input from the County Council and OXLEP. A Project Board was established to oversee preparation of the JSSP and a sub-committee of the Oxfordshire Growth Board meets periodically to review progress.

The Existing Development Plans

- Cherwell – adopted in July 2015, covers 2011 – 2031. A Partial Review of the Cherwell Local Plan for Oxford’s Unmet Housing Needs (2011-2031) was adopted in September 2020.
- South Oxfordshire – adopted in December 2020, covers 2011 – 2035.
- City of Oxford – adopted in June 2020, covers 2016 – 2036.
- West Oxfordshire – adopted in September 2018, covers 2011 – 2031.
- Vale of White Horse – Part 1 adopted in December 2016, covers 2011 – 2031. Part 2 adopted in October 2019, covers 2011 – 2031.

Each of the five Oxfordshire Local Planning Authorities separately prepares and maintains an up-to-date LDS for production of their own Local Plans.

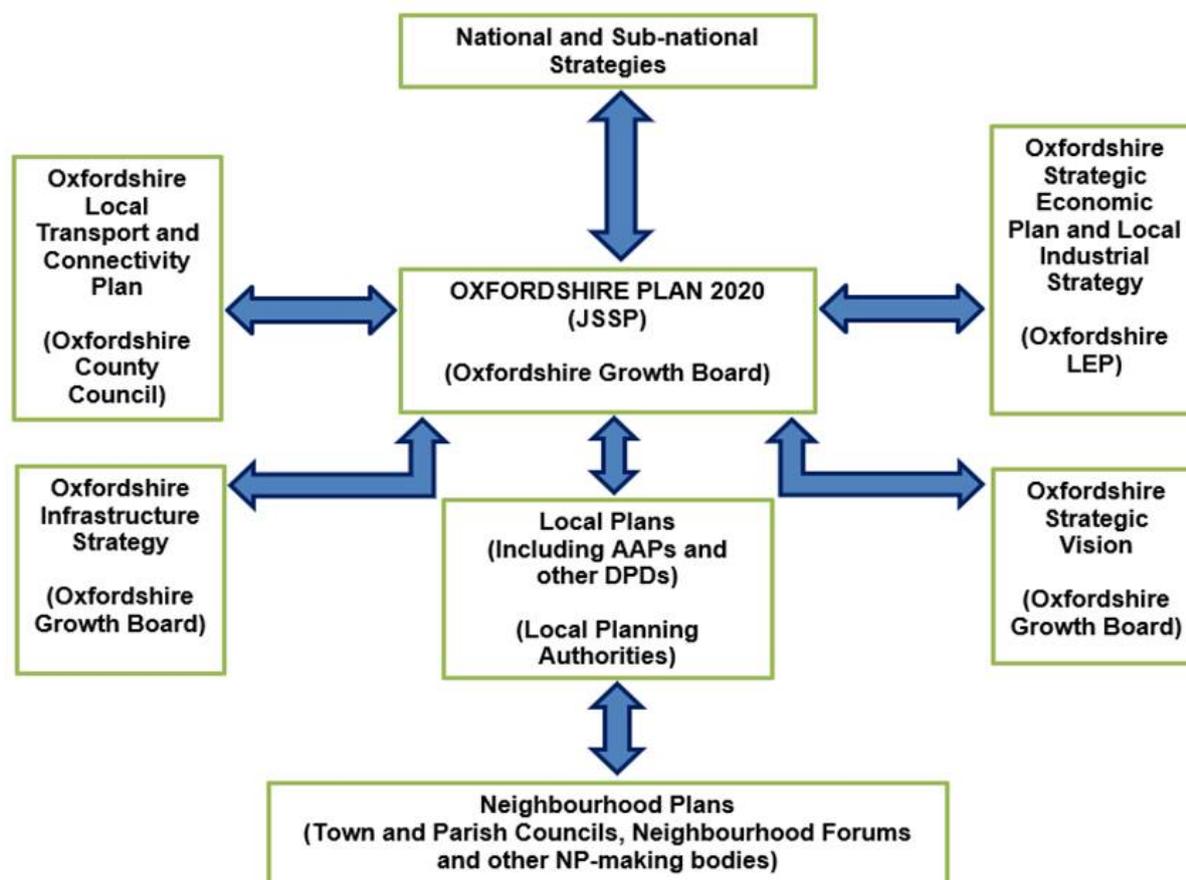
Neighbourhood Development Plans

Neighbourhood Plans can be produced by Town or Parish Councils or other relevant bodies to set out policies (however expressed) in relation to the development and use of land in the whole or any part of a particular, specified neighbourhood area. They are not prepared by the District Council but are submitted to it ahead of independent examination and a referendum. They are not legally defined as Development Plan Documents but do become part of the statutory Development Plan once they have successfully passed a referendum.

There are a large number of ‘made’ Neighbourhood Plans across Oxfordshire, details are available via each District Council’s Planning Policy web section.

Neighbourhood Plans produced by Town or Parish Councils or other relevant bodies, are prepared to a timescale set by each plan-making body and on adoption they become part of the statutory Development Plan. Neighbourhood plans need to be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the JSSP and Local plans.

Figure 1 below shows the relationship between the JSSP, Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans.



The Oxfordshire Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP)

On its final adoption, the JSSP will be a countywide strategic plan which integrates planning for growth and infrastructure; considering quality of life and place-making issues to secure sustainable development.

It will identify the overall quantum of housing and economic growth within Oxfordshire to be planned for to 2050 and its distribution across the county. It will also identify strategic priorities, and the strategic infrastructure (through OXIS) necessary to deliver the spatial strategy. Its preparation will include the calculation of new housing need figures based upon the methodology in the National Planning Policy Framework, and the implications of the Oxford to Cambridge Corridor.

Paragraph 6 of the National Planning Policy Framework states that other statements of government policy may be material when preparing plans, such as relevant Written Ministerial Statements and endorsed recommendations of the National Infrastructure Commission. The detailed scope of the JSSP was defined early in the process of its preparation.

The JSSP will set the strategic planning context within which subsequent Local Plans will sit. It will link to a new 2050 Transport Vision and associated Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) and the adopted Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy. It will also integrate with the Spatial Framework being developed by the MHCLG for the Oxford - Milton Keynes - Cambridge Arc.

Key Changes since the last Local Development Scheme

- Initial Consultation on Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Reg 18 Part 1.

The first consultation (Reg 18 part 1) took place between Monday 11 February 2019 and Monday 25 March 2019.

This consultation was intended to introduce people to the Plan, what a JSSP was and the general themes it would tackle. It asked responders to consider the issues that the Oxfordshire Plan should deal with, a vision for the Plan and a series of objectives and aspirations to guide the Plan to 2050. The responses would help inform the Plan-making process and the next consultation document.

- Call for Ideas.

The first Call for Ideas took place between Thursday 21 February 2019 and Friday 12 April 2019.

This formal consultation sought to elicit views on whether the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal was appropriate considering the role of the Oxfordshire Plan to help meet and manage Oxfordshire's growth needs and development ambition.

- Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

The SCI consultation took place between Friday 30 November 2018 and Friday 11 January 2019.

The formal consultation intended to gain views on whether the proposed approach and timing of engagement activity is considered to be appropriate and asked for any suggestions as to how the approach could be improved.

- Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report consultation took place between Monday 7 January 2019 and Monday 25 March 2019

The formal consultation sought to elicit views on whether the scope of the document was appropriate as set out considering the role of the Oxfordshire Plan to help meet and manage Oxfordshire's growth needs and development ambition.

- Open Thought.

The first Open Thought engagement ran from June 1 to August 14, 2020.

This was borne out of a recognition that the shift in timeline presented an opportunity for further engagement while also seeking to address feedback from the Reg 18 part 1 that suggested the Plan needed to be bolder and more innovative.

Open Thought sought to consider three main challenges facing the county in the future – climate change, connectivity, and living and working. While the themes were wider than the scope of the Plan, the engagement sought to gain potential policy ideas for the Plan by tapping into the knowledge and expertise within the county.

- Strategic Vision.

The Growth Board's consultation on the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision ran from November 16, 2020 to January 4, 2021.

The engagement was intended to test both the concept of a Vision as a whole, as well as the proposed outcomes, guiding principles and definition of good growth. Responses were used to help refine the Vision.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was produced in 2019 specifically to explain how local communities and other stakeholders will be engaged in the preparation of the JSSP. The SCI is currently being updated.

Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs)

Annual Monitoring Reports are produced by local planning authorities each year to monitor progress in producing Local Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents and to report on the implementation of policies; including meeting the district's housing requirement; and on the making of Neighbourhood Plans.

They must include up-to-date information collected for monitoring purposes and, where relevant, include information on any applicable Community Infrastructure Levy and detail cooperation with prescribed bodies.

AMRs are published on-line and supported by the publication of additional monitoring information as required.

An AMR will be produced for the Oxfordshire JSSP once it has been adopted.

Programme for the production of the JSSP

The programme for preparing the JSSP is set out in the schedule below. This timetable has been revised following agreement with MHCLG to amend the timeframes specified in the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

Oxfordshire Plan 2050		
Strategic or Local Policies	Strategic Policies	
Subject Matter	Countywide spatial plan to manage development to 2050. Will provide strategic planning policies including for housing, employment, transport & infrastructure, biodiversity and responding to climate change.	
Geographical Coverage	Oxfordshire	
Status	Joint Development Plan Document (DPD)	
Timetable	Formal commencement	31 January 2018
	Draft Statement of Common Ground	October 2018
	Initial Consultation (Regulation 18 part 1)	February/March 2019
	Consultation on Preferred Strategy (Regulation 18 part 2)	July/August/September 2021
	Consultation on Proposed Submission Draft Plan (Regulation 19)	May/June 2022 (Note: 6 weeks only as prescribed in the regulations)
	Submission (Regulation 22)	September 2022
	Examination (Regulation 24)	November/December 2022
	Receipt and Publication of Inspector's Report	February/March 2023
	Adoption (Regulation 26)	May/June 2023
	Notes: Examination dates and subsequent programme subject to confirmation from the Planning Inspectorate and views of Inspector, but also reflect agreement with MHCLG reported to Oxfordshire Growth Board in November 2020.	
Management Arrangements	<p>A joint Plan by the five district Local Planning Authorities with the support of the County Council and OXLEP.</p> <p>Overseen by the Oxfordshire Growth Board - a joint committee of the five district Local Planning Authorities and County Council, together with key strategic partners.</p> <p>Council Inputs:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Policy officers and senior Managers. <input type="checkbox"/> Reports to Executive and Council
Resources Required	<p>Oxfordshire Growth Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Central Plan Team: <input type="checkbox"/> with consultancy support as required <input type="checkbox"/> advised by District officer Liaison Group <input type="checkbox"/> advised by Members' Advisory Group <input type="checkbox"/> reporting to Project Board (Heads of Planning) <input type="checkbox"/> reports to Growth Deal Programme Board & Growth Board <input type="checkbox"/> input from Growth Deal capacity funding <p>Council contributions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> input from Planning Policy and subject specialists
Monitoring and review mechanisms	Oxfordshire 2050 Plan monitoring report

Date of preparation – June 2021.