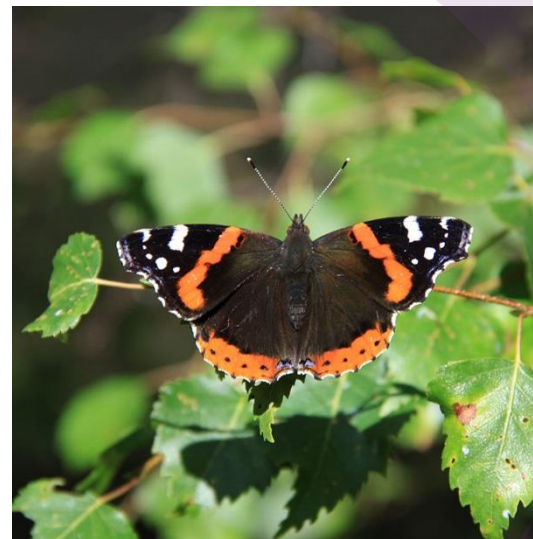


South Oxfordshire District Council

South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035, Sustainability Appraisal

Post Adoption Statement



Report for

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The South Oxfordshire District Local Plan (hereafter referred to as the 'Local Plan') was adopted by the Council on 10th December 2020. This followed its submission to the Government in March 2019, in accordance with Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012¹ and subsequent examination in public (EiP). Following consultation on Main Modifications (MMs)² to the Local Plan, the Local Plan was found sound by the Inspectors in his report³ dated 27th November 2020, which included minor changes to the MMs as consulted on.

The Council undertook initial work on the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) in-house between 2014 and 2017 and engaged Wood Group Ltd. (formerly Amec Foster Wheeler Environment and Infrastructure Solutions UK Ltd. and then Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions UK Ltd.) (Wood)) to prepare the SA of the Local Plan from 2017, provide support at the examination and to consider the SA implications of the MMs.

This Post Adoption Statement (PAS) is the final output of the SA process. It describes the way in which the Council has taken environmental and sustainability considerations and the views of consultees into account in the adopted Local Plan and fulfils the plan and programme adoption requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004⁴ (the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations).

1.2 The Local Plan

The Local Plan sets out the vision for the district up to 2035, and provides strategic policies that set out the priorities for the development and use of land in the district and other (non-strategic) policies that set out more detail for specific areas and types of development. It has been developed taking into account national planning policy and guidance, the objectives of other plans and programmes, assessment (including SA), the findings of evidence base studies and the outcomes of engagement. The Local Plan comprises of the following core components:

- a vision on how the district will develop and grow over the period to 2035;
- a series of strategic objectives to meet current and future needs; and
- a planning policy framework, including strategic allocations to guide and manage development (in line with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)).⁵

The Local Plan is a critical tool for a planning authority to plan proactively and positively for development by focusing on the community needs and opportunities in relation to places, housing, economy, infrastructure, and local services across the district. It also establishes planning policies that seek to safeguard the

¹ SI 2012 No. 767 *The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012*.

² South Oxfordshire District Council (September 2020) Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications. Available from <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/09/1-Main-Mods-Schedule-Sept-2020.pdf> [Accessed January 2021]

³ The Planning Inspectorate (2020) Report on the Examination of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan. Available from <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/11/Inspectors-Report-November-2020.pdf> [Accessed January 2021].

⁴ SI 2004 No. 1633 *The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004*.

⁵ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) (2019) *The National Planning Policy Framework*. Available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

environment, aid resilience and adaptation to climate change and enhance the natural and historic environment.

Overall the Local Plan makes provision for at least 23,550 new homes, 10 permanent pitches for Gypsies and Travellers, 39.1 ha of employment land and 31,140 sqm(net) of retail floorspace to meet the needs of the district in the plan period. New growth will be accommodated through growth in larger towns and villages and seven strategic locations, including development of 4,950 homes on the edge of Oxford to help meet its unmet needs. Science Vale will also be a focus for housing and employment growth.

Work on the Local Plan commenced in 2014. The SA has been carried out at each stage of Local Plan preparation (as summarised in **Table 1.1**). The contextual information and approach to the SA was set out in a draft Scoping Report which was consulted on in Summer 2014 alongside a consultation document on 'Issues and Scope' of the Local Plan (2014). The approach to SA was revised and then applied to the Local Plan stages, as set out in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1 Local Plan Stages and SA Reports

Local Plan stage	Title	SA Stage	Date
Regulation 18	Issues and Scope	Scoping Report	June 2014
Regulation 18	Refined Options	Interim SA Refined Options	February 2015
Regulation 18	Preferred Options	SA Report of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan Preferred Options	June 2016
Regulation 18	Second Preferred Options	SA Report of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan Preferred Options 2	March 2017
Regulation 18*	Final Publication Version (First)	SA Report of the Publication Version South Oxfordshire Local Plan	October 2017
Regulation 19	Final Publication Version (Second)	SA Report of the second Publication version of the Local Plan	December 2018
Regulation 19	Final Publication Version (Second)	Addendum to the SA Report of the second Publication version of the Local Plan	January 2019

Local Plan stage	Title	SA Stage	Date
Regulation 22	Submission Local Plan	SA Report of the Submission version of the Local Plan	March 2019
Consultation on Main Modifications	Main Modifications	Addendum to SA Report – Appraisal of Main Modifications	September 2020
	Inspectors Final Report	Addendum to SA Report – Appraisal of Further Changes to MMs	December 2020

* The consultation, undertaken in October 2017, was intended to satisfy the requirements for the final statutory consultation prior to submission of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan to the Secretary of State, but was subsequently treated as a Regulation 18 consultation by the Council.

Following the conclusion of the MM consultation and consideration of the final responses, in November 2020 the Council received the Inspector's Report which included a small number of further changes to the MMs. The Inspector concluded that, with the recommended MMs, the Local Plan satisfied the requirements of Section 20(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase 2004 Act and met the criteria for soundness in the NPPF. The Local Plan was subsequently adopted by the Council on 10th December 2020.

Further information on the adopted Local Plan is available via the Council's website:

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/planning-and-development/local-plan-and-planning-policies/forthcoming-planning-policies/our-forthcoming-local-plan/>

1.3 The Requirement for Sustainability Appraisal

Under Section 19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Council is required to carry out a SA of the Local Plan to help guide the selection and development of policies and proposals in terms of their potential social, environmental and economic effects.

In undertaking the requirement for SA, local planning authorities must also incorporate the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (statutory instrument 2004 No. 1633).

Paragraph 16 of the NPPF sets out that local plans should be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.⁶ In this context, paragraph 32 of the NPPF reiterates the requirement for SA/SEA as it relates to local plan preparation:

“Local plans and spatial development strategies should be informed throughout their preparation by a sustainability appraisal that meets the relevant legal requirements⁷. This should demonstrate how the plan has addressed relevant economic, social and environmental objectives (including opportunities for net gains). Significant adverse impacts on these objectives should be avoided and, wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant adverse impacts are unavoidable,

⁶ This is a legal requirement of local planning authorities exercising their plan-making functions (section 39(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004)

⁷ The reference to relevant legal requirements in the NPPF relates to Strategic Environmental Assessment

suitable mitigation measures should be proposed (or, where this is not possible, compensatory measures should be considered)."

1.4 Habitats Regulations Assessment

Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the 'Habitats Regulations') requires that competent authorities assess the potential impacts of land use plans on the Natura 2000 network of European protected sites⁸ to determine whether there will be any 'likely significant effects' (LSE) on any European site as a result of the plan's implementation (either alone or 'in combination' with other plans or projects); and, if so, whether these effects will result in any adverse effects on that site's integrity with reference to the site's conservation objectives. The process by which the effects of a plan or programme on European sites are assessed is known as 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' (HRA).⁹

In accordance with the Habitats Regulations, what is commonly referred to as a HRA screening exercise was undertaken to identify the likely impacts of the Local Plan upon European sites, either alone or 'in combination' with other projects or plans, and to consider whether these impacts are likely to be significant. Where there are likely significant impacts, more detailed Appropriate Assessment would be required.

The HRA screening exercise was reported separately from the SA of the Local Plan but importantly helped inform the appraisal process, particularly in respect of the potential effects of proposals on European protected sites. A separate addendum to the HRA was also prepared in light of the MMs and was published in September 2020 as part of the consultation on the MMs.¹⁰

1.5 Purpose of this Post Adoption Statement

This PAS represents the conclusion of the SA process and fulfils the plan and programme adoption requirements of the SEA Regulations. In accordance with SEA Regulation 16 (4), this statement sets out the following:

- how environmental and sustainability considerations have been integrated into the Local Plan (**Section 2** of this document);
- how the SA Reports have been taken into account (**Section 3 and Appendix A**);
- how opinions expressed in response to the consultation on the SA Reports have been taken into account (**Section 4**);
- the reasons for choosing the Local Plan, as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with (**Section 5 and Appendix B**); and
- the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental and sustainability effects of the implementation of the Local Plan (**Section 6 and Appendix C**).

⁸ Strictly, 'European sites' are any Special Area of Conservation (SAC); any classified Special Protection Area (SPA); any candidate SAC (cSAC); and (exceptionally) any other site or area that should be considered as an SAC but which has not been identified by the Government. However, the term is also commonly used when referring to potential SPAs (pSPAs) and to possible SACs (pSACs) and listed Ramsar Sites, to which the provisions of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 are applied as a matter of Government policy when considering development proposals that may affect them (NPPF para 176). 'European site' is therefore used in its broadest sense, as an umbrella term for all of the above designated sites

⁹ 'Appropriate Assessment' has been historically used as an umbrella term to describe the process of assessment as a whole. The whole process is now more usually termed 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' (HRA), and 'Appropriate Assessment' is used to indicate a specific stage within the HRA.

¹⁰ <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/09/6-HRA-addendum-main-mods.pdf>

2. How Environmental and Sustainability Considerations Have Been Integrated into the Local Plan

2.1 Environmental and Sustainability Considerations in the Local Plan

Environmental and wider sustainability considerations have been integral to the key decisions made in respect of the policies and proposals of the Local Plan. The integration of these considerations into the plan making process has principally been achieved through:

- the development of a comprehensive evidence base on topics including (inter alia) housing, employment, retail, transport, green infrastructure, biodiversity, flood risk, communities and viability;
- sustained engagement with key stakeholders and the public on the emerging Local Plan and related environmental and sustainability matters;
- the consideration of national planning policy and the objectives of other plans and programmes, including the Vale of White Horse District Council's policy in relation to growth at Didcot and within Science Vale and unmet housing needs arising from Oxford City;
- fulfilment of the Council's Duty to Cooperate; and
- ongoing assessment through SA (incorporating SEA) and HRA.

2.2 Local Plan Content

The Local Plan sets out a vision which establishes the priorities for the Local Plan and informs the objectives, policies and spatial strategy which will help guide development and planning decisions up to the year 2035.

To support the vision, the Local Plan includes 8 strategic objectives covering settlements, housing, economy, infrastructure, design, community, natural and built environment and climate change.

The Local Plan contains 102 policies presented under a range of topics including strategy, housing, employment, design and infrastructure. The preferred spatial strategy involves:

- Focusing major new development in Science Vale including Didcot Garden Town and Culham so that this area can play an enhanced role in providing homes, jobs and services with improved transport connectivity;
- Providing for major development at Chalgrove and Berinsfield, including necessary infrastructure and community facilities;
- Making provision for 4,950 homes to help meet Oxford City's unmet needs, including amendments to the Green Belt on the edge of Oxford;
- Supporting and enhancing the economic and social dependencies between towns and villages with the district;
- Supporting the roles of Henley, Thame and Wallingford by maintaining and improving the attractiveness of their town centres through measures that include environmental

improvements and mixed-use developments and by providing new homes, jobs, services and infrastructure;

- Supporting and enhancing the roles of the larger villages (Benson, Berinsfield, Chalgrove, Chinnor, Cholsey, Crowmarsh Gifford, Goring, Nettlebed, Sonning Common, Watlington, Wheatley and Woodcote) as local service centres;
- Supporting smaller and other villages by allowing for limited amounts of housing and employment to help secure the provision and retention of services;
- Protecting and enhancing the countryside and particularly those areas within the two AONBs and Oxford Green Belt by ensuring that outside towns and villages any development relates to very specific needs such as those of the agricultural industry or enhancement of the environment.

Collectively, these policies deliver sustainable growth for the district out to 2035 (and beyond), enabling the Council to plan positively for development, whilst safeguarding the environment, aiding resilience and adaptation to climate change and enhancing the natural and historic environment.

2.3 Environmental and Sustainability Considerations in the SA

To provide the context for the SA and in compliance with the SEA Regulations, a review of other relevant plans and programmes was undertaken and the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and its evolution without the Local Plan were considered; together, they informed the identification of a series of key sustainability issues. This information was initially set out in the 2014 Scoping Report and was subsequently updated as part of the SA Report (September 2017) and then in subsequent SA Reports to reflect changes since the Scoping Report was published.

The key sustainability issues, identified through the review of plans and programmes and analysis of baseline information, informed the SA objectives and guide questions that comprised the SA Framework used to appraise the Local Plan. The SA objectives are shown in **Table 2.1**. Broadly, the SA objectives presented the preferred sustainability outcome which involved minimising detrimental effects and enhancing positive effects.

The SA process considered the contribution of the Local Plan towards each of the appraisal objectives, drawing on the baseline information (and its evolution) to predict the likely significant effects of the plan in line with government guidance.¹¹

Specifically, the following key components of the Local Plan were appraised against the SA objectives:

- vision and strategic objectives;
- spatial strategy (in respect of the quantum of housing and employment development and the distribution of development), including strategic locations and reasonable alternatives;
- policies; and
- site allocations and reasonable alternatives.

The appraisal identified the likely changes to the baseline conditions as a result of the Local Plan's implementation. These effects were described (where possible) in terms of their extent, the timescale over which they could occur, whether the effects would be temporary or permanent, positive or negative, short,

¹¹ MHCLG (2015) Planning Practice Guidance: Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal, Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 11-018-20140306. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

medium and/or long-term. In accordance with Schedule 2 (6) of the Regulations, consideration was also given to the potential for significant secondary, synergistic and cumulative effects.

Table 2.1 The SA Framework

1 To help to provide existing and future residents with the opportunity to live in a decent home and in a decent environment supported by appropriate levels of infrastructure.
2 To help to create safe places for people to use and for businesses to operate, to reduce anti-social behaviour and reduce crime and the fear of crime.
3 To improve accessibility for everyone to health, education, recreation, cultural, and community facilities and services.
4 To maintain and improve people's health, well-being, and community cohesion and support voluntary, community, and faith groups.
5 To reduce harm to the environment by seeking to minimise pollution of all kinds especially water, air, soil and noise pollution.
6 To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need to travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys.
7 To conserve and enhance biodiversity
8 To improve efficiency in land use and to conserve and enhance the district's open spaces and countryside in particular, those areas designated for their landscape importance, minerals, biodiversity and soil quality.
9 To conserve and enhance the district's historic environment including archaeological resources and to ensure that new development is of a high quality design and reinforces local distinctiveness.
10 To seek to address the causes and effects of climate change by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) securing sustainable building practices which conserve energy, water resources and materials; b) protecting, enhancing and improving our water supply where possible c) maximizing the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources; and d) ensuring that the design and location of new development is resilient to the effects of climate change.
11 To reduce the risk of, and damage from, flooding.
12 To seek to minimise waste generation and encourage the reuse of waste through recycling, compost, or energy recovery.
13 To assist in the development of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) high and stable levels of employment and facilitating inward investment; b) a strong, innovative and knowledge-based economy that deliver high-value-added, sustainable, low-impact activities; c) small firms, particularly those that maintain and enhance the rural economy; and d) thriving economies in our towns and villages.
14 To support the development of Science Vale as an internationally recognised innovation and enterprise zone by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) attracting new high value businesses; b) supporting innovation and enterprise; c) delivering new jobs;

- d) supporting and accelerating the delivery of new homes; and
- e) developing and improving infrastructure across the Science Vale area.

15 To assist in the development of a skilled workforce to support the long term competitiveness of the district by raising education achievement levels and encouraging the development of the skills needed for everyone to find and remain in work.

16 To encourage the development of a buoyant, sustainable tourism sector.

17 Support community involvement in decisions affecting them and enable communities to provide local services and solutions.

3. How the SA Report Has Been Taken into Account by the Council

3.1 Overview

This Section summarises how the SA Report was taken into account by the Council in the preparation of the Local Plan. As set out in **Section 1.2**, the development of the Local Plan has been iterative. SA has played an integral role in this iterative process with each of the following Local Plan stages having been accompanied by a SA Report in order to help inform the Plan and fully integrate environmental and sustainability considerations into decision making:

- Refined Options, February 2015;
- Preferred Options, June 2016;
- Second Preferred Options, March 2017;
- Final Publication Version (First), October 2017;
- Final Publication Version (Second), December 2018;
- Addendum to the Final Publication Version (Second), January 2019;
- Submission Local Plan, March 2019;
- Main Modifications, September 2020;
- Inspectors Final Report, including Main Modifications, November 2020.

Appendix A presents a summary of the key stages in the development of the Local Plan, the associated SA work undertaken and the key conclusions of the appraisal.

3.2 How the Findings of the SA Have Been Taken into Account

Through the SA, a number of detailed recommendations were made concerning the emerging plan policies and these were set out in the SA Reports prepared in support of the Regulation 18 (including appraisal of early drafts of the Local Plan) and 19 versions of the Local Plan. No additional recommendations were identified following a review of the proposed modifications. The recommendations are summarised below, reflecting the order of policies in the Adopted Local Plan, together with the Council's response. References to policy numbers and names have been amended to reflect the adopted Local Plan.

An observation common to all policies that include allocated sites was that consideration could be given to making them more prescriptive about site requirements, in addition to housing. For example, the mix and type of employment to be provided for or the required supporting infrastructure to be provided on site. In consequence, the Council amended relevant policies and the development requirements for new strategic sites now have an equivalent level of detail.

STRAT4 'Strategic Development' states that proposals for development at Strategic Allocations must be accompanied by a health impact assessment (HIA). It was previously suggested that the Local Plan provides additional guidance on what would be required as there is no one prescribed form for undertaking HIAs or the content of reports. The Council indicated that it did not consider it necessary to provide additional guidance, citing the London Plan as an example of where HIA is required but no guidance is provided

(although in that instance it is noted that guidance is provided by the London Healthy Urban Development Unit).¹² Guidance on HIA was subsequently published by the Oxfordshire Growth Board in January 2021.¹³

STRAT6 relates to Green Belt. It was previously suggested that the policy could be amended to reflect the NPPF (paragraph 141 of the NPPF as revised), i.e., to identify opportunities for beneficial use of the Green Belt. The Council indicated that existing policy provisions were considered to be sufficient to secure this.

Policy HEN1 sets out the strategy for Henley-on-Thames. An observation on this policy was that it could include reference to the need to improve air quality in the town, as it has an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). The reference to air quality would be consistent with Policy WAL1 for Wallingford, which also includes an AQMA. The Council amended Policy HEN1 accordingly.

An earlier suggestion was that the Council consider adding a policy in relation to flood risk. The Council added a policy on flood risk (EP4).

A further suggestion was that Policy DES1 'Delivering High Quality Development' could reference 'Secured by Design.' This would encourage developments in the district, including strategic allocations to consider how the environment can contribute to reducing crime and the fear of crime. The council amended the policy accordingly.

The SA suggestion was that Policy DES8 'Promoting Sustainable Design' could be strengthened by requiring commercial buildings to achieve a BREEAM rating, e.g., BREEAM Good or Excellent. Policy DES10 'Carbon reduction' requires non-residential development to meet BREEAM excellent standard (or a recognised equivalent assessment methodology).

It was also suggested that DES8 could encourage housing related development to use the Home Quality Mark on a voluntary basis. The Council indicated that it did not consider the amendment to be justified.

Policy DES9 relates to Renewable Energy and states that planning applications for renewable and low carbon energy generation will be supported, provided they do not cause a significant adverse effect to a range of factors, including the historic environment. It was recommended that the policy be amended to reflect the concepts in the NPPF relating to substantial harm and less than substantial harm to a designated heritage asset. The Council indicated that other policies in the Local Plan reflect the requirements in the NPPF and the amendment was not necessary.

Government policy also requires Local Plans (or Neighbourhood Development Plans) to identify suitable areas for onshore wind. It was suggested that the Council confirmed its commitment to identifying any suitable areas for wind energy. The Council amended the supporting text of the Local Plan to include reference to the identification of suitable locations.

¹² <https://www.healthyurbandevelopment.nhs.uk/our-services/delivering-healthy-urban-development/health-impact-assessment/>

¹³ <https://www.oxfordshiregrowthboard.org/projects/oxfordshire-health-impact-assessment-toolkit/>

4. How Opinions Expressed During Consultation Have Been Taken into Account

4.1 Overview

As set out in Section 1.2, the development of the Local Plan has been informed by extensive, ongoing engagement and public consultation, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

On submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State, the Council published a Statement of Consultation which set out the consultation undertaken during the preparation and publication of the Local Plan, a summary of the main issues raised and details of how the comments received have been taken into account.¹⁴ This is summarised in the following subsections.

4.2 Local Plan Consultation

Issues and Scope (June 2014)

The Issues and Scope consultation took place from 11 June 2014 to 23 July 2014, a period of six weeks. The consultation was extended so that responses received before 30 July 2014 were accepted as duly made. In total 3,944 comments from 771 contributing consultees were received.

Responses to these submissions are summarised in the Statement of Consultation.

Regulation 18: Refined Options, February 2015

The Refined Options consultation took place from 19 February 2015 to 2 April 2015, a period of six weeks. The consultation was extended so that responses received before 10 April 2015, were accepted as duly made. In total, 3,215 formal representations were received on the plan from 750 respondents.

Responses to these submissions are summarised in the Statement of Consultation.

Regulation 18: Preferred Options, June 2016

The First Preferred Options consultation took place from 27 June 2016 to 19 August 2016, a period of eight weeks. In total, 7,099 formal representations were received on the plan, made by 1,371 respondents.

Responses to these submissions are summarised in the Statement of Consultation.

Regulation 18: Second Preferred Options, March 2017

The Second Preferred Options consultation took place from 29 March 2017 to 17 May 2017, a period of seven weeks. In total, 7,666 formal representations were received on the plan by 1,369 respondents.

Responses to these submissions are summarised in the Statement of Consultation.

¹⁴ South Oxfordshire District Council (March 2019) Regulation 22 Statement. Available from:

http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/dynamic_serve.jsp?ID=1038265744&CODE=1A8A313A3E8F6F3CF374F960AE752F07

Regulation 18: Final Publication Version (First), October 2017

The Final Publication (first) consultation took place from 11 October 2017 to 22 November 2017, a period of six weeks. The consultation was extended so that responses received before 30 November 2017, were accepted as duly made. In total, 2,605 formal representations were received on the Plan from 880 respondents.

Responses to these submissions are summarised in the Statement of Consultation.

Regulation 19: Final Publication Version (Second), January 2019

The Final Publication (Second) consultation took place from 7 January 2019 to 18 February 2019, a period of six weeks. In total, 17,136 formal representations were received on the plan from 2,561 respondents.

Responses to these submissions are summarised in the Statement of Consultation.

Regulation 22: Submission Local Plan, March 2019

South Oxfordshire District Council submitted the Local Plan to the Secretary of State on Friday 29 March 2019.

Consultation on Main Modifications, September 2020

MMs were published for consultation between 21 September and 2 November 2020.

A total of 259 respondents participated in the Main Modifications consultation collectively making a total of around 1,170 comments.

Inspectors Final Report, including Main Modifications

The Local Plan was found sound by the Inspectors in his report dated 27 November 2020, which included minor changes to the MMs as consulted on.

Issues raised during consultation on the Local Plan

The Statement of Consultation provides a comprehensive summary of the responses received at each of the consultation stages from 2014 to 2019 and how the Local Plan responded to these.

The issues raised related to:

- The Spatial Strategy;
- Development needs;
- Green Belt;
- Proposed strategic sites;
- Didcot;
- Henley-on-Thames, Thame and Wallingford;
- Development in villages;
- Non-strategic housing allocations;
- Affordable housing;
- Housing;

- Employment;
- Infrastructure;
- Environment;
- Design;
- Town Centres;
- Community facilities.

4.3 SA Consultation Summary

Appendix B of the SA Report accompanying the Submission version of the Local Plan (March 2019) provides a summary of all the responses received on each iteration of the SA prior to submission. The commentary below outlines examples of where comments on the SA resulted in changes to the SA Report but also provides commentary in relation to the approach to the identification of reasonable alternatives.

Scoping Report (June 2014)

The SA Scoping Report was subject to consultation between 11 June 2014 to 23 July 2014. The consultation was extended so that responses received before 30 July 2014 were accepted as duly made. A total of 8 responses were received to the consultation from organisations/members of the public. Responses related to a range of issues that residents considered relevant to the Local Plan, these did not result in changes to the Scoping Report. Natural England supported the proposed approach including the selection of the SA objectives.

Regulation 18: Refined Options, February 2015

The SA of the Refined Options Local Plan was subjected to consultation from 19 February 2015 to 2 April 2015. The consultation was extended so that responses received before 10 April 2015, were accepted as duly made. Responses were received from 6 organisations/members of the public.

Comments at this stage are summarised below:

- Natural England made detailed comments on proposed housing sites in Nettlebed and highlighted the proximity of sites to Sites of Special Scientific Interest.
- Oxfordshire County Council highlighted the need for the SA to consider impacts on archaeology and safeguarding policies in the emerging Minerals and Waste Local Plan. The SA methodology was amended to ensure that these factors were considered as part of the SA of potential allocations.
- Oxford City Council requested additional work in relation to the SA of options for meeting the City's needs and made detailed comments on the appraisal of options. Subsequent versions of the SA re-visited the assessment of options for accommodating un-met housing needs arising from the City.
- English Heritage commented on heritage features and their relationship to specific sites and the SA was reviewed and updated as appropriate.
- A member of the public commented on the quality of bus services and how this should be reflected in the SA. The SA was reviewed and updated were appropriate.

Regulation 18: Preferred Options, June 2016

The SA of the First Preferred Options Local Plan was subject to consultation from 27 June 2016 to 19 August 2016. Responses were received from 30 organisations/members of the public.

Comments at this stage are summarised below:

- Historic England raised concerns about the impact of development at Chalgrove Airfield on the setting of the registered battlefield and the need for mitigation noted in the SA. Concerns about impact of development at Wheatley Campus and Berinsfield was also raised and reflected in subsequent versions of the SA.
- Natural England requested a landscape capacity assessment be undertaken for Chalgrove Airfield (which the Council subsequently undertook).
- Reading Borough Council queried the annual housing requirement that should be tested in the SA. Subsequent versions of the SA provided additional information on the options selected for SA and the reasons for selecting the preferred option and rejecting others.
- Holton Parish Council made detailed comments on the SA of the Wheatley Campus site which were reflected in subsequent assessment work for the site as appropriate.
- Chalgrove Parish Council and others commented on the SA for Chalgrove Airfield. These comments informed subsequent SA work in relation to the site, for example the SA was amended to recognise that public transport would likely only be used by new residents, rather than existing residents and the presence of mineral deposits was also acknowledged.
- Promoters for land at Harrington commented on various aspects of the SA, including the SA framework and selection of options for assessment, the approach to the SA of sites and the extent to which the report complied with the SEA Regulations. Subsequent versions of the SA Report reflected the reporting requirements set out in the SEA Regulations.

Regulation 18: Second Preferred Options, March 2017

The SA of the Second Preferred Options Local Plan was subject to consultation from 29 March 2017 to 17 May 2017. Representations on the SA were received from 27 organisations/members of the public.

Comments at this stage are summarised below:

- Chalgrove Airfield Action Group commented on the SA for the site and the principle of development at this location. This included comments around the provision of infrastructure and availability of the site. Overall, it was considered that the SA had given appropriate consideration to the issues raised in the comments.
- Historic England requested additional technical work in relation to the impacts on heritage of the proposed strategic allocations at Berinsfield, Chalgrove and Wheatley Campus. The Council subsequently commissioned this work as part of the wider evidence base for the Local Plan.
- Members of the public raised concerns about the principle of a strategic allocation at Lower Elsfield and the extent to which it was in a sustainable location. Subsequent iterations of the SA acknowledged the need for the Local Plan to ensure the connectivity of the site and the challenges associated with the provision of public transport to the site.
- Agents for Summix Ltd/Pye Homes made comments on the adequacy of the SA report and the extent to which it met the requirements of the SEA Regulations. The comments were reviewed and future iterations of the SA Report were structured in a way that helped demonstrate compliance with the Regulations.

- Option F of the Local Plan considered the merits of development next to major urban areas. A number of responses objected to the fact that Oxford and Reading had not been separately appraised. At the time the Council responded that the sites available on the edge of Reading were not considered to be strategic but, following further consideration, later iterations of the SA did separately appraise growth on the edge of Oxford and Reading.

Regulation 18: Final Publication Version (First), September 2017

The SA of the Final Publication (first) Local Plan was subject to consultation from 11 October 2017 to 22 November 2017. The consultation was extended so that responses received before 30 November 2017, were accepted as duly made. Representations were received from 35 organisations/members of the public.

Comments at this stage included the following:

- Natural England queried the treatment of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land in the SA and site selection process. It was confirmed that this had been considered under SA Objective 8 relating to land use and that the Council had also had regard to agricultural land quality in undertaking the assessment and selection of sites.
- Historic England requested that land adjacent to Culham Science Centre, Berinsfield, Chalgrove Airfield and Wheatley Campus have desk based archaeological assessments undertaken before the preparation of masterplans. The Council confirmed that heritage impact assessments had been undertaken for selected strategic sites and that the Local Plan required archaeological assessments to be undertaken for all strategic sites (note that STRAT4 of the adopted Local Plan requires a Heritage Impact Assessment and archaeological desk based assessment).
- Historic England also requested an archaeological assessment for a proposed housing allocation at Nettlebed (Joyce Grove) prior to development. SODC commissioned a Heritage Impact Assessment for proposed allocations, including this site which identifies the need for mitigation at the project stage. Policy ENV9 'Archaeology and Scheduled Monuments' in the adopted Local Plan identifies the need for planning applications to be accompanied by an appropriate archaeological desk-based assessment, or a field evaluation, where necessary.
- Chalgrove Parish Council and Chalgrove Airfield Action Group commented that the reasons for selecting preferred strategic sites and rejecting others set out in the SA Report were not fully explained. Subsequent iterations of the SA Report provided additional information in this respect.
- Chalgrove Parish Council and Chalgrove Airfield Action Group commented on the deliverability of the site (Land at Chalgrove Airfield) and cost implications of providing a new runway to accommodate Martin Baker Associates. Homes England advised that their objective is to retain Martin-Baker on site. The cost of the runway would be funded by the developer. Uncertainties in relation to the impact of the relocation of the runway were acknowledged in the SA.
- The Trustees of the Philmore Successor's Settlement said that the option of growth on the edge of Reading and edge of Oxford should be separately assessed. The Council undertook further assessment of spatial options which included separate assessment of growth at Reading and Oxford, including assessment of the site (Playhatch) promoted by the Trustees.
- The Trustees of the Philmore Successor's Settlement said that the figure of 3,750 which was proposed to meet Oxford's unmet needs was well below the figure of 4,950 dwellings identified as being necessary within South Oxfordshire by the Oxfordshire Growth Board. The revised draft Local Plan made provision for 4,950 dwellings to help meet the unmet needs of Oxford City.

- Culham Parish Council and a number of other responses said that the SA should have considered impacts on the Green Belt. Following further consideration, the SA was amended to acknowledge those sites that were in the Green Belt.
- Culham Parish Council and other parties said that the SA of the Culham site should have identified the potential for a significant negative effect because the site includes three listed buildings. The SA was amended accordingly.
- Representations submitted jointly on behalf of Bellway Homes Ltd, Pye Homes Ltd and Summix Ltd made detailed comments on the SA. This included a comment that the Council had failed to consider different combinations of strategic sites. The Council subsequently undertook additional work in this respect as part of the evidence base for the Local Plan.¹⁵
- A number of detailed comments were made in relation to the accuracy of the assessment of sites and later iterations of the SA reflected these were appropriate. For example, Gallagher Estates submitted a response in relation to its interests at Northfield and requested that the site boundary be amended to exclude Brasenose College's other landholdings to the east and south. The SA was amended accordingly.

Regulation 19: Final Publication Version (Second), January 2019

The SA of the Final Publication (Second) Local Plan was subject to consultation from 7 January 2019 to 18 February 2019. The SA Report (December 2018) and an addendum / errata (January 2019) were consulted on during this time. Representations were received from 33 organisations/members of the public.

Comments at this stage included the following:

- Natural England requested that additional work be undertaken in relation to the impacts of development at Land North of Bayswater Brook on Sidlings Copse and Pond Site of Special Scientific Interest. The Council undertook the additional work.
- Historic England commended on the potential for significant effects in relation to the landscape and historic environment at Culham. The Council prepared an updated Landscape Capacity Study to inform its response to these comments and the allocation was also amended.
- Oxfordshire County Council said that there was a high possibility of significant constraints in relation to cultural heritage to development at Harrington, Wick Farm, Lower Elsfeld, Northfield and Berinsfield and the SA should be revised to include information from the Historic Environment Record. The County Council also said that the SA should be amended to reflect significant challenges with regards to bus provision at Land North of Bayswater Brook. The SA Report was amended to reflect these points.
- A number of responses objected to the exclusion of sites recorded in the SA, e.g., a new village at Waterstock. The selection and rejection of sites was a matter for the Council and no amendments to the SA were made.
- Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd said the SA should have considered the role of Henley, Didcot, Thame and Wallingford and all other reasonable sites before allocating sites in the Green Belt. L&Q Estates and others said that the role of sites in Larger Villages should have been considered. The selection and rejection of sites was a matter for the Council and no amendments to the SA were made.

¹⁵ South Oxfordshire District Council (January, 2019) South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2034 Strategic Site Selection Background Paper, Part 2. Available at:

https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/dynamic_serve.jsp?ID=1069179780&CODE=D3B2955754B286C3CCA533EEE3AF0E71

Regulation 22: Submission Local Plan, March 2019

South Oxfordshire District Council submitted the Local Plan to the Secretary of State on Friday 29 March 2019. The SA Report (March 2019) was produced to accompany the Local Plan and included a summary of all consultation responses on the SA received prior to submission.

Consultation on Main Modifications, September 2020

MMs were published for consultation between 21 September and 2 November 2020. An addendum to the SA Report was published in September 2020. This Addendum screened the MMs for their significance to the SA.

Representations from 9 separate respondents to the SA Addendum accompanying the MMs were received.

One developer for an omission site in Goring objected to the consideration in the SA addendum of changes to Policy H4. Otherwise, the comments of objection largely concerned the SA's assessment of Policy STRAT7: Land at Chalgrove Airfield. A number of respondents disagreed with the conclusions of the assessment criteria, particularly regarding SA objectives 3 (access to facilities), 6 (transport), 8 (land use) and 13 (economic development).

Two respondents supported the SA's assessment conclusions. Highways England stated that they remain supportive of the inclusion of SA objective 6 (transport) and the conclusions of the assessment of policies INF1, TRANS4 and DES1. Another respondent agreed with the SA's overall conclusion that the proposed MMs do not impact on the previous conclusions of the SA.

It was concluded that the responses did not have any implications for the findings of the SA.

Inspectors Final Report, including Main Modifications, November 2020

The Local Plan was found sound by the Inspectors in his report dated 27 November 2020, which included minor changes to the MMs as consulted on. An Addendum to the SA Report (December 2020) screened the changes and confirmed that they were not significant in terms of the previous findings of the SA.

5. The Reasons for Choosing the Local Plan as Adopted in the Light of the Other Reasonable Alternatives Considered

5.1 Overview

SEA Regulation 12(2) requires that “an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated”. Information to be provided includes “an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with” SEA Regulations Schedule 2 (8)).

Guidance on SEA in relation to reasonable alternatives states:¹⁶ “Only reasonable, realistic and relevant alternatives need to be put forward. It is helpful if they are sufficiently distinct to enable meaningful comparisons to be made of the environmental implications of each.”

Collectively, the preferred plan components are referred to as the Preferred Development Option for the Local Plan. The findings of the appraisal of the Preferred Development Option and reasonable alternatives were reported in the SA Reports at each stage of Local Plan preparation and subject to public consultation.

The need to identify and appraise reasonable alternatives was considered for a number of topics that are outlined below. The reasonable alternatives considered are summarised by topic below with an outline of why the alternative was included in the SA and an outline of the reasons for rejecting or selecting them.

Reasonable alternatives for the following topics were considered:

- the spatial strategy;
- the housing requirement;
- Meeting Oxford City’s unmet housing need;
- Employment land;
- Whether or not to plan for further growth at Didcot;
- Accommodating additional growth at Didcot;
- Accommodating growth at Wallingford;
- Strategic sites and alternative development scenarios;
- Options for accommodating Growth at Henley on Thames;
- Options for Housing at Nettlebed;
- Options for Employment at Didcot;

¹⁶ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2005) *A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive* Available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7657/practicalguides_ea.pdf

- Options for Travelling Communities.

5.2 The Reasons for Choosing the Local Plan and for Rejecting Reasonable Alternatives

Options for the Spatial Strategy

The Submission SA Report describes the evolution of the development requirements and Spatial Strategy, including the outcomes of the appraisal of associated preferred options and reasonable alternatives. **Table A.1 of Appendix A** of this Post Adoption Statement provides a summary of the options considered at different stages of the plan preparation process. The Submission SA Report sets out the reasons for selecting and rejecting the options considered. An outline summary of the reasons for identifying the options dealt with, for the selection of preferred options and for the rejection of reasonable alternatives is provided in **Table B.1 at Appendix B**.

The following spatial options were considered in the SA:

- A: Continue Core Strategy approach - 55% of homes at Didcot, of the remainder 60% to market towns and 40% to the larger villages.
- B: Science Vale and 'sustainable settlements' Focus on Science Vale area (60%) with the remainder across 'sustainable settlements' (40%) (likely to be Thame, Wallingford, Henley and some less constrained larger villages e.g., Benson, Berinsfield, Chalgrove, Chinnor, Cholsey, Crowmarsh Gifford, Sonning Common and Watlington).
- C: All in Science Vale - All additional housing in Science Vale.
- D: All in a single new settlement - All additional housing in a single new settlement in the shaded area of the district which is not in the Green Belt or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- Option E: Dispersal - Make land allocations for new homes at all towns, larger and smaller villages, and introduce a more permissive approach to infill development in the smallest villages (but still not hamlets or open countryside).
- F: Next to neighbouring major urban areas (Reading/Oxford GB)
- G: Raising Densities - Fitting in more growth on a smaller area of land by encouraging higher densities in new development. Core Strategy policy CSH2, sets a minimum of 25 dwellings per hectare, which is quite a low density. This was set to make sure that developments are planned sensitively to fit with their settings.
- H: Locating development in settlements where it could help fund projects.

The SA concluded that all of the options would help to deliver new housing and thus have a positive effect on SA objective 1. Some of the options would only benefit certain parts of the district as opposed to the district as whole (for example locating all growth at Science Vale or all in a single new settlement).

Overall, no one alternative option performed with overall significant positive effects, or would be capable of meeting the identified housing need, including the Council's share of un-met needs arising from Oxford. The Council's adopted option is to meet additional demand by principally focussing on Option B (Science Vale and Sustainable Settlements), but combining elements of options A (Core Strategy approach), E (dispersal), F (next to major urban areas - Oxford) G (raising densities) and H (to fund projects).

Housing Requirement

A range of alternative options in relation to the annual housing requirement were subject to the SA process and the reasons for including these, together with reasons for rejecting and selecting options are set out in **Table B.2 at Appendix B.**

A range of alternative options have been subject to the SA process, to assist with the decision making, Options A2 to E were assessed in the March 2017 SA Report accompanying the Second Preferred Options consultation. Option A1 represented the need suggested by the standard method for calculating local housing need set by MHCLG at that time:

- A1: 556 homes/annum;
- A2: 725 homes/annum;
- B: 750 homes/annum;
- C: 775 homes/annum;
- D: 825 homes/annum; and
- E: 965 homes/annum.

The SA concluded that performance of the options against the SA objectives was broadly similar. The Council's adopted option is Option C – 775 dwellings per annum because this aligns with the need identified in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment. Option A1 performed less well in relation to SA objective 1 'Housing' compared to the other options.

Options for Meeting Oxford City's Unmet Housing Need

Earlier iterations of the SA (most recently, the SA Report of the Publication Version of the Local Plan, October 2017) assessed four alternatives in regard to the district's role in helping to meet Oxford City's unmet housing need. These are set out in **Table B.3 at Appendix B.**

The Council had previously considered the following options for assisting Oxford City Council:

- Option 1: Do Nothing;
- Option 2: 3,750 new dwellings;
- Option 3: 5,000 new dwellings; and
- Option 4: 15,000 new dwellings.

The Council's adopted option was Option 3 – 4,950 dwellings, accepting this level of additional housing from the City would mean that, collectively across Oxfordshire, the Growth Deal commitments would be met in adopted or emerging plans in accordance with the Memorandum of Cooperation. The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) identifies that an uplift in housing need can be justified where funding is in place to promote and facilitate additional growth e.g., the Oxfordshire Growth Deal.

Options for Employment Land

The Submission SA Report set out the approach to employment land provision. The need to match the provision of employment land with planned housing growth led to a need for between 34.7 and 37.5 hectares of employment land in the district over the period 2011 to 2034. Reflecting the revised plan period of 2035 an MM increased the employment land provision to 39.1ha. No alternatives to this level of employment land were considered.

Growth at Didcot

Two options were considered in relation to growth at Didcot. The reasons for including these, together with reasons for rejecting and selecting options are outlined set out in **Table B.4** at **Appendix B**.

- 1. Make further allocations at Didcot on top of allocations from the Core Strategy 2012;
- 2. Make no further allocations at Didcot.

The Council's adopted option was to make further allocations at Didcot because this was consistent with Didcot's Garden Town status.

Options for Accommodating Growth at Didcot

A number of sites at Didcot were considered for allocation in the Local Plan over the course of the development of the Local Plan. The Council allocated sites that were considered suitable for housing. Development commenced on some of these prior to the Local Plan being adopted so they were removed from the SA. The options considered are set out in **Table B.5** at **Appendix B**.

The Council's adopted approach was to allocate the following new sites and to safeguard housing allocations from the Core Strategy:

- Hadden Hill (new allocation);
- Didcot Gateway (new allocation);
- Ladygrove East (safeguarded from Core Strategy);
- Didcot North East (safeguarded from Core Strategy);
- Great Western Park (safeguarded from Core Strategy);
- Vauxhall Barracks (safeguarded from Core Strategy);
- Orchard Centre Phase II (safeguarded from Core Strategy);
- Land South of A4130 (new allocation).

Options for development at Wallingford

The site option for development at Wallingford was the West of Wallingford site (known locally as 'Site B') that was allocated in the Core Strategy. The West of Wallingford site was the only option assessed to meet the growth needs of Wallingford, as other housing sites in Wallingford had been permitted through the planning application and appeals process, and were, therefore, not subject to SA. This site was added at MM stage and the Addendum to the SA appraised the option.

West of Wallingford was chosen as an allocated site to reflect its status as an allocated site in the Core Strategy. The site is sustainable and can help meet the housing needs of the Wallingford. No site options for meeting the growth needs of Wallingford were rejected. Further allocations at Wallingford could come forward through the Neighbourhood Planning process.

Strategic sites and alternative delivery scenarios

It was identified early on in the Local Plan process that a significant number of homes would be delivered at the Market Towns and Larger Villages through neighbourhood plans being prepared by Town and Parish Councils. Given this, the district council focussed its search on larger, more strategic development sites. The level of growth that could be considered by Town and Parish Councils through the neighbourhood planning process had been raised during the examination of the Core Strategy and the Inspector concluded that the

775 homes allocated to Thame was an appropriate number for the community to consider through the neighbourhood planning process.

Following an initial assessment of sites, the Council decided not to consider the following sites further:

- Land north of Tame Road, North Weston;
- Land south of Great Western Park, Didcot;
- Palmers Riding Stables;
- Land East of Caversham Park Road, Playhatch; and
- Reading Golf Club.

Details regarding the reasons for rejection can be found in Table B7 in Appendix B.

In order to inform the site selection process, the Council also considered a number of delivery scenarios involving combinations of a shortlist of strategic sites.

The options considered where:

- Scenario 1 (In line with Oct 2017 plan) – Comprised of Chalgrove Airfield, Culham, Wheatley and Berinsfield strategic sites;
- Scenario 2 Maximise Edge of Oxford sites and Regeneration – Comprised of Thornhill, Northfields, Grenoble Road, Wick Farm/Lower Elsfield combined site, Wheatley and Berinsfield strategic sites;
- Scenario 3A Science Vale and Oxford unmet need met on specific sites adjacent to Oxford – Comprised of Grenoble Road, Culham, Wheatley and Berinsfield;
- Scenario 3B Science Vale and Oxford unmet need met on specific sites adjacent to Oxford – Comprised of Thornhill, Northfields, Culham, Wheatley and Berinsfield;
- Scenario 3C Science Vale and Oxford unmet need met on specific sites adjacent to Oxford – Comprised of Thornhill, Wick Farm/Lower Elsfield combined site, Culham, Wheatley and Berinsfield;
- Scenario 4A Maximise non-green belt sites and Regeneration-full delivery – Comprised of Harrington, Chalgrove and Berinsfield;
- Scenario 4B Maximise non-green belt sites and Regeneration-full delivery – Comprised of Harrington, Chalgrove and Berinsfield;
- Scenario 5: Preferred Delivery Scenario: Grenoble Road, Northfield, Wick Farm/Lower Elsfield, Chalgrove, Culham, Wheatley and Berinsfield.

Scenario 5 was identified at a later stage than Scenarios 1 to 4 and sought to address delivery concerns that were identified on a number of large strategic allocations. The scenario was selected because it offered an effective solution to housing delivery that can be justified.

The reasons for selecting and rejecting these delivery scenarios are outlined in **Table B.6** at **Appendix B**.

Options for Strategic Sites

The Council considered a number of strategic sites and details of the sites are provided in **Table 5.1** below:

Table 5.1 Alternative Strategic Sites

Site Name	Assumptions in relation to Development
Chalgrove Airfield	3,000 dwellings and associated facilities, including 2 primary schools, secondary school including sixth form – (includes relocation of Ickniel Community College), health centre, sports and cultural facilities, supermarket/local shops/café, 5ha of office and employment space, associated infrastructure improvements, including Stadhampton bypass, Cuxham bypass and Chiselhampton bypass.
Land Adjacent to Culham Science Centre (Culham Science Village)	3,500 dwellings, employment land, 2 primary schools and secondary school, GP surgery, retail floorspace.
Harrington (Junction 7 / M40)	6,500 dwellings of which 3,850 could be developed within the plan period, 5.6ha of employment land, primary and secondary schools, retail floorspace, public transport interchange/hub.
Lower Elsfield	1,500 dwellings, school, Local Centre and community facilities, potential to extend existing Oxford City bus service into the site.
Wick Farm	1,400 dwellings, Primary School. A care facility, student accommodation and off-site hospital car parking are also proposed, as is a cemetery.
Lower Elsfield / Wick Farm Combined Site	<p>Scheme put forward by the site promoters based on 2,900 dwellings providing 2 form entry primary school, including early years provision, a local centre or contributions towards the improvement of adjoining off-site community facilities and services at Barton and sufficient contributions towards primary health care services, student accommodation, care home, open space, including Country Park. Note that the site promoters presented a range of schemes to the Council, including one based on 3,250 dwellings based on the same developable area. The quantum of housing that might be provided on site would not impact on the results of the SA.</p> <p>Alternative scheme based on a reduced site area identified by the Council to provide approximately 1,100 dwellings, a 2 form entry primary school, including early years provision, a local centre or contributions towards the improvement of adjoining off-site community facilities and services at Barton, sufficient contributions towards primary health care services.</p>
Thornhill	875 dwellings, employment (medical research hub) and park and ride extension.
Grenoble Road	3,000 dwellings, extension to Oxford Science Park, land for provision of new Park and Ride site (Sandford), primary school and technical college. Potential contribution to re-opening of Cowley Branch line to passenger traffic.
Northfield	2,000 dwellings, school, local centre and potential to enable opening of Cowley Branch line to passenger traffic.
Land East of Caversham Park (Playhatch)	1,000 dwellings. Appraised on the basis that it could support a Primary School and community facility if required.
Reading Golf Club	479 dwellings. Appraised on the basis that it a residential scheme.
Hagbourne Fields – south of Great Western Park Didcot	1,000 dwellings. Appraised on the basis that the site could support a community facility and primary school if required.
Land at Wheatley Campus	At least 300 dwellings, retail floorspace, retention of quantum of existing sport pitches.

Site Name	Assumptions in relation to Development
Palmers Riding Stables	300 dwellings. Appraised on the basis that it is a residential scheme.
Land at North Weston	1,200 dwellings. Appraised on the basis that (given its size) the scheme would support a community facility and Primary School if required.
Berinsfield	1,700 dwellings, employment land, primary school, new expanded premises for Abbey Woods Academy, retail floorspace and new Health Facility. New development would fund a regeneration package to deliver new premises for existing uses (including Children's Centre and a new community hub building).

The Council's preferred option was to include the following sites as strategic allocations in the Local Plan:

- Chalgrove Airfield;
- Land Adjacent to Culham Science Centre (Culham Science Village);
- Lower Elsfield / Wick Farm;
- Grenoble Road;
- Northfield;
- Land at Wheatley Campus;
- Berinsfield.

Table B.7 at Appendix B sets out the reasons for selecting and rejecting each of the strategic sites that were considered over the course of the preparation of the Local Plan.

Options for Accommodating Growth at Henley on Thames

The following alternatives for Henley have been assessed against the SA Framework:

- Option 1 Do Nothing, No Further Growth; and
- Option 2 Allow Further Growth.

Table B.8 at Appendix B sets out the reasons for selecting and rejecting the options. Option 2 was the Council's adopted option. Development at this location will help to strengthen the existing employment and services available. It also provides the opportunity to contribute towards meeting the housing needs of the district. Affordability is a key issue in the town and the provision of additional development will bring wider benefits.

Options for Housing at Nettlebed

Nettlebed is the smallest of the Larger Villages in the district. The community had decided not to produce a NDP and subsequently the Local Plan allocated sites. The options considered and the reasons for selecting and rejecting them are set out in **Table B.9 at Appendix B**.

The allocated sites include Joyce Grove, which comprises a substantial Grade II listed house and outbuildings within a parkland setting. Given this, it would not be suitable for new-build housing but it is considered that there is the potential to re-use and sympathetically convert existing buildings to provide some new homes.

Options for Employment at Didcot

The option of allocating employment land at Didcot was considered in the SA and **Table 5.2** below provides details of the options considered and the outcome.

Table 5.2 Outline Reasons for the Selection and Rejection of Options for Employment Land at Didcot

Site Name and Details	Reason for Inclusion	Reason for Selection/Rejection
Southmead Industrial Estate, Didcot: 2.9ha	The 2015 Employment Land Review (ELR) recommended sites within the Didcot cluster (C3) at Southmead Industrial Estate. Table 5-6 of the 2015 ELR identified 2.9ha of undeveloped land within the cluster at the existing policy designation of DID9. These two sites were therefore carried forward.	Selected: The ELR recommendations are met through carrying forward Core Strategy sites and the cross boundary use of 6.5ha within Vale of White Horse District Council.

Options for Travelling Communities

The SA considered a number of site options to meet future needs of Travelling communities in the district (Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople). Table 7.17 of the SA Report (March 2019) sets out all of the sites that were identified in a study commissioned by the Council.¹⁷ Not all of the sites identified were considered to be reasonable alternatives for the purpose of the SA, e.g., because they were not suitable or available. The sites that were considered to be reasonable alternatives and the reasons for rejecting and selecting options are outlined in **Table B.10** at **Appendix B**.

The adopted approach was to make provision for additional pitches as part of allocated sites at Didcot North East, Chalgrove Airfield and Culham Science Village. Accordingly, provision is made for three small sites, suitable for family groups that are easier to manage and have less impact on infrastructure.

5.3 Summary

Overall, the adopted Local Plan reflects the selected options following the consideration of the reasonable alternatives during each stage of its preparation, taking into account the evidence base for the Local Plan, engagement and assessment including SA. The adopted Local Plan also reflects the MMs put forward by the Inspector and appended in the final Report. The MMs include amendments to some site allocations and designations, as well as changes to policy wording and supporting text. These are all deemed to be necessary to ensure that the Local Plan provides a sound and legally compliant Local Plan for the district.

The Local Plan makes provision for at least 23,550 new homes, 10 permanent pitches for Gypsies and Travellers, 39.1 ha of employment land and 31,140 sqm(net) of retail floorspace to meet the needs of the district in the plan period. The preferred spatial strategy involves:

- Focusing major new development in Science Vale including Didcot Garden Town and Culham so that this area can play an enhanced role in providing homes, jobs and services with improved transport connectivity;

¹⁷ SODC (April 2015) Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Delivery of Pitches Report. Available at: http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/dynamic_serve.jsp?ID=1038255650&CODE=DEBC6A309FBCBBF6AEAF5EA6F25713FC

- Providing for major development at Chalgrove and Berinsfield, including necessary infrastructure and community facilities;
- Making provision for 4,950 homes to help meet Oxford City's unmet needs, including amendments to the Green Belt on the edge of Oxford;
- Supporting and enhancing the economic and social dependencies between towns and villages with the district;
- Supporting the roles of Henley, Thame and Wallingford by maintaining and improving the attractiveness of their town centres through measures that include environmental improvements and mixed-use developments and by providing new homes, jobs, services and infrastructure;
- Supporting and enhancing the roles of the larger villages (Benson, Berinsfield, Chalgrove, Chinnor, Cholsey, Crowmarsh Gifford, Goring, Nettlebed, Sonning Common, Watlington, Wheatley and Woodcote) as local service centres;
- Supporting smaller and other villages by allowing for limited amounts of housing and employment to help secure the provision and retention of services;
- Protecting and enhancing the countryside and particularly those areas within the two AONBs and Oxford Green Belt by ensuring that outside towns and villages any change relates to very specific needs such as those of the agricultural industry or enhancement of the environment.

In the Council's view the Local Plan, as adopted, provides the framework for contributing to sustainable development across the district and offers significant opportunities to realise the Council's vision for South Oxfordshire District. It reflects a rigorous process of evidence gathering, assessment, consultation and independent examination.

6. Monitoring

6.1 Overview

The SEA Regulations (17 (1)) set out that *“The responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying any unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action”*. The Regulations are clear that it is not necessary to monitor everything. Instead, monitoring should focus on significant effects.

Government guidance¹⁸ states that details for monitoring the significant effects of implementing a local plan must be included in the SA report, the post adoption statement or in the local plan itself. The guidance also states that the monitoring results should be reported in the local planning authority’s monitoring report. Monitoring the adopted Local Plan for sustainability effects can help to answer questions such as:

- Were the SA’s predictions of sustainability effects accurate?
- Is the Local Plan contributing to the achievement of desired SA objectives?
- Are mitigation measures performing as well as expected?
- Are there any adverse effects? Are these within acceptable limits, or is remedial action desirable?

6.2 The Local Plan Monitoring Framework

Section 8.6 of the SA Report (March 2019) set out the requirements for monitoring in relation to the SA and the opportunity to integrate monitoring of the Local Plan with the requirements for monitoring in relation to the SA. A number of MMs (MM6, MM68, MM69, MM70, MM71, MM73, MM74, MM77) included changes to, and the addition of new monitoring indicators within the monitoring framework.

The revised framework was reviewed in the Addendum to the SA (September 2020) to assess the extent to which the proposed or amended indicators align with the SA Objectives. The results of the exercise are set out at **Appendix C** of this PAS. This shows the monitoring framework, including changes made through the MMs and how they align with the SEA Regulations.

¹⁸ MHCLG (2015) Planning Practice Guidance: Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal, Paragraph: 025 Reference ID: 11-025-20140306

Appendix A

Summary of the SA and links to the development of the Local Plan

Table A.1 Summary of the SA and Links to the Development of the Local Plan

Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
Regulation 18: Refined Options, February 2015	Interim SA Refined Options, February 2015	<p>The SA appraised the following spatial options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option A: Continue to use the Core Strategy distribution strategy • Option B: Science Vale focus plus ‘sustainable settlements’ • Option C: All in Science Vale • Option D: All growth in a single new settlement • Option E: Dispersal • Option F: Next to neighbouring major urban areas • Option G: Raising densities • Option H: Locating development in particular settlements where it could help fund projects. <p>A range of potential significant positive and negative effects were identified in the SA. For example, allocating development in the towns and larger villages would help promote existing and new small firms and in turn enhance the rural economy (SA objective 13). The SA concluded that Option F would result in a major incursion in the Green Belt and a significant negative effect was identified on this basis. The SA included the Council’s conclusion that option C (focussing all development in Science Vale) was the least appropriate distribution option because of the existing commitments to high growth in and around Didcot and because there were other places within the district that would benefit from additional housing growth.</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA considered the spatial options further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council’s preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA tested the following options for housing growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Additional housing figures on top of current Core Strategy: 3,100 b) Additional housing figures on top of current Core Strategy: 3,600



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<p>c) Additional housing figures on top of current Core Strategy: 5,100.</p> <p>No significant effects were identified at this stage, other than in relation to SA objective 17 which relates to community involvement, on the basis that the Council was consulting on the options.</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA considered the housing target further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA considered the following options for accommodating housing growth:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Science Vale area in South Oxfordshire; b. the market towns and larger villages; and c. the smaller villages. <p>The SA stated that Option A would take account of existing policy designations such as Green Belt and Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and a significant positive effect was identified under SA objective 8 (efficiency in the use of land). Significant negative effects were identified for Option C as allocating all additional housing to smaller villages may place development in some settlements where no or few services exist. This would increase the need to travel, increase pollution from vehicles and noise (SA objective 5 relating to environmental protection and SA objective 6 on to travel choice).</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA considered the spatial options further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA appraised sites in a number of locations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benson • Chinnor • Cholsey • Crowmarsh Gifford • Goring • Nettlebed.



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<p>The potential for significant positive effects was identified for sites in relation to provision of housing (SA objective 1). The potential for significant negative effects were identified for sites in Benson in relation to health and wellbeing (SA objective 4) because of noise from RAF Benson. Potential significant negative effects were identified at Benson in relation to historic environment (SA objective 9) because sites were within areas of archaeological potential and SA objective 11 on flood risk. Other potential significant negative effects identified included those for sites at Crowmarsh Gifford, Goring and other settlements on SA objective 8 'landscape' because some sites were adjacent to or within the Chilterns AONB. The SA identified a range of mitigation measures and suggested additional technical work to assess the capacity of sites.</p> <p>Later iterations of the Local Plan and SA reconsidered the need for allocations in the Local Plan and the potential role of NDPs in identifying sites. Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA appraised two potential sites for Gypsies and Travellers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A former tyre transfer station located on the A40 on the northern edge of Oxford; and • A former scrapyards on Menmarsh Road, Worminghall near Waterperry. <p>No significant environmental effects were identified in relation to these sites.</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA considered the provision of sites further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p>
<p>Regulation 18: Preferred Options, June 2016</p>	<p>SA Report of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan Preferred Options, June 2016</p>	<p>The SA included an appraisal of the Local Plan Strategic Objectives against the SA objectives. This identified a number of significant positive and negative effects associated with the Local Plan Objectives. Local Plan objective 1.4, for example, sought to focus growth in Science Vale and the SA identified the potential for significant negative effects (acknowledging some uncertainty) in relation to SA objectives 5 (environmental protection), 9 (historic environment), 10 (climatic factors), 11 (flood risk) and 12 (waste). The strategic objectives were subsequently amended, and later iterations of the SA re-appraised these.</p> <p>The SA presented the appraisal of strategic options (A to H) that was included in the February 2015 report. In response to comments and more detailed work that the Council undertook since the 2015 work the Council indicated that it had broadly retained Option A (the Core Strategy approach), and incorporated elements of Option B (Science Vale and 'Sustainable Settlements') and Option D (all growth in a new settlement) and this was appraised as the preferred option.</p> <p>The SA identified the potential for a range of significant positive and negative effects across the options considered, for example significant positive effects were identified for Option A: Allocating development in the towns and larger villages because this would help promote existing and new small firms and in turn enhance the rural economy (SA objective 13). Significant negative effects were identified in relation to Option E 'Dispersal' in relation to SA objectives 3 (accessibility to services and facilities), 4 (health and</p>



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<p>wellbeing) and 6 (travel choice and accessibility) because this might place development in settlements where no or few services exist. Similar issues were raised in relation to locating development in a new settlement (Option D) because new services and facilities planned on site might take some time to be delivered.</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA considered the spatial options further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA tested the following options for housing growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 3100 - 725 homes/annum - Lower end of OAN 14,500 b) 3600 - 750 homes/annum - Committed economic growth OAN c) 5100 - 825 homes/annum - Upper end of OAN d) 6500 - 965 homes/annum - Full affordable need. <p>Options a) to c) were considered in the SA Report (2015). Option d) was a new option.</p> <p>A number of potential significant negative effects were identified in relation to Option d) including potential effects in relation to SA objective 8 on land use because of the greater need for land-take associated with the option.</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA considered the housing target further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The following options were considered in relation to meeting Oxford City's unmet need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do Nothing 2. 3,750 new dwellings 3. 15,000 new dwellings. <p>The SA concluded that the provision of 15,000 new dwellings on top of South Oxfordshire's determined housing need would result in a range of significant negative effects, including against SA objective 5 (environmental protection), 7 (biodiversity), 8 (land-use), 9 (historic environment).</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA considered the options further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p>



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<p>The following options were again included in relation to the location of development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Science Vale area in South Oxfordshire; b. the towns and larger villages; and c. the smaller villages. <p>The SA concluded that Option A would have significant positive effects on SA objective 8 (land use) because the option took account of existing designations (Green Belt and AONB). Option C would have significant negative effects in relation to SA objective 5 (environmental protection) and SA objective 6 (travel choice).</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA considered the spatial options further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>Two options were considered in relation to further growth at Didcot:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. allocate further housing at Didcot on top of allocations from the Core Strategy 2012 2. allocate no further housing at Didcot. <p>No significant positive or negative effects were identified in relation to Option 1. Option 2 'no further growth at Didcot' was considered to provide a range of significant positive effects because there would be no effects over and above those associated with new development.</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA considered the options for growth at Didcot further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA considered seven strategic sites:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chalgrove airfield 2. Harrington (Junction 7 / M40) 3. Culham Science Village 4. Lower Elsfield 5. Wick Farm



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<p>6. Thornhill</p> <p>7. Grenoble Road.</p> <p>The SA identified a range of significant positive and negative effects associated with each of the sites. All of the sites were judged to have a significant positive effect in relation to housing (SA objective 1). Significant negative effects identified varied across sites but included the potential for significant negative effects associated with options in relation to biodiversity (SA objective 7), land use (SA objective 8), heritage (SA objective 9) and flood risk (SA objective 11).</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA considered strategic site options further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council’s preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA Report included an appraisal of some policies included in the draft Local Plan but excluded some policies from the SA on the basis that they had previously been assessed in the SA of the Core Strategy. Later iterations of the SA considered all of the policies included in the Local Plan.</p> <p>Land at Wheatley Campus and Culham No. 1 site where separately appraised (i.e. they were not assessed alongside the strategic sites). A significant positive effect was identified in relation to housing (SA objective 1) for both sites. At this stage in the process, the SA concluded that there were no significant negative effects associated with the development of Wheatley Campus. A significant positive effect was identified in relation to SA objective 6 (travel choice and accessibility) for Culham No. 1 because of the existing railway station. Significant negative effects identified at Culham No. 1 included the loss of some greenfield land (SA objective 8 on land use).</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA assessed these sites alongside other strategic site options in order to ensure compliance with the SEA Regulations and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council’s preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p>
<p>Regulation 18: Second Preferred Options, March 2017</p>	<p>SA Report of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan Preferred Options 2, March 2017</p>	<p>The SA Report appraised the vision for the Local Plan against the SA objectives, identifying potential significant positive effects across all of the SA objectives.</p> <p>The SA Report appraised the Local Plan strategic objectives. A range of significant positive and negative effects were identified. The significant negative effects identified in the SA were in relation to potential impacts of development on the environment and resource use, including the potential for significant negative effects (acknowledging some uncertainty) in relation to SA objectives 5 (environmental protection), 9 (historic environment), 10 (climatic factors), 11 (flood risk) and 12 (waste). The SA concluded that the Local Plan objectives also offer mitigation as they seek to protect the environment and to provide development in appropriate locations</p> <p>The SA Report considered the strategic options (A-H) that had been considered in previous iterations. The SA identified the potential for a range of significant positive and negative effects, for example significant positive effects were identified for Option A: Allocating</p>



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<p>development in the towns and larger villages because this would help promote existing and new small firms and in turn enhance the rural economy (SA objective 13). Significant negative effects were identified in relation to Option E 'Dispersal' in relation to SA objectives 3 (accessibility to services and facilities), 4 (health and wellbeing) and 6 (travel choice and accessibility) because this might place development in settlements where no or few services exist. Similar concerns were raised in relation to locating development in a new settlement (Option D) because new services and facilities planned on site might take some time to be delivered. The SA report also appraised a refined option based on Option A (Core Strategy Approach, Option B (Science Vale and sustainable settlements and Option E (dispersal). The SA concluded that this option would support Science Vale (SA objective 14), and would help sustain smaller settlements with significant positive effects identified against SA objectives 1 (housing), 3 (access to facilities and 6 (travel choice). The potential for significant negative effects was identified in relation to a number of SA objectives, including loss of greenfield land and impacts on landscape (SA objective 8 land use) and SA objective 9 (heritage).</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA considered the spatial options further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA tested the following options for housing growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 3100 - 725 homes/annum - Lower end of OAN 14,500 b. 3600 - 750 homes/annum - Committed economic growth OAN c. 4950 – 775 homes/annum – Mid-point Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMAA) d. 5100 - 825 homes/annum - Upper end of OAN e. 6500 - 965 homes/annum - Full affordable need. <p>Option c) was a new option. The other options were considered in the SA Report (2016).</p> <p>The SA concluded that options D and E would have a significant positive effect in relation to housing (SA objective 1). Significant negative effects were identified in relation to both options for SA objective 6 (travel choice and accessibility) because of the potential increase in additional vehicle use. The SA also concluded that Option E would result in significant negative effects in relation to SA objective 3 (access to facilities), SA objective 4 (health and wellbeing), SA objective 5 (environmental protection), SA objective 7 (biodiversity), SA objective 8 (land use) and SA objective 9 (historic environment).</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA considered the housing target further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The following options were considered in relation to meeting Oxford City's unmet need:</p>



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do Nothing 2. 3,750 new dwellings 3. 5,000 new dwellings 4. 15,000 new dwellings. <p>Option 3 was a new option. The other options were considered in the SA Report (2016). The SA concluded that the potential impacts of Options 2 and 3 would be very similar. The SA concluded that the provision of 15,000 new dwellings on top of South Oxfordshire’s determined housing need would result in a range of significant negative effects, including SA objective 5 (environmental protection), 7 (biodiversity), 8 (land-use), 9 (historic environment). Later iterations of the SA considered the options further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council’s preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The options for growth at Didcot considered in the SA Report (2016) were also included in this SA Report, i.e.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. allocate further housing at Didcot on top of allocations from the Core Strategy 2012 2. allocate no further housing at Didcot. <p>A range of potential significant positive effects were identified in relation to Option 1 ‘Allocate further housing at Didcot.’ These included significant positive effects in relation to SA objective 6 (travel choice and accessibility), 13 (Employment), 14 (Science Vale) and 15 (skilled workforce). Option 2 ‘no further growth at Didcot’ was considered to provide a range of positive effects against most of the SA objectives because there would be no effects over and above those associated with new development.</p> <p>Three sites were appraised at Didcot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hadden Hill • Didcot A • Didcot Gateway. <p>The SA identified a range of potential significant positive effects, for example all options, with the exception of Hadden Hill, would deliver significant positive effects in relation to SA objective 1 (housing) and SA objective 14 (Science Vale) as they would deliver a significant amount of additional housing. The potential for significant negative effects in relation to SA objective 4 (health and wellbeing) was identified for the Didcot A site because of the need to address contamination on site and proximity to an active natural gas power plant at the Didcot B site.</p>



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<p>Later iterations of the SA considered the options for growth at Didcot further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA considered seven strategic sites, which were the same as those included in the SA Report (2016), the sites were presented in the 2017 SA Report as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chalgrove Airfield • Harrington (Junction 7 / M40 Junction 7 M40) • Lower Elsfield • Wick Farm • Thornhill • Grenoble Road • Culham Science Village Options. <p>The SA identified a range of significant positive and negative effects associated with each of the sites. All of the sites were judged to have a significant positive effect in relation to housing (SA objective 1), although the potential for significant negative effects were also identified for some sites because of the isolated location of sites. Significant negative effects identified varied across sites but included concerns about the potential for significant negative effects associated with options in relation to biodiversity (SA objective 7), land use (SA objective 8), heritage (SA objective 9) and flood risk (SA objective 11). Later iterations of the SA considered strategic site options further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The principle of development at Berinsfield was appraised separately in the SA. Two options were considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do Nothing • Inset Berinsfield from the Green Belt. <p>The SA concluded that the 'do nothing' option for Berinsfield would have either negative or neutral effects. The SA concluded that inseting Berinsfield from the Green Belt would have a number of significant positive effects in relation to the following SA objectives: the provision of housing (SA objective 1), Access to facilities (SA objective 3), health and wellbeing (SA objective 4) and Science Vale (SA objective 14). Later iterations of the SA considered this site alongside the other strategic sites.</p>



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<p>The SA included an appraisal of land at Wheatley Campus. The SA concluded that allocating Wheatley campus for residential development would have a significant positive effect in relation to meeting local housing needs (SA objective 1). No significant negative effects were identified.</p> <p>The following alternatives for Henley-on-Thames were appraised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do Nothing, No Further Growth • Allow Further Growth. <p>No significant negative effects were identified. The potential for significant positive effects in relation to education and skills (SA objective 15) were identified for 'Allow Further Growth.' Note that in reporting this conclusion account is taken of the fact that the SA Report (2017) had presented the results for 'No Further Growth' under 'Allow Further Growth' and vice versa. Later iterations of the SA considered the options for growth at Henley and addressed this error. Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA considered options for growth at Henley-on-Thames further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>At the time the SA was prepared two villages were not preparing NDPs, Crowmarsh Gifford and Nettlebed and the SA considered potential site allocations for both settlements. The effects identified included potential significant negative effects for some sites at Nettlebed in relation to SA objectives 8 ('Land use') and 9 ('Historic environment'). Other potential significant negative effects identified included those for sites at Crowmarsh Gifford and sites in other settlements on SA objective 8 'landscape' because some sites were adjacent to or within the Chilterns AONB.</p> <p>Later iterations of the Local Plan and SA reconsidered the need for allocations in the Local Plan and the potential role of NDPs in identifying sites. Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA appraised options for employment allocations at Crowmarsh Gifford and Didcot. No significant effects (positive or negative) were identified. Later iterations of the SA appraised options in relation to employment land provision. Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA included an appraisal of all policies included in the draft Local Plan. This included detailed recommendations in relation to mitigation and an indication of where mitigation had been included in relevant policies. A number of potential significant negative effects were identified, associated with the loss of areas of the Green Belt, potential impacts on the AONB and loss of agricultural land Grade 1, 2 and 3a (SA objective 5 environmental protection and SA objective 8 land use) arising from Policy STRAT1 which set out the overall strategy. The potential for significant positive effects was identified in relation to a range of SA objectives, including SA</p>



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<p>objective 1 (in relation to the provision of housing), SA objective 3 (access to facilities) and SA objective 15 relating to the provision of education and skills.</p>
<p>Regulation 18: Final Publication Version (First), October 2017</p>	<p>SA Report of the Publication Version South Oxfordshire Local Plan, September 2017</p>	<p>This SA Report included an update to the review of plans and programmes and baseline analysis because of the length of time between production of the original Scoping Report and to ensure full compliance with the SEA Regulations.</p> <p>The SA Report provided an update to the SA of spatial options (A to H) and the refined option. A range of potential significant effects (positive and negative) were identified. Overall, no one alternative option performed with overall significant positive effects and so the Council's preferred option was a mixture of elements of options A (Core Strategy approach), B (Science Vale and sustainable settlements) and E (dispersal). Later iterations of the SA considered the spatial options further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA Report considered the following options for the amount of housing that should be planned for over the plan period (consistent with the options considered in the SA Report (March 2017):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 3,100 - 725 homes/annum; b) 3,600 - 750 homes/annum; c) 4,950- 775 homes/annum; d) 5,100 - 825 homes/annum; and e) 6,500 - 965 homes/annum. <p>A range of significant positive and negative effects were identified, for example significant negative effects were anticipated for all options in relation to land use (SA objective 8), recognising the need to develop on greenfield land, which would increase under each option.</p> <p>Significant negative effects were also anticipated in relation to SA objective 10 relating to climatic factors on the basis that new housing will result in Greenhouse gas emissions associated with construction and operational phases. These will increase as the amount of housing increases. However, the SA also recognised that new development provides the opportunity to provide energy efficient housing.</p> <p>The following options were considered in relation to meeting Oxford City's unmet need (consistent with the options considered in the SA Report (March 2017)):</p>



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do Nothing 2. 3,750 new dwellings 3. 5,000 new dwellings 4. 15,000 new dwellings. <p>The SA concluded that the option of 15,000 new dwellings could have significant negative effects against a number of objectives in the absence of mitigation. Reflecting the potential for significant negative effects on services, the environment and the economy associated with provision in the district at that level. A range of positive and negative effects were identified for the other options but these were not judged to be significant.</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA considered the options further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>Two options were considered in relation to further growth at Didcot:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. allocate further housing at Didcot on top of allocations from the Core Strategy 2012 2. allocate no further housing at Didcot. <p>The SA concluded that allowing further growth at Didcot would have a significant positive effect on SA objective 1 relating to housing provision. Further growth that is consistent with Garden Town principles would also have significant positive effects in relation to SA objective 3 (access to facilities) as it is assumed that green infrastructure and additional health facilities would be provided. A significant negative effect was identified in relation to SA objective 8 (land use) given that additional development will result in the loss of greenfield land and associated effects on the landscape. There was also potential for impact on the setting of the AONB. No further growth at Didcot could have a significant negative effect in relation to SA objective 1 as it would be counter to the planned expansion of the town and could mean that development would need to be accommodated elsewhere.</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA considered the options for growth at Didcot further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA assessed a number of options for accommodating growth at Didcot for potential inclusion in the Local Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hadden Hill – approximately 70 new homes; • Didcot A – approximately 270 new homes;



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Didcot Gateway – approximately 300 new homes; • Ladygrove East – 642 new homes; • Didcot North East - 2,030 new homes; • Great Western Park – 2,587 homes; • Vauxhall Barracks – 300 new homes; and • Orchard Centre Phase II – 300 new homes. <p>Didcot NE and Ladygrove East are located within 400m of a nationally/internationally designated site and a significant negative effect in relation to biodiversity was identified on this basis.</p> <p>The SA identified a range of potential significant positive effects, for example all options, with the exception of Hadden Hill, would deliver significant positive effects in relation to SA objective 1 (housing) and SA objective 14 (Science Vale) as they would deliver a significant amount of additional housing. A range of significant negative effects were also identified, for example the Great Western Park and Didcot NE sites would have a significant negative effect in relation to SA objective 8 because of the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land and landscape effects.</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA considered the options for allocating sites at Didcot further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA considered a number of strategic site options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chalgrove Airfield; • Harrington (Junction 7 / M40); • Lower Elsfield; • Wick Farm; • Thornhill; • Grenoble Road; • Culham Science Village; and



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northfield. <p>Northfield was a new site. The other sites had been appraised in previous iterations of the SA.</p> <p>The SA concluded that the options would give rise to a range of potential significant positive and negative effects. For example, SA objective 3 relates to access to facilities and, because all of the sites are strategic in nature and size, it could be expected that some facilities are provided on site to meet local needs. There was also potential for sites to be 'outward facing' and provide facilities that might serve the wider population, for example park and ride facilities or a new district centre. SA objective 7 relates to biodiversity and sites are scored on the basis of proximity to existing sites and features. The potential for significant negative effects, in the absence of mitigation, were identified for some sites because of their proximity to nationally designated sites.</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA considered strategic site options further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The principle of development at Berinsfield was appraised separately in the SA. Two options were considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do Nothing • Inset Berinsfield from the Green Belt. <p>The SA concluded that the 'do nothing' option for Berinsfield would have either negative or neutral effects. The SA concluded that inseting Berinsfield from the Green Belt would have a number of significant positive effects in relation to the following SA objectives: the provision of housing (SA objective 1), access to facilities (SA objective 3), employment (SA objective 13) and Science Vale (SA objective 14). As noted earlier, later iterations of the SA considered this site alongside the other strategic sites.</p> <p>The following alternatives for Wheatley Campus were appraised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1 Do Nothing • Option 2 Allocate Wheatley Campus for residential development in the Local Plan. <p>The SA concluded that the 'do nothing option' would have a mixture of positive effects and no significant effects. This reflects that Wheatley would still benefit from some housing through the continuation of existing policy, including enabling development close to existing health related facilities.</p> <p>The SA concluded that allocating Wheatley campus for residential development would have a number of significant positive effects, as it would help to provide housing to meet local needs (SA objective 1) and provide development in proximity to existing health related</p>



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<p>services (SA objective 4). However, the development of the site would result in the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land (Grade 2), which is assessed as having a significant negative effect in relation to SA objective 8 relating to land use.</p> <p>The potential for a significant negative effect under SA objective 9 relating to historic environment was identified because of the proximity of a Scheduled Ancient Monument.</p> <p>The following alternatives for Henley-on-Thames were appraised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do Nothing, No Further Growth • Allow Further Growth. <p>The SA concluded that allowing further growth could have negative effects associated with development in proximity to an AQMA. However, this could be mitigated to an extent by the existing public transport options available and opportunities to use walking and cycling links. The SA noted that existing allocations include measures to prevent harm to the environment so the 'do nothing' option would not have significant environmental effects. Allowing further growth at Henley would have uncertain environmental effects given the proximity of SSSI's and SAC's (SA objective 7), the AONB (SA objective 8) and the River Thames (SA objective 11 relating to flood risk). The potential for the loss of additional green field land would also have a negative impact on objective 8 relating to land use.</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA considered options for growth at Henley-on-Thames further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA considered options for housing at Nettlebed because a NDP was not being prepared for the settlement. Note that earlier iterations of the SA had considered options for sites in other settlements, but the intention was that NDPs would now be prepared for these settlements.</p> <p>The SA considered the following sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NET1: 0.8 ha site to the west of Priest Close • NET2: 0.6 ha site on either side of Bushes Lane, South of Elms Way • NET3: 1.3 ha site to the west and south of Nettlebed Service Station, Port Hill • NET4: 1.9 ha site part of field to the west of the Ridgeway, North of High Street • NET5: Land at Joyce Grove.



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<p>All of the Nettlebed sites were within 400m of a SSSI. A significant negative effect in respect of biodiversity (SA objective 7) was, therefore, identified for all sites. One of the sites (NET5 'Land at Joyce Grove) was identified as having a significant positive effect against SA objective 8 'land use' because it involved the use of previously developed land and buildings. NET5 includes 3 listed buildings so the potential for a significant negative effect was identified on that basis but the SA recognised that the re-use of the site would have longer term benefits.</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA considered options for growth at Nettlebed further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA included the appraisal of employment land at Didcot, two parcels of land at Southmead Industrial Estate (east and west). The western parcel amounted to about 0.3ha and the eastern parcel about 3ha. The western part of the site is within Flood Risk Zone 3 and the potential for a significant negative effect was identified in relation to SA objective 11 relating to flood risk. Significant positive effects were identified in relation to SA objective 13 relating to employment as the sites would deliver additional employment land. The sites fall within the Science Vale area so a significant positive effect in relation to SA objective 14 was identified.</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA considered options for employment allocations further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA Report considered a range of site options for Travelling Communities. The following sites were identified by the Council as reasonable alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Didcot NE (up to 4 pitches for Gypsies and travellers); • Newlands, 0.1ha Site with Potential for 1 Pitch; • Land South of Oxford Road (up to 12 pitches); • Ten Acre Caravan Park extension (5 pitches) • Chalgrove Airfield (3 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers; and • Land adjacent to Culham Science Centre (3 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers). <p>A range of potential significant positive and negative effects were identified across the sites. The potential for significant negative effects were identified in relation to SA objective 7 on biodiversity as the land at Culham Science Centre, Newlands and Didcot NE were within 400m of a nationally/internationally designated site. The Didcot NE site was appraised on the basis that it would result in the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land, a significant negative effect against SA objective 8.</p>



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<p>Later iterations of the SA considered the provision of sites for Travelling communities further and Section 5 of this report sets out the Council’s preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA Report also appraised the vision and strategic objectives for the Local Plan, along with proposed policies and allocations. The implementation of the proposed Local Plan policies was anticipated to have positive effects across all of the SA objectives. These effects were expected to be particularly significant in respect of housing (SA objective 1), access to facilities (SA objective 3), health and wellbeing (SA objective 4), and travel choice (SA objective 6). the economy (SA objectives 13), Science Vale SA objective 14 and Education and skills (SA objective 15). This reflected the likely socio-economic benefits associated with the delivery of housing, employment and community facilities, and services and infrastructure in the district over the plan period. It also reflected the strong framework provided by the plan policies that will help to conserve the district’s natural and built environment and resources.</p> <p>Despite the overall positive effects associated with the implementation of the policies contained in the Local Plan, significant negative effects were identified against many of the SA objectives including: biodiversity (SA objective 7), historic environment (SA objective 9) climatic factors (SA objective 10) and flood risk (SA objective 11). This principally reflected impacts associated with the construction and operation of new development including land take, resource use, emissions and loss of landscape character.</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA gave further consideration to the outcomes of the SA of these elements of the Local Plan.</p>
<p>Regulation 19: Final Publication Version (Second), January 2019</p>	<p>SA Report for the second Publication version of the Local Plan, December 2018</p>	<p>The SA Report provided an update to the SA of spatial options (A to H) and an amended combined option. This included separate consideration of growth on the edge of Reading and Oxford under Option F ‘next to major urban centres.’</p> <p>Reflecting on the earlier work, consultation comments and the SA, the district council developed a combined option taking in elements of options A (Core Strategy approach), B Science Vale and sustainable settlements) and E (dispersal). This combined new option was presented in the Refined Options document (February 2015). In preparing this revised version of the Draft Local Plan consideration was also given to the duty to co-operate and how best to accommodate some of Oxford’s growth needs. The Council’s preferred option is to meet additional demand by principally focussing on Option B (Science Vale and Sustainable Settlements),but combining elements of options A (Core Strategy approach), E (dispersal), F (next to major urban areas) G (raising densities) and H (to fund projects).</p> <p>A range of potential significant effects (positive and negative) were identified. Overall, no one alternative option performed with overall significant positive effects and so the Council’s preferred option was a mixture of elements of options as outlined above. Section 5 of this report sets out the Council’s preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA Report considered the following options for the amount of housing that should be planned for over the plan period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1: 556 homes/annum;



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A2: 725 homes/annum; • B: 750 homes/annum; • C: 775 homes/annum; • D: 825 homes/annum; and • E: 965 homes/annum. <p>Option A1 represented the need suggested by the Government’s standard method for calculating local housing need which was relevant at that time.</p> <p>A range of significant positive and negative effects were identified, for example significant negative effects were anticipated for all options in relation to land use (SA objective 8), recognising the need to develop on greenfield land, which would increase under each option.</p> <p>Significant negative effects were also anticipated in relation to SA objective 10 relating to climatic factors on the basis that new housing will result in greenhouse gas emissions associated with construction and operational phases. These will increase as the amount of housing increases. However, the SA also recognised that new development provides the opportunity to provide energy efficient housing.</p> <p>The following options were considered in relation to meeting Oxford City’s unmet need (consistent with the options considered in the SA Report (March 2017)):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do Nothing 2. 3,750 new dwellings 3. 5,000 new dwellings 4. 15,000 new dwellings. <p>The SA concluded that the option of 15,000 new dwellings could have significant negative effects against a number of objectives in the absence of mitigation. Reflecting the potential for significant effects on services, the environment and the economy associated with provision in the district at that level. A range of positive and negative effects were identified for the other options, but these were not judged to be significant.</p> <p>Section 5 of this report sets out the Council’s preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p>



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<p>Two options were considered in relation to further growth at Didcot:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. allocate further housing at Didcot on top of allocations from the Core Strategy 2012 2. allocate no further housing at Didcot. <p>The SA concluded that allowing further growth at Didcot would have a significant positive effect on SA objective 1 relating to housing provision. Further growth that is consistent with Garden Town principles would also have significant positive effects in relation to SA objective 3 relating to access to facilities as it is assumed that green infrastructure and additional health facilities would be provided. A significant negative effect was identified in relation to SA objective 8 (land use) given that additional development will result in the loss of greenfield land and associated effects on landscape. There was also potential for impact on the setting of the AONB. No further growth at Didcot could have a significant negative effect in relation to SA objective 1 as it would be counter to the planned expansion of the town and could mean that development would need to be accommodated elsewhere.</p> <p>Section 5 of this report sets out the Council’s preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA assessed a number of options for accommodating growth at Didcot for potential inclusion in the Local Plan. There was some changes to the sites considered in the September 2017 SA Report because development had started at some sites and it was therefore no longer appropriate to include these in the SA. The sites assessed were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Didcot A – approximately 270 new homes; • Ladygrove East – 642 new homes; • Didcot North East - 2,030 new homes; • Great Western Park – 2,587 homes; • Vauxhall Barracks – 300 new homes; and • Orchard Centre Phase II – 300 new homes. <p>The SA identified a range of potential significant positive effects, for example all options would deliver significant positive effects in relation to SA objective 1 (housing) and SA objective 14 (Science Vale) as they would deliver a significant amount of additional housing. A range of significant negative effects were also identified, for example the Great Western and Didcot NE sites would have a significant negative effect in relation to SA objective 8 because of the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land and landscape effects.</p>



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<p>The SA considered a number of strategic site options, including additional sites that had been identified since the last iteration of the SA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Berinsfield • Chalgrove Airfield • Land Adjacent to Culham Science Centre • Oxford Brookes University Campus Wheatley • Harrington (Land off junction 7 of the M40) • Land south of Grenoble Road (Promoted as South Oxford Science Village) • Lower Elsfield (Promoted as Land at Bayswater, adjacent to Barton Park) • Northfield • Thornhill (Land adjacent Thornhill Park and Ride) • Wick Farm • Land at Emmer Green (Known as Palmer’s Riding Stables, Emmer Green, Reading) • Land south of Great Western Park (Promoted as Hagbourne Fields) • Land off Thame Road, North Weston • Playhatch (Land east of Caversham Park Road, Reading) • Reading Golf Club. <p>The SA concluded that the options would give rise to a range of potential significant positive and negative effects. For example, SA Objective 3 relates to accessibility to facilities and because all of the sites are strategic in nature and size it could be expected that some facilities are provided on site to meet local needs. There was also potential for sites to be ‘outward facing’ and provide facilities that might serve the wider population, for example park and ride facilities or a new district centre. SA Objective 7 relates to biodiversity and sites are scored on the basis of proximity to existing sites and features. The potential for significant negative effects, in the absence of mitigation, were identified in relation to some sites because of proximity to nationally designated sites.</p>



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<p>Section 5 of this report sets out the Council’s preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>To inform the selection of sites, the Council considered a number of alternative delivery scenarios based on different combinations of shortlisted sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenario 1 In line with Oct 2017 plan – Comprised of Chalgrove Airfield, Culham, Wheatley and Berinsfield strategic sites delivering a total of 8,500 dwellings; • Scenario 2 Maximise Edge of Oxford sites and Regeneration – Comprised of Thornhill, Northfield, Grenoble Road, Wick Farm/Lower Elsfield combined site, Wheatley and Berinsfield strategic sites delivering a total of 9,911 dwellings; • Scenario 3A Science Vale and Oxford unmet need met on specific sites adjacent to Oxford –Comprised of Grenoble Road, Culham, Wheatley and Berinsfield delivering a total of 8,500 dwellings; • Scenario 3B Science Vale and Oxford unmet need met on specific sites adjacent to Oxford –Comprised of Thornhill, Northfield, Culham, Wheatley and Berinsfield delivering a total of 8,375 dwellings; • Scenario 3C Science Vale and Oxford unmet need met on specific sites adjacent to Oxford –Comprised of Thornhill, Wick Farm/Lower Elsfield combined site, Culham, Wheatley and Berinsfield delivering a total of 8,411 dwellings; • Scenario 4A Maximise non-green belt sites and Regeneration-full delivery – Comprised of Harrington, Chalgrove and Berinsfield delivering a total of 11,200 dwellings; • Scenario 4B Maximise non-green belt sites and Regeneration-full delivery – Comprised of Harrington, Chalgrove and Berinsfield delivering a total of 8,200 dwellings; • Scenario 5 Preferred delivery scenario: Grenoble Road, Northfield, Wick Farm/Lower Elsfield, Chalgrove, Culham, Wheatley and Berinsfield delivering a total of 14,600 dwellings. <p>Note that Scenario 4A and 4B were broadly similar but in scenario 4A Harrington was expected to provide 6,500 dwellings whilst in scenario 4B it was expected to provide 3,500 dwellings. Scenario 5 was introduced later once it became clear that the delivery outcomes for scenarios 1 – 4 may not provide the District with a sufficient housing requirement during the Plan period.</p> <p>SA Objective 1 relates to the provision of housing. Although the potential capacity of the scenarios varied considerably, given the amount of housing each could provide, all of the scenarios were appraised as making a significant positive contribution to this SA Objective. In reaching this conclusion, the SA recognised that not all of the housing identified in the scenarios would come forward within the plan period.</p>



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<p>A range of significant positive and negative effects were identified in the SA, reflecting the sites that made up each scenario. For example, all of the scenarios contain either the Chalgrove Airfield or the Wheatley site, therefore all of the scenarios would result in the redevelopment of a considerable amount of previously developed/brownfield land. The SA concluded that Scenario 1 contained both of these sites and therefore had the potential to see the redevelopment of more previously developed/brownfield land than any of the other scenarios.</p> <p>Section 5 of this report sets out the Council’s preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The following alternatives for Henley-on-Thames were appraised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do Nothing, No Further Growth; • Allow Further Growth. <p>The SA concluded that allowing further growth could have negative effects associated with development in proximity to an AQMA. However, this could be mitigated to an extent by the existing public transport options available and opportunities to use walking and cycling links. The SA noted that existing allocations include measures to prevent harm to the environment so the ‘do nothing’ option will not have significant environmental effects. Allowing further growth at Henley would have uncertain environmental effects given the proximity of SSSI’s and SAC’s (SA objective 7), the AONB (SA objective 8) and the River Thames (SA objective 11 relating to flood risk). The potential for the loss of additional green field land would also impact on objective 8 relating to land use.</p> <p>Section 5 of this report sets out the Council’s preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA considered options for housing at Nettlebed because an NDP was not being prepared for the settlement. Note that earlier iterations of the SA had considered options for sites in other settlements but the intention was that NDPs would now be prepared for these settlements.</p> <p>The SA considered the following sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NET1: 0.8 ha site to the west of Priest Close; • NET2: 0.6 ha site on either side of Bushes Lane, South of Elms Way; • NET3: 1.3 ha site to the west and south of Nettlebed Service Station, Port Hill; • NET4: 1.9 ha site part of field to the west of the Ridgeway, North of High Street; • NET5: Land at Joyce Grove.



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<p>All of the Nettlebed sites were within 400m of a SSSI. A significant negative effect in respect of biodiversity (SA objective 7) was, therefore, identified for all sites. One of the sites (NET5 'Land at Joyce Grove) was identified as having a significant positive effect against SA objective 8 'land use' because it involved the use of previously developed land and buildings. NET5 includes 3 listed buildings so the potential for a significant negative effect was identified on that basis but the SA recognised that the re-use of the site would have longer term benefits.</p> <p>Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA included the appraisal of employment land at Didcot, two parcels of land at Southmead Industrial Estate (east and west). The western parcel amounted to about 0.3ha and the eastern parcel about 3ha. The western part of the site is within Flood Risk Zone 3 and the potential for a significant negative effect was identified in relation to SA objective 11 relating to flood risk. Significant positive effects were identified in relation to SA objective 13 relating to employment as the sites would deliver additional employment land. The sites fall within the Science Vale area so the potential for a significant positive effect in relation to SA objective 14 was identified.</p> <p>The SA Report considered a range of site options for Travelling Communities. The following sites were identified by the Council as reasonable alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Didcot NE (up to 4 pitches for Gypsies and travellers); • Newlands, 0.1ha Site with Potential for 1 Pitch; • Land South of Oxford Road (up to 12 pitches); • Ten Acre Caravan Park extension (5 pitches); • Chalgrove Airfield (3 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers; and • Land adjacent to Culham Science Centre (3 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers). <p>A range of potential significant positive and negative effects were identified. The potential for significant negative effects were identified in relation to SA objective 7 on biodiversity as the land at Culham Science Centre, Newlands and Didcot NE were within 400m of a nationally/internationally designated site. The Didcot NE site was appraised on the basis that it would result in the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land, a significant negative effect against SA objective 8.</p> <p>Section 5 of this report sets out the Council's preferred option and reasons for selecting the option.</p> <p>The SA Report also appraised the vision and strategic objectives for the Local Plan, along with proposed policies and allocations. The implementation of the proposed Local Plan policies was anticipated to have positive effects across all of the SA objectives. These effects were expected to be particularly significant in respect of housing (SA objective 1), access to facilities (SA objective 3), health</p>



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
		<p>and wellbeing (SA objective 3 and 4), travel choice (SA objective 6) employment (SA objectives 13), Science Vale (SA objective 14) and education and education and skills (SA objective 15). This reflected the likely socio-economic benefits associated with the delivery of housing, employment and community facilities, services and infrastructure in the district over the plan period. It also reflected the strong framework provided by the plan policies that will help to conserve the district's natural and built environment and resources.</p> <p>Despite the overall positive effects associated with the implementation of the policies contained in the Local Plan, significant negative effects were identified against many of the SA objectives including biodiversity (SA objective 7). historic environment (SA objective 9) climatic factors (SA objective 10) and flood risk (SA objective 11). This principally reflected impacts associated with the construction and operation of new development including land take, resource use, emissions and loss of landscape character. The SA concluded that the Draft Local Plan includes policies which seek to manage these effects and in consequence, it is expected that significant adverse effects would be largely avoided, although some uncertainty remained.</p> <p>Later iterations of the SA gave further consideration to the outcomes of the SA of these elements of the Local Plan.</p>
Regulation 19: Final Publication Version (Second), January 2019	Addendum and errata to the Final Publication Version (Second), January 2019	<p>The purpose of this addendum was to update the material provided in the SA Report, December 2018. The updates related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Non-Technical Summary to ensure that it reflected the content of the main SA Report; • the main SA Report to ensure that it: reflected the most up to date baseline information, provided additional information on the consideration of reasonable alternatives relating to strategic sites and to address other more detailed matters, e.g. updates to references and table numbering.
Regulation 22: Submission Local Plan, March 2019	SA Report of the Submission version of the Local Plan, March 2019	<p>This version of the SA Report consolidated the material set out in the January 2019 Addendum Report and the SA Report dated December 2018. It also included a response to comments on those versions of the SA.</p>
Consultation on Main Modifications, September 2020	Addendum to SA Report, September 2020	<p>This addendum presented the findings of the SA of the MMs and updated the SA Report as necessary. The addendum also provided additional information in relation to the selection and rejection of strategic sites and corrected the reasons for rejecting development scenario options, addressing these and other points raised on the SA during the examination.</p>



Local Plan stage and Title	SA Stage	Key conclusions
Inspectors Final Report, including Main Modifications, December 2020	Final Addendum to SA Report, December 2020	This addendum presented the findings of the SA of the MMs (as amended by the Inspector) and confirmed that these did not impact on the findings of the SA. The addendum also summarised comments on the SA of the MMs and concluded that these did not impact on the findings of the SA.



Appendix B

Outline of Reasons for Selecting and Rejecting Options

Table B.1 Outline of Reasons for Selecting and Rejecting Spatial Options

Option	Reason for Including the Option in the SA	Reason for selecting/rejecting the option
<p>A: Continue Core Strategy approach - 55% of homes at Didcot, of the remainder 60% to market towns and 40% to the larger villages.</p>	<p>The intention had always been for the housing allocations made in the Core Strategy for the towns and larger villages to be rolled forward in accordance with their anticipated delivery timescale. This option also considers as part of the Council's duty to cooperate accommodating some of Oxford's growth needs.</p>	<p>Partial Selection/Rejection: The proportional approach to distribution has no evidence behind it to justify the retention of this element of this option. In addition, the continued pressure on Didcot to deliver growth, on top of that already identified, is not indefinitely sustainable and would risk the saturation of the local housing market. The approach does not allow consideration of constraints and designations as well as infrastructure issues to be taken into account.</p> <p>There are elements of the Core Strategy distribution that the Council considered appropriate to retain, such as the identification of the roles and character of different places: Didcot as the growth point and the status of market towns and larger villages as sustainable settlements. This approach was supported and tested at examination of the Core Strategy by an independent inspector. The identification of a settlement hierarchy as it was presented in the Core Strategy is also retained. This would help to distribute an appropriate level of growth in order to sustain facilities and services across the network of settlements without there being a disproportionate level of growth at some smaller/other villages.</p>
<p>B: Science Vale and 'sustainable settlements' Focus on Science Vale area (60%) with the remainder across 'sustainable settlements' (40%) (likely to be Thame, Wallingford, Henley and some less constrained larger villages e.g. Benson, Berinsfield, Chalgrove, Chinnor, Cholsey, Crowmarsh Gifford, Sonning Common and Watlington).</p>	<p>This option strongly supports the vision of the Council set out in the Local Plan. It is an evolution of 'Option A' which extends the housing focus of Science Vale beyond Didcot. It also makes clear that the Council is committed to protecting the most important natural and historic environments in South Oxfordshire; for example, in the AONB's, the Green Belt and conservation areas. This option also considers as part of the Council's duty to cooperate accommodating some of Oxford's growth needs.</p>	<p>Selected as part of refined option: The preferred option for the Council was to include Option B but in combination with elements of the other options rather than favouring any one option in isolation. This approach is needed to enable a series of benefits to be delivered through the Local Plan and ensures that the housing needs of the District can be accommodated.</p> <p>The preferred option for the Council was to principally focus development at Science Vale and suitable settlements (which include Towns and Larger villages), where over 70% of housing will be located and to deliver elements of some of these options rather than favouring any one scenario in isolation. The strategy draws together the Core Strategy approach with development at Science Vale and next to the neighbouring major urban area of Oxford. It is also complemented by the identification of development to fund regeneration and by the Local Plan raising densities.</p> <p>Option B has advantages such as locating housing where it can support economic growth and ambitions for increased employment. It also offers opportunities for growth outside the Green Belt and AONBs.</p>



Option	Reason for Including the Option in the SA	Reason for selecting/rejecting the option
<p>C: All in Science Vale - All additional housing in Science Vale.</p>	<p>It is one of the most successful science clusters in the UK. This activity is concentrated around the three centres for science at Harwell Campus, Culham Science Centre, and Milton Park, but is supported by a number of important settlements including Didcot, Wantage and Grove. Therefore, consideration to all development in Science Vale was a reasonable alternative. This option also considers as part of the Council's duty to cooperate accommodating some of Oxford's growth needs.</p>	<p>Rejected: The district council is committed to high levels of growth in and around Didcot because Didcot is the main settlement within South Oxfordshire which falls within Science Vale. However, the Council needs to be sure that whatever is additionally planned over and above the growth already planned for Didcot as a garden town, will be sustainable and deliverable.</p> <p>There are also other places within South Oxfordshire which could benefit from taking some of the additional housing growth (for example, in terms of viability of shops and services), so the Council would not wish to restrict growth to one part of the district.</p> <p>The preferred option for the Council is to principally focus development at Science Vale and suitable settlements (which include Towns and Larger villages), where over 70% of housing will be located and to deliver elements of some of these options rather than favouring any one scenario in isolation. The strategy draws together the Core Strategy approach with development at Science Vale and next to the neighbouring major urban area of Oxford. It is also complemented by the identification of development to fund regeneration and by the Local Plan raising densities.</p>
<p>D: All in a single new settlement - All additional housing in a single new settlement in the shaded area of the district which is not in the Green Belt or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.</p>	<p>Growth in a new settlement within the defined area of search was considered to be a reasonable alternative by the District Council. This option also considers as part of the Council's duty to cooperate accommodating some of Oxford's growth needs.</p>	<p>Rejected: This is unlikely to be the most appropriate way to deliver the identified need for housing in South Oxfordshire or the best way to support communities across the district. Whilst it would provide a second growth area in the District which would widen opportunities for future growth, this option would have the highest potential to undermine the economic ambitions for the science vale area. The area is not constrained by AONB or located within the Green Belt, but these areas are not well-located for sustainable transport, particularly the rail network and would therefore likely be car-based settlements. These options would have to create sufficient interest from development and service providers to work together to deliver this type of project and the site options available to the Council for this are not deliverable within this plan period.</p>
<p>Option E: Dispersal - Make land allocations for new homes at all towns, larger and smaller villages, and introduce a more permissive approach to infill development in the smallest</p>	<p>The potential impacts of allowing dispersal of development was considered by the district council to be a reasonable alternative. This option also considers as part of the Council's duty to cooperate accommodating some of Oxford's growth needs.</p>	<p>Selected as part of refined option: This will not form a major part of the distribution of new homes, because a focus on dispersed development would not deliver new infrastructure as effectively as the other options because the spread of development would place infrastructure requirements over a wider area and in more settlements. It will also be restricted by specific settlement constraints.</p> <p>Allowing some housing in towns and larger villages would help to meet local need and could support local services. Development at smaller villages and other villages would be treated as</p>



Option	Reason for Including the Option in the SA	Reason for selecting/rejecting the option
villages (but still not hamlets or open countryside).		windfall development and could deliver much needed local affordable housing. By incorporating this option into the strategy for development in the District it helps to reduce the pressure on areas that were identified for growth in the Core Strategy.
F: Next to neighbouring major urban areas (Reading/Oxford GB)	Development neighbouring major urban areas would benefit from more infrastructure being in place and was considered by the district council to be a reasonable alternative. In response to previous consultation responses, separate consideration has been given to accommodating growth on the edge of Reading and the edge of Oxford. This option also considers as part of the Council's duty to cooperate accommodating some of Oxford's growth needs.	<p>Partial Selection/Rejection: Reading Borough Council has not requested SODCs assistance with meeting any of their unmet needs within this plan period.</p> <p>The preferred option for the Council was to include Option F (edge of Oxford) but in combination with elements of the other options rather than favouring any one option in isolation. This approach is needed to enable a series of benefits to be delivered through the Local Plan and ensures that the housing needs of the District and Oxford City can be accommodated.</p> <p>The specific advantages of Option F include it being the best way of assisting with Oxfords unmet housing needs and cooperating effectively across the housing market area. Oxford is also a main centre of employment and facilities that a lot of residents in South Oxfordshire rely upon. It is also part of the Knowledge Spine and has links to development at Science Vale, and so is complementary to Option B.</p>
G: Raising Densities - Fitting in more growth on a smaller area of land by encouraging higher densities in new development. Core Strategy policy CSH2, sets a minimum of 25 dwellings per hectare, which is quite a low density. This was set to make sure that developments are planned sensitively to fit with their settings.	Raising densities can help reduce the need for further land take, and was, therefore considered a reasonable alternative. This option also considers as part of the Council's duty to cooperate accommodating some of Oxford's growth needs.	<p>Selected as part of refined option: On its own this option is unlikely to deliver the number of additional homes that the Council are planning for, but this can be a complementary option.</p> <p>The Council will always seek to make the most efficient use of land and it is sensible given the onus on efficient use of land in the NPPF for this to complement the spatial strategy for the District. The character or location of some sites will make them more suited to higher density development. A review of densities has been undertaken to support Local Plan policy updates on density to ensure this complementary element of the strategy is achieved. It is also important that the main advantage of Option G is that densities being increased means that the Council can demonstrate that it has exhausted options for development that are not within the Green Belt.</p>



Option	Reason for Including the Option in the SA	Reason for selecting/rejecting the option
H: Locating development in settlements where it could help fund projects	Locating development in settlements where it could help fund projects through developer contributions which could potentially assist with providing necessary infrastructure therefore this was considered a reasonable alternative by the council. This option also considers as part of the Council's duty to cooperate accommodating some of Oxford's growth needs.	Selected as part of refined option: This option would not meet housing need on its own. The Council will pursue this option in identified communities.
Refined Option (Regulation 18: Refined Options, February 2015)	The Council developed a combined option taking in elements of options A (Core Strategy approach), B (Science Vale and sustainable settlements) and E (dispersal).	Rejected: This option was rejected because it performed less well in terms of meeting the unmet needs of Oxford City when compared to the preferred option.
Refined Option (Regulation 19: Final Publication Stage (Second), January 2019)	In preparing the second Publication version of the Draft Local Plan consideration was also given to the duty to cooperate and how best to accommodate some of Oxford's growth needs. This led to a new refined option that involved: meeting additional demand by principally focussing on Option B (Science Vale and Sustainable Settlements), but combining elements of options A (Core Strategy approach), E (dispersal), F (next to major urban areas), G (raising densities) and H (to fund projects).	Selected: This would support the economic growth potential of Science Vale as well as the vitality and sustainability of the market towns and larger villages and limit the amount of development on Green Belt land.



Table B.2 Outline Reasons for the Selection and Rejection of Options for the Housing Requirement

Option	Reason for Including the Option	Reason for selecting/rejecting the option
A1: 556 homes/annum	This figure was from the MHCLG standard method for assessing local housing need used at that time and it provides the minimum starting point in determining the number of homes needed. ¹⁹	Rejected: The Council rejected this option for housing need because the Planning Practice Guidance requires the consideration of uplifts to housing need in certain circumstances. These include where a Growth Deal is in place (as is the case in South Oxfordshire). The Council did not consider this to be a level of housing need that would be found sound at Examination. It would also result in a significant under delivery of housing against the economic growth forecasts and affordable housing needs identified in the SHMA.
A2: 725 homes/annum	Provision at this level would meet the lower end of housing need identified in the SHMA.	Rejected: Within the SHMA recommended range, this represents the lower end of the figures. Development at this level is a significant uplift beyond the demographic base and the housing shortfall and would contribute towards meeting affordable housing needs and towards economic growth. However, it is substantially below the SHMA midpoint (775) which formed the basis of the Growth Deal.
B: 750 homes/annum	Provision at this level would meet identified housing need arising from planned economic growth as identified in the SHMA.	Rejected: In South Oxfordshire, the evidence considers that the provision of 748 dwellings a year would support economic growth. (This has been rounded to 750 for the purposes of the previous Local Plan consultation and is referred to in this way). However, it is substantially below 775 homes a year which formed the basis of the Growth Deal.
C: 775 homes/annum	Provision at this level would meet the mid-point of housing need identified in the SHMA and provide an uplift for affordable housing.	Selected: The Growth Deal commits the Oxfordshire authorities to delivering 100,000 homes. This figure aligns with the housing need identified in the SHMA (again, 100,000 homes in the same period). The Council is therefore proposing to continue to use a housing requirement of 775 homes a year, uplifted from a housing need of 556 homes a year derived from the standard method (see Option A1). This uplift follows planning practice guidance and is mainly driven by South Oxfordshire's commitment to the Growth Deal. However, the uplift is also in recognition of the SHMA as an assessment of need, as well as previous annual housing completion levels that have exceeded the standard method number of 556. It should be noted that the supply figure proposed within the emerging Local Plan far exceeds the need figure, to allow for flexibility and choice, but also to ensure that delivery can be managed across the plan period.

¹⁹ Please note, this assessment was undertaken during Government's proposed consultation to change the standard method to be based on the 2014 household projections from MHCLG. This housing need is therefore derived from the 2016-based ONS household projections



Option	Reason for Including the Option	Reason for selecting/rejecting the option
		<p>In South Oxfordshire, the findings from the evidence concur that the provision of 775 dwellings a year would support economic growth and provide towards affordable housing need.</p>
<p>D: 825 homes/annum</p>	<p>Provision at this level would meet planned economic growth and provide a significant uplift for affordable housing.</p>	<p>Rejected: Within the SHMA recommended range, this represents the higher end of the figures. Development at this level far exceeds the demographic base and housing shortfall and would contribute substantially towards meeting the affordable housing needs and towards economic growth. However, it is substantially above the 775 dwellings committed to in the Growth Deal and could lead to oversupply, market distortion and unnecessary additional adverse environmental effects.</p>
<p>E: 965 homes/annum</p>	<p>This figure is not within the SHMA recommended range. However, provision at this level would meet planned economic growth and provide the 386/annum affordable homes needed in the district (based on 40% of provision being affordable).</p>	<p>Rejected: This figure is not within the SHMA recommended range but was tested as the number of homes to meet all affordable housing needs, assuming 40% of all housing provided would be affordable housing. South Oxfordshire has issues of affordability. The affordable housing evidence provides some basis for considering higher housing provision.</p> <p>However, development at this level far exceeds the demographic base and housing shortfall. As noted, it would contribute substantially towards meeting the affordable housing needs and towards economic growth. However, it is substantially above the 775 dwellings committed to in the Growth Deal and could lead to oversupply, market distortion and unnecessary additional adverse environmental effects.</p>



Table B.3 Outline Reasons for the Selection and Rejection of Options for Meeting Oxford City's Unmet Housing Need

Option	Reason for Including the Option	Reasons for Rejection/Selection
Option 1: Do Nothing	The unmet housing need for the City is estimated to be approximately 15,000 new homes. The SA process included the 'do nothing' option to assist with decision making as it provided a baseline comparator against which the other options could be assessed.	Rejected: Non-compliant with the duty to cooperate.
Option 2: 3,750 new dwellings	The working figure for unmet housing need for the City is estimated at 15,000 new homes. This number represents a quarter share for each of the four districts, so was included as it represented a proportionate allocation of the growth.	Rejected: If the Council proceeds with this figure, then collectively Oxfordshire would not be meeting the housing aspirations of the Growth Deal. As discussed under South Oxfordshire's own housing requirements, the PPG justifies an uplift in need to take account of the Growth Deal. Previous consultation on the plan proposing 3,750 homes also resulted in objections from partner authorities in Oxfordshire.
Option 3: 4,950	The Oxfordshire Growth Board (see Section 7.2) considered a series of site-based options to help meet Oxford City's unmet housing need. In the case of South Oxfordshire, these sites amounted to 4,950 homes. The Council has assessed this option in line with the Memorandum of Cooperation recommendation of 4,950 homes to South Oxfordshire.	Selected: Adopting this level of housing from the City would mean that collectively across Oxfordshire, the Growth Deal commitments are met in adopted or emerging plans in accordance with the Memorandum of Cooperation. The PPG justifies an uplift in housing need to take account of the growth deal.
Option 4: 15,000 new dwellings	The working figure for unmet housing need for the City is estimated at 15,000 new homes. This option assumed that all of that need would be met in South Oxfordshire District. As a working assumption in the June 2016 SA, this was overtaken by the Oxfordshire Growth Board Memorandum of Cooperation.	Rejected: This represented the total working assumption for unmet housing need arising from Oxford City. Oxford City has asked all four neighbouring Oxfordshire authorities to help to meet their unmet housing need. Given that the other neighbouring authorities have committed to delivering a proportion of these 15,000 homes it is not a reasonable alternative.



Table B.4 Outline Reasons for Rejecting and Selecting Options for Growth at Didcot

Option	Reason for Inclusion	Reason for Rejection/Selection
1. Make further allocations at Didcot on top of allocations from the Core Strategy 2012	This alternative was assessed to show a comparison against the 'do nothing' option. The results are useful to inform the decision making going forward for future planning in Didcot.	Selected: Consistent with Didcot's Garden Town status.
2. Make no further allocations at Didcot	The 'do nothing' option is considered useful in terms of determining the existing baseline and how this will develop over time without any further planning proposals.	Rejected: Not consistent with Garden Town status. The additional allocations included in the Local Plan (discussed below), have planning permission and the council wishes to retain them.

Table B.5 Outline Reasons for Rejecting and Selecting Options for Accommodating Growth at Didcot

Option	Reason for Inclusion in the SA and latest position on the site (at the time of writing the SA Report)	Reason for Rejection/Selection
Hadden Hill	The site had a resolution to grant planning permission, subject to the finalisation of the S106 agreement.	Selected: Site allocated in the Local Plan following the granting of planning permission on appeal. Construction commenced on the site and it was not included in later iterations of the SA. Site has now been built out.
Didcot A	The site had a resolution to grant planning permission, subject to the finalisation of the S106 agreement.	Rejected: This site was granted full planning permission for a mix of uses, and there is no reasonable prospect of residential development confined to the Didcot A site within South Oxfordshire. The site adjoins a larger site in neighbouring Vale of White Horse District Council.
Didcot Gateway	The site now has full planning permission.	Selected: Allocated in the Local Plan in order to save the allocation. Site clearance commenced on the site and it was therefore not included in the SA Report.
Ladygrove East	Site carried forward from Core Strategy	Selected: Allocated in the Local Plan in order to save the allocation.

Option	Reason for Inclusion in the SA and latest position on the site (at the time of writing the SA Report)	Reason for Rejection/Selection
Didcot North East	Site carried forward from Core Strategy.	Selected: Allocated in the Local Plan in order to save the allocation. Construction commenced on the site and it was not included in later iterations of the SA.
Great Western Park	Site carried forward from Core Strategy.	Selected: Allocated in the Local Plan in order to save the allocation. Construction commenced on the site and it was not included in later iterations of the SA.
Vauxhall Barracks	Site carried forward from Core Strategy	Selected: Allocated in the Local Plan in order to save the allocation.
Orchard Centre Phase II	Site carried forward from Core Strategy	Selected: Allocated in the Local Plan in order to save the allocation.
Land South of A4130	Site had outline consent and reserved matters approval.	Selected: Allocated as granted planning permission and adjacent to the Great Western Park site. Construction commenced on the site and it was not included in later iterations of the SA.

Table B.6 Outline of Reasons for Selecting and Rejecting Development Scenarios

Scenario	Reason for Inclusion	Reason for Selection/Rejection
Scenario 1: In line with Oct 2017 plan	Replicated the previous SODC Local Plan Proposed Submission Version strategic allocations (October 2017).	<p>Rejected: This was SODC Publication Plan (October 2017) preferred option. This option was reviewed because of a concern about the delivery of Chalgrove Airfield, however since the site selection process was undertaken in 2018 to support the re-assessment of potential strategic allocations it is clear that delivery issues exist for a number of the strategic allocation options for the Council. Reliance on the original approach in the October 2017 Local Plan is therefore not likely to be an effective and deliverable approach. The quantum of development is too low within the plan period (8,500 dwellings), so poor delivery associated with this scenario.</p> <p>The updated strategic housing land delivery identifies a more realistic start date for delivery at Chalgrove Airfield from that is later than that expected at the time of the October 2017 Plan. This takes account of the potential for a Compulsory Purchase Order. It means that a significant proportion of Chalgrove’s delivery (975 dwellings) falls beyond the end of the plan period.</p> <p>Housing at Culham only starts to deliver in 2025/26 meaning that a significant proportion of Culham’s delivery (1,650 dwellings) also falls beyond the end of the plan period.</p>
Scenario 2: Maximise Edge of Oxford sites and Regeneration	Represented a change in the approach of the Local Plan which would mean that the Local Plan would deviate from the preferred spatial strategy that it selected from the Preferred Options 2 consultation. This scenario would see the principle of regeneration explored, as supported by the NPPF, and for a concentration of sites around Oxford. All reasonable strategic allocation possibilities around the city of Oxford are included within this option.	<p>Rejected: Quantum of development is too low within the plan period (9,911 dwellings), so poor delivery associated with this scenario.</p> <p>The optimistic trajectories provided by the site promoters at all of the edge of Oxford sites presents a significant level of risk.</p> <p>The edge of Oxford sites have not previously been included in the draft Local Plan, and no planning applications have been prepared, the timing for the infrastructure requirements has not been considered in detail by the site promoters and trajectories provided by the promoters are clearly overly optimistic. The capacities within this scenario for the edge of Oxford sites reflect the Council’s estimates for delivery of each site.</p> <p>A steady stream of housing from strategic allocations in this scenario would be delivered over the plan period.</p> <p>The delivery of housing is anticipated to some extent within the Plan period, with 1,400 dwellings to be delivered beyond the end of the plan period, which is a modest amount compared to other scenarios.</p>



Scenario	Reason for Inclusion	Reason for Selection/Rejection
		<p>This scenario has the potential capacity of 9,911 dwellings, with 8,511 dwellings that can be delivered within the plan period. Compared with the other scenarios, this scenario could deliver the second highest level of housing within the plan period although its potential capacity is lower than Scenarios 5 and 4a.</p>
<p>Scenario 3A: Science Vale and Oxford unmet need met on specific sites adjacent to Oxford</p>	<p>Scenario 3 (a, b and c) continues the approach of the preferred spatial strategy to concentrate growth within Science Vale. This scenario alone would not deliver enough housing within strategic allocations and therefore explores three sub-scenarios at the edge of Oxford.</p>	<p>Rejected: Quantum of development is too low within the plan period (8,500 dwellings), so poor delivery associated with this scenario.</p> <p>Housing at Culham only starts to deliver in 2025/26 meaning that a significant proportion of Culham’s delivery (1,650 dwellings) falls beyond the edge of the plan period.</p> <p>The edge of Oxford sites have not previously been included in the draft Local Plan, and no planning applications have been prepared, the timing for the infrastructure requirements has not been considered in detail by the site promoters and trajectories provided by the promoters are clearly overly optimistic. The capacities within this scenario for the edge of Oxford sites reflect the Council’s estimates for delivery of each site.</p> <p>The optimistic trajectories provided by the site promoters at all of the edge of Oxford sites presents a significant level of risk.</p> <p>A poor delivery rate from this combination of strategic allocations would be delivered over the plan period, and it wouldn’t be until 2031/32 that a more significant annual delivery from this scenario could be achieved. It wouldn’t be until 2025/26 that a moderate delivery from this scenario could be projected.</p> <p>This scenario has the potential capacity of 8.500 dwellings, with only 5,450 that can be delivered within the plan period and 3,050 dwellings estimated to be completed beyond the end of the plan period.</p> <p>Delivery of the new housing within the plan period under this scenario will be the joint lowest with Scenario 1. The potential capacity for new housing is also third from lowest under this Scenario.</p>
<p>Scenario 3B: Science Vale and Oxford unmet need met on specific sites adjacent to Oxford</p>	<p>Scenario 3 (a, b and c) continues the approach of the preferred spatial strategy to concentrate growth within Science Vale. This scenario alone would not deliver enough housing within strategic allocations and therefore explores three sub-scenarios at the edge of Oxford.</p>	<p>Rejected: Quantum of development is too low within the plan period (8,375 dwellings), so poor delivery associated with this scenario.</p> <p>The edge of Oxford sites have not previously been included in the draft Local Plan, and no planning applications have been prepared, the timing for the infrastructure requirements has not been considered in detail by the site promoters and trajectories provided by the promoters are clearly overly optimistic. The capacities within this scenario for the edge of Oxford sites reflect the Council’s estimates for delivery of each site.</p>



Scenario	Reason for Inclusion	Reason for Selection/Rejection
		<p>The optimistic trajectories provided by the site promoters at all of the edge of Oxford sites presents a significant level of risk.</p> <p>Housing at Culham only starts to deliver in 2025/26 meaning that a significant proportion of Culham’s delivery (1,650 dwellings) falls beyond the edge of the plan period.</p> <p>As with scenario 3A, this trajectory indicates that not all of the housing delivery would be completed within the Plan period, and a significant amount would be delivered beyond the plan period. This option has the potential capacity of 8,372 dwellings (if include all Northfield parcels), with only 6,814 dwellings that can be delivered within the plan period.</p> <p>A steady stream of housing from strategic allocations would be delivered over the plan period, and in 2025/2026 a more significant annual delivery from this scenario could be achieved until 2029/30 after which delivery slows down for the rest of the plan period.</p> <p>Delivery of new housing within the plan period would be the 3rd highest under this scenario, although the potential capacity of sites under it is second lowest.</p>
<p>Scenario 3C: Science Vale and Oxford unmet need met on specific sites adjacent to Oxford</p>	<p>Scenario 3 (a, b and c) continues the approach of the preferred spatial strategy to concentrate growth within Science Vale. This scenario alone would not deliver enough housing within strategic allocations and therefore explores three sub-scenarios at the edge of Oxford.</p>	<p>Rejected: Quantum of development is too low within the plan period (8,411 dwellings), so poor delivery associated with this scenario.</p> <p>The edge of Oxford sites have not previously been included in the draft Local Plan, and no planning have been prepared, the timing for the infrastructure requirements has not been considered in detail by the site promoters and trajectories provided by the promoters are clearly overly optimistic. The capacities within this scenario for the edge of Oxford sites reflect the Council’s estimates for delivery of each site.</p> <p>The optimistic trajectories provided by the site promoters at all of the edge of Oxford sites presents a significant level of risk.</p> <p>Housing at Culham only starts to deliver in 2025/26 meaning that a significant proportion of Culham’s delivery (1,650 dwellings) falls beyond the edge of the plan period.</p> <p>As with scenario 3A and 3B, this trajectory indicates that not all of the housing delivery would be completed within the Plan period. This option has the potential capacity of 8,411 dwellings, with only 6,661 that dwellings that can be delivered within the plan period.</p> <p>A steady stream of housing from strategic allocations would be delivered over the plan period, and in 2025/2026 a more significant annual delivery from this scenario could be achieved but this does begin to slow in the last year of the plan period.</p>



Scenario	Reason for Inclusion	Reason for Selection/Rejection
		<p>Both potential capacity and delivery of new housing within the plan period under this Scenario are towards the lower end in comparison with the other scenarios.</p>
<p>Scenario 4A: Maximise non-green belt sites and Regeneration-full delivery</p>	<p>Scenario 4 (a and b) were developed as a scenario to explore the regeneration of Berinsfield and other sites not within the Green Belt. Both sub-scenarios include Chalgrove airfield and Harrington sites, however 4a considers impact of the full delivery of Harrington and 4b considers the delivery that could be achieved within the Local Plan period because there is a significant difference at Harrington.</p>	<p>Rejected: 11,200 dwellings delivers a large quantum of development, much of it however is beyond the plan period. Reliance on this scenario would be a significantly weak approach to delivering an effective and deliverable Local Plan.</p> <p>As the Harrington site is very large and is a countryside location with little existing infrastructure nearby, and the timing for infrastructure requirements has not been considered in detail by the site promotor, the trajectory for this site is certainly overly optimistic.</p> <p>Harrington has not been previously included in the draft Local Plan, and no planning application has been prepared, the timing for infrastructure requirements has not been considered in detail by the site promotors and the trajectories provided by the promotors are clearly overly optimistic. The capacity within this scenario for Harrington reflect the Council's estimates for the total capacity of this site, but indicated a significant amount is likely to fall beyond the end of the plan period (3,700 dwellings).</p> <p>The trajectory indicates that a limited amount of housing delivery would be completed within the Plan period. This option has the potential capacity of 11,200, with only 6,425 dwellings that can be delivered within the plan period.</p> <p>A poor rate of delivery from this combination of strategic allocations would be delivered over the plan period, and it wouldn't be until 2027/28 that a more significant annual delivery rate could be achieved. In 2024/25 a moderate delivery rate from this scenario could be projected.</p> <p>A significant number of dwellings (4,775 dwellings with 3,700 against the full extent of Harrington's estimated capacity) are estimated for completion beyond the end of the plan period. This option has the potential capacity of 11,200 dwellings (if considering the full capacity of Harrington), with only 6,425 dwellings that can be delivered within the plan period under both scenarios 4a and 4b.</p> <p>Under scenario 4a, potential capacity is second highest of all the Scenarios, but delivery within the plan period is joint second lowest with Scenario 4b.</p>
<p>Scenario 4B: Maximise non-green belt sites and Regeneration-full delivery</p>	<p>Scenario 4 (a and b) were developed as a scenario to explore the regeneration of Berinsfield and other sites not within the Green Belt. Both sub-scenarios include Chalgrove airfield and Harrington sites, however</p>	<p>Rejected: Quantum of development is too low within the plan period (8,200 dwellings), with only 6,425 dwellings that can be delivered within the plan period, and 8,200 dwellings overall so poor delivery associated with this scenario.</p>



Scenario	Reason for Inclusion	Reason for Selection/Rejection
	4a considers impact of the full delivery of Harrington and 4b considers the delivery that could be achieved within the Local Plan period because there is a significant difference at Harrington.	<p>As the Harrington site is very large and is a countryside location with little existing infrastructure nearby, and the timing for infrastructure requirements has not been considered in detail by the site promotor, the trajectory for this site is certainly overly optimistic.</p> <p>Harrington has not been previously included in the draft Local Plan, and no planning application has been prepared, the timing for infrastructure requirements has not been considered in detail by the site promotors and the trajectories provided by the promotors are clearly overly optimistic.</p> <p>Delivery in years to 2024/25 is slow but picks up significantly in 2025/26, peaking during 2029/30 before falling in the final year of the plan period.</p> <p>This scenario has the lowest potential capacity for new housing overall as well as delivering new housing within the plan period joint second from lowest (with 4a).</p>
Scenario 5: Preferred delivery scenario	Introduced at a later stage than scenarios 1-4, scenario 5 reflects the delivery concerns that were identified on a number of large strategic allocations.	<p>Selected: This scenario has sufficient quantum of development (14,600 dwellings) that would appropriately mitigate against the delivery risks associated with the other scenarios tested. The Council is more likely to be able to sustain a five-year land supply with this scenario. The sites included within this scenario have been set out in the delivery trajectory in the Councils Site Selection Background Paper. This scenario offers an effective solution to housing delivery that can be justified.</p> <p>Delivery in the years to 2024/25 is slow but picks up significantly in 2025/26, peaking during 2029/30 before falling in the final year of the plan period.</p> <p>This scenario has both the highest potential for new housing and the highest delivery of new housing within the plan period.</p>

Table B.7 Outline Reasons for the Selection and Rejection of Strategic Sites

Option	Reason for Inclusion	Reason for Selection/Rejection
Chalgrove Airfield	<p>Site submitted in response to the Council's call for sites in 2016.</p> <p>Proposed strategic allocations in the Publication Version South Oxfordshire Local Plan (October 2017).</p>	<p>Selected: In the Council's Preferred Options 1 consultation document, Chalgrove Airfield was identified as the Council's preferred option. This is because it is centrally placed in the district and its proximity to the village of Chalgrove and Monument Business Park means that as the site is developed both existing and new facilities will be supported by both the existing residents of Chalgrove village and the new residents as they arrive. The existing residents of Chalgrove village will also benefit from the new facilities, open space and infrastructure to</p>

Option	Reason for Inclusion	Reason for Selection/Rejection
		<p>be provided, including necessary upgrades to the road network and improvements to the public transport network.</p> <p>Homes England (formerly The Homes and Communities Agency) is continuing to collect and share evidence with the Council regarding potential site constraints. However, initial studies suggest that appropriate mitigation can be put in place. The Council also has confidence in Homes England's ability to deliver the proposed housing in a timely manner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering housing at land at Chalgrove Airfield supports the Spatial Strategy by: • Supporting the network of settlements • Creating a new settlement/extension to an existing settlement within the 'area of search for a new settlement' <p>Supports strategic employment objectives.</p> <p>Limited impact on heritage assets (can be mitigated).</p>
<p>Harrington (Junction 7 of the M40)</p>	<p>Site submitted in response to the Council's call for sites in 2016.</p> <p>Site had previously been considered as a potential strategic allocation at earlier stages in the Local Plan process, but was not progressed in the Publication Version South Oxfordshire Local Plan (October 2017).</p>	<p>Rejected: The site promoters have stated that they are committed to delivery of at least up to 1,500 homes in the first phases of the development, including a new school, transport interchange and other services and facilities, with other homes to follow- up to c. 3,850 within the Local Plan period. However, the detail on how this would be delivered is not yet available to confirm and there is insufficient information to conclude whether or not this could be a sustainable new settlement with significant new homes delivered within the Local Plan period. Consultees such as the County and Natural England have raised concerns regarding infrastructure and environmental impacts.</p> <p>Based on the information available, there are in particular concerns regarding sustainable transport accessibility, phasing of required infrastructure such as healthcare or improvements to M40 motorway access linked to the homes trajectory, and whether the proposed areas of employment are sufficient for a proposed settlement of this scale to ensure it does not become an out-commuting focused development.</p> <p>In addition, the location of the site means that the potential impacts on the environment have been rated as relatively high risk in the assessment work undertaken. The site would have a strong visual impact on the landscape, has areas of floodzone 2 and 3, is located directly adjacent to a SSSI and ancient woodland, and is c. 6.5 km from the designated European Special Area of Conservation at Aston Rowant. As such, significant mitigation may be needed to make the development acceptable, and it is not clear that the work to date has considered this fully- for example providing appropriate buffer distances between development and protected areas in the current masterplan, or modelling traffic impacts on air quality.</p>



Option	Reason for Inclusion	Reason for Selection/Rejection
Lower Elsfield	<p>Site submitted in response to the Council's call for sites in 2017.</p> <p>Site had previously been considered as a potential strategic allocation at earlier stages in the Local Plan process, but was not progressed in the Publication Version South Oxfordshire Local Plan (October 2017).</p>	<p>Rejected: The site assessed in isolation, whilst providing the benefit of delivering new homes in a sustainable location, would not be able to overcome access issues.</p> <p>There are capacity issues on the routes into and around Oxford e.g. at A40 and Oxford Ring Road, but particularly at the Heading, Heyford Hill, Littlemore, Cutteslowe and Wolvercote roundabouts.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council have indicated they may not support new vehicular access onto the A40.</p> <p>Road upgrades between the A40 and Elsfield would be required to enable satisfactory bus links, as would Headley Way/Marston Ferry Rd/Marston Road/Marsh Lane Junction Improvements.</p> <p>There are issues in terms of sustainability to ensure that the site is connected to the surrounding area in order for facilities, services and employment to be readily accessible.</p>
Wick Farm	<p>Site submitted in response to the Council's call for sites in 2017.</p> <p>Site had previously been considered as a potential strategic allocation at earlier stages in the Local Plan process, but was not progressed in the Publication Version South Oxfordshire Local Plan (October 2017).</p>	<p>Rejected: The site assessed in isolation, whilst providing the benefit of delivering new homes in a sustainable location, would not be able to overcome access issues.</p> <p>There are capacity issues on the routes into and around Oxford e.g. at A40 and Oxford Ring Road, but particularly at the Heading, Heyford Hill, Littlemore, Cutteslowe and Wolvercote roundabouts.</p> <p>Highway access to this site in isolation appears to be only possible via Bayswater Road which is already a major issue and not likely to be acceptable. The Wick Farm site could present challenges for attractive walking and cycling routes are provided towards Headington and other parts of Oxford. Unlikely to be support for further bus routes on Bayswater Road.</p> <p>The site is some distance from the nearest train stations (5.2km from Oxford and 6km from Oxford Parkway).</p>
Lower Elsfield/Wick Farm combined	<p>The sites were assessed separately by the Council through the "General Appraisal" process outlined in the Housing Site Selection Background Paper. Through this process, it became evident that the constraints within the site individually could not be addressed to a positive outcome. As such, it was considered that by combining the sites, of which are</p>	<p>Selected: The full capacity of each site when combined was considered to have a significant adverse effect on the site constraints and the wider highways infrastructure. Flood risk from surface water and fluvial is high along the Bayswater Brook corridor and in the east of the site. High levels of harm to the Green Belt would result from the full release of the site from the Green Belt except the release of two parcels of land.</p> <p>The Council is of the view that based on a reduced site area and provision of 1,100 dwellings, in combination the sites provide an opportunity to deliver new homes in a sustainable location adjoining a major urban area, within, close proximity to employment, services and facilities. There is also a high potential for encouraging sustainable modes of travel, once the A40 and Bayswater Brook barriers are overcome.</p>

Option	Reason for Inclusion	Reason for Selection/Rejection
	<p>geographically adjacent to each other, these constraints could be somewhat addressed.</p> <p>The change to the boundary occurred between the process of the 'General Appraisal' and the onset of the 'Detailed Appraisal'. To ensure that a thorough process was considered, the sites were combined, and a new boundary was created. The site promoters have stated that they would be open to working together to ensure delivery of the combined site.</p>	
Thornhill	<p>Site submitted in response to the Council's call for sites in 2015.</p> <p>Site had previously been considered as a potential strategic allocation at earlier stages in the Local Plan process, but was not progressed in the Publication Version South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2033 (October 2017).</p>	<p>Rejected: The Council is of the view that exceptional circumstances do not exist for the release of this site from the Green Belt. The site provides an opportunity to deliver new homes in a sustainable location adjoining a major urban area, within close proximity to employment and other services and facilities.</p> <p>Thornhill is located to the north of the district and again its proximity to Oxford City boundary would offer a range of services, facilities and employment opportunities. The site is located adjacent to the existing Thornhill Park and Ride facility, however any access required to the site would be unlikely to be supported by statutory consultees. There are capacity issues on the roads into and around Oxford, for example, the A40 and Oxford Ring Road which would be further impacted from the development. There is the potential for employment opportunities on site. The Green Belt Study (2015) concludes that this site performs well in terms of the purposes and functions of the Green Belt. The access issues exacerbate the sustainability concerns with the linkages between the site at the urban area of the city. The lack of options for the resolution of this matter mean that there are not likely to be any options to mitigate against this sustainability concern.</p>
Grenoble Road	<p>Site submitted in response to the Council's call for sites in 2016.</p> <p>Site had previously been considered as a potential strategic allocation at earlier stages in the Local Plan</p>	<p>Selected: The Council took into account the government's policy in the NPPF relating to the Green Belt and concluded that exceptional circumstances existed to release the site from the Green Belt.</p> <p>The development of this site will help to provide for Oxford City's unmet housing need, including affordable housing need, close to where that need arises.</p>



Option	Reason for Inclusion	Reason for Selection/Rejection
	<p>process, but was not progressed in the Publication Version South Oxfordshire Local Plan (October 2017).</p>	<p>This is a large strategic site capable of delivering approx. 3000 in a sustainable location adjoining major urban area and in close proximity to an employment area.</p> <p>Whilst some services will be provided on site, access to existing services can be accessed sustainably. The proximity and relationship to services, facilities and employment in Oxford is a significant positive in terms of sustainability. There is potential for a direct and viable bus route directly into the city centre and it is in proximity to established walking and cycling routes.</p>
<p>Culham Science Village</p>	<p>Site submitted in response to the Council's call for sites in 2016. Proposed strategic allocation in the Publication Version South Oxfordshire Local Plan (October 2017).</p>	<p>Selected: In response to the Council's Preferred Options 1 consultation there was support for delivering housing adjacent to the Culham Science Centre, recognised to be a major employment site in South Oxfordshire, and respondents suggested that this could go further than just allocating the Culham No. 1 site. Taking this into account, and the benefits that would arise from delivering housing around Culham railway station, the Council considered there to be potential for a much larger strategic allocation that would further support the economic growth of Science Vale, in particular priority infrastructure projects such as the Culham river crossing. The Council considers these reasons to constitute the exceptional circumstances required to release the land from the Green Belt.</p> <p>There are limited environmental constraints on site including flood risk and any environmental impacts are demonstrated to be capable of mitigation, with additional opportunity for biodiversity gain.</p> <p>Agricultural land across most of the site is low value (Grade 3). The remainder is Grade 2 but this is limited to a small part of the potential allocation to the north east of Warren Farm.</p> <p>Site located adjacent to Culham railway station and there are potential wider benefits to surrounding villages from the future enhancement of the station/frequency of rail services.</p>
<p>Land at Northfield</p>	<p>Submitted Site 2016, although submitted as two separate site later joined.</p> <p>Site had previously been considered as a potential strategic allocation at earlier stages in the Local Plan process, but was not progressed in the Publication Version South</p>	<p>Selected: This is a smaller scale site with opportunities to deliver housing (approximately 1,800 dwellings) on the edge of a major urban area. The development of this site will help to provide for Oxford City's unmet housing need, including affordable housing need, adjacent to and related to where that need arises.</p> <p>The proximity to the existing services, facilities and employment in Oxford is a significant positive in sustainability terms. Northfield is well located for access to employment and services within walking and cycling ranges and the B480 is an existing public transport corridor. There are opportunities to provide improved transport links.</p>



Option	Reason for Inclusion	Reason for Selection/Rejection
	Oxfordshire Local Plan (October 2017).	
Land at Wheatley Campus	<p>Site submitted in response to the Council's call for sites in 2016.</p> <p>Proposed strategic allocations in the Publication Version South Oxfordshire Local Plan (October 2017).</p>	<p>Selected: The Wheatley campus site is a partially developed site in the Green Belt.</p> <p>The existing use is relocating to an alternative location in Oxford City and the site will become redundant within the plan period.</p> <p>As the site is previously developed land it is not considered inappropriate development within the Green Belt. The 2015 Green Belt study recommends that the previously developed part of the site be inset from the Green Belt.</p> <p>The site is in a sustainable location with access to services at Wheatley (0.7 miles), a larger village and rural service centre. There are a variety of services including primary and secondary schools, GP surgery, dentist, post office and supermarket.</p> <p>The redevelopment of the site will provide residential development and help meet the housing needs identified.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to plan positively for its future use.</p>
Berinsfield	<p>Core Strategy Policy CSEN2 'Green Belt' provided for a review of the Green Belt at Berinsfield because the Green Belt policy was inhibiting regeneration, further land may be needed to improve the mix of housing and development would be consistent with Berinsfield's status as a local service centre.</p> <p>Berinsfield has a relatively high score on the indices of multiple deprivation, despite South Oxfordshire as a whole being one of the least deprived parts of the country. Performance is particularly poor in the education,</p>	<p>Selected: The exceptional circumstances for releasing land from the Green Belt at Berinsfield are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of Berinsfield need regeneration and the current Green Belt policy is inhibiting this; • The mix of housing in Berinsfield is more unbalanced than in other parts of the district. Releasing land for development could help to rebalance the mix and provide further opportunities for employment and service provision; • Berinsfield is a local service centre and some further development would be consistent with the overall spatial strategy of this plan; • The location is also at a distance from the special historic setting of the city of Oxford and does not make a significant contribution towards the purposes of including land in the Green Belt to check the unrestricted sprawl of Oxford city; • Principle for removing land from the Green Belt to deliver regeneration was set out in the Core Strategy;

Option	Reason for Inclusion	Reason for Selection/Rejection
	<p>training and skills domain. A number of studies undertaken by the Council indicated that Berinsfield would benefit from investment and regeneration. This was supported by further work commissioned by the Council to explore potential options for the regeneration of Berinsfield.</p> <p>Proposed strategic allocation in the Publication Version South Oxfordshire Local Plan (October 2017).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site has support from the local community who wish to see improved facilities for the village. • Supports Berinsfield’s role as a sustainable larger village; and • Site is relatively free from constraints in terms of ecology and access. <p>The Council considers that delivering both growth and regeneration together at Berinsfield promotes a sustainable pattern of development that cannot be achieved by developing elsewhere in the district.</p>
<p>Land north of Thame Road, North Weston</p>	<p>Site submitted through the Local Plan process up to the end of the Regulation 19 consultation (30 November 2017), which complied with the basic Area Assessment Principles set in the Council’s site selection work.</p>	<p>Rejected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A third of the site (north and west) is covered by Flood Zone 3b, therefore this part is not developable. • A large part of the flood zone is also a BAP Priority Habitat and includes flood plain grazing marsh. • High pressure gas pipeline runs in the middle of the site in a north-south direction. When taking all of the buffer zones into account, only three sections of the site remain. The two sections that lie to the western edge of the site are in Flood Zone 3b. The remaining section of land to the east consists of approximately 38ha, therefore the overall size of the site is significantly reduced and when taking account of infrastructure requirements, it may result in a site that is not capable of being developed on a strategic scale. • The site does not fit within any of the options proposed in the spatial strategy. It is isolated and is not immediately connected with the nearest settlement (Thame), whereby the nearest part of this settlement is over 1.5-2km away from the nearest part of the proposed site. • The site is adjacent to an existing bus route, and more than half of the site is within 500m walking distance of the relevant bus stops. However, it would not be economically viable to provide a supplementary bus service for the 500 (approx.) dwellings that could be furthest from these bus stops. • The site location could encourage cycling trips as Thame is within a distance suited to cycling, however it will be essential to ensure infrastructure to create attractive conditions for cycling is provided. Due to the site capacity, employment provision is unlikely and as such this would exacerbate the need to travel off-site.



Option	Reason for Inclusion	Reason for Selection/Rejection
<p>Land south of Great Western Park, Didcot</p>	<p>Site submitted through the Local Plan process up to the end of the Regulation 19 consultation (30 November 2017), which complied with the basic Area Assessment Principles set in the Council's site selection work.</p>	<p>Rejected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impact on setting of North Wessex Downs AONB. • Delivery and access contingent on adjoining developments coming forward. In consequence there are risks to delivery of site during plan period if other sites not built out quickly enough to provide access. • East West access would be preferred for a site of this scale which is completely dependent on Valley Park (nearby site) being built out. Potential for Spine Road not possible without adjoining site. • Difficult to bring site forward without the adjacent sites being completed, site would be isolated • Safe access would not exist until GWP and Valley Park completed • Access to and from site needs to be integrated with adjacent sites, without this only access off Park Road, not suitable for a site of this scale. • Potential advantage of sustainable transport options in relation to proximity to Didcot and employment sites can't be feasibly realised without adjoining sites and the connections they could provide • Cumulative impact of development in area, particularly on highways and waste water treatment • Urban sprawl, coalescence of Didcot and villages • Overdevelopment in area, need for time to assess impacts of existing proposed development in order assess future requirements. • Site coming forward may impact negatively on the delivery of other sites in the area as developers move attention from one site to another. • Significant infrastructure improvements are needed to mitigate the impact of development of other allocated and consented developments and have been identified through the IDP, these include a new river crossing between Didcot and Culham, Didcot Science Bridge and the A4130 Capacity Improvements. Land has also been safeguarded in the Local Plan for a Spine Road, which includes areas within the site connecting park road with the Harwell Link Road. • At the present time the site is located in a rather isolated position and raises concerns in relation to sustainability in the short term due to the fact that the site would be dependent on surrounding developments being built out.



Option	Reason for Inclusion	Reason for Selection/Rejection
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would be disadvantageous to select a site which is contingent upon the completion of another site in order to perform positively in sustainability terms.
Palmers Riding Stables	Site submitted through the Local Plan process up to the end of the Regulation 19 consultation (30 November 2017), which complied with the basic Area Assessment Principles set in the Council's site selection work.	<p>Rejected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The landowners/agents have suggested that road access could be taken from a potential new junction/roundabout linked to development proposed on the opposite side of Peppered Road (outline planning application reference P16/S3630/O for 245 residential dwellings). However, at the time of undertaking this assessment, this development does not benefit from planning permission and is the subject of a current appeal. There is therefore no certainty that this infrastructure will be delivered. In addition, no evidence has been provided to the council to demonstrate that the infrastructure could support additional access to this site or that there have been any discussions with the relevant developers/promoters or highway authorities about such a proposal. Very little weight can therefore be given to this proposal. Oxfordshire County Council has raised concerns about road capacity in this area, as well as capacity issues on existing river crossings in and around Reading. The site's location means that opportunities for walking and cycling are extremely limited. This site is located on the periphery of the Oxfordshire Housing Market Area and as such may not be ideal considering the emerging Local Plan's housing requirements for the district and for Oxford City being provided for within the plan period. There is no requirement to accommodate housing to meet any unmet need from Reading. The allocation of this site would conflict with emerging Local Plan's spatial strategy. There are no overriding reasons to trigger a review of the spatial strategy. There is the potential for the development to impact on the setting of the Chilterns AONB. Little/no work had been undertaken by the landowners/agents to date in terms of evidence gathering and masterplanning to inform an allocation. The working relationship between the different landowners is also unclear, as in April 2018 the council received separate, overlapping submissions. There is therefore insufficient evidence available to support an allocation and to be confident about the delivery.
Land East of Caversham Park Road, Playhatch	Site submitted through the Local Plan process up to the end of the Regulation 19 consultation (30 November 2017), which complied	<p>Rejected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The allocation of this site would conflict with emerging Local Plan's spatial strategy. There are no overriding reasons to trigger a review of the spatial strategy.



Option	Reason for Inclusion	Reason for Selection/Rejection
	<p>with the basic Area Assessment Principles set in the Council's site selection work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the proposed size of the site, at least three highway accesses are considered required for this site. Access to the eastern side of the site is very constrained and currently consists of a rural road/track that would be unsuitable for general access. • Generally, access would not be appropriate off the A4155 which lies adjacent to the southern boundary of the site, most of which is covered by Flood Zone 3. The only part of the southern boundary that isn't within this flood zone is close to the junction where the start of the third Reading Thames crossing is proposed, therefore any design for improvement would have to consider what measures may be needed to 'future proof' this junction should this crossing come forward in time. • High pressure gas pipeline running in a north-south direction covering the lower half of the site. When taking account of the buffer areas of the pipeline, and other constraints it is likely to result in a site that is not strategic in nature. • Topography of site also varies considerably in that the lower half is fairly steep whilst the section to the north is fairly flat. This is likely to result in significant costs in terms of excavation to develop. • There is an archaeological constraint (Bronze Age Linear Features and Ring Ditches and Undated Circular Enclosure) that covers the entire lower third of the site. • Lack of information / evidence in respect of if the site was developed how this would affect existing infrastructure provision in the district including education, health etc. • This site is located on the periphery of the Oxfordshire Housing Market Area and as such may not be ideal considering the emerging Local Plan's housing requirements for the district being provided for within the plan period. There is no requirement to accommodate housing to meet any unmet need from Reading.
<p>Reading Golf Club</p>	<p>Site submitted through the Local Plan process up to the end of the Regulation 19 consultation (30 November 2017), which complied with the basic Area Assessment Principles set in the Council's site selection work.</p>	<p>Rejected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This allocation would not fit with the emerging spatial strategy as it is not in Science Vale or the area of search. There are no overriding reasons to trigger a review of the spatial strategy. • The site is on the periphery of the Oxfordshire Housing Market Area and therefore is not well located for meeting the districts housing needs including unmet needs from Oxford. • Provides for a more limited amount of growth (approx.479 but could be less owing to constraints). • The site is heavily constrained in terms of nature conservation and ecology. There is ancient woodland on site as well as BAP Priority Areas, Conservation Target Areas and protected species.



Option	Reason for Inclusion	Reason for Selection/Rejection
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="824 256 2011 320">• The site is heavily constrained in terms of highway access. The local road network is not suitable for a large scale development and safe access with adequate sight lines could not be achieved.



Table B.8 Outline Reasons for the Selection and Rejection of Options for Henley on Thames

	Reason for Inclusion	Reason for Selection/Rejection
1. Do Nothing	The do-nothing option allows an evaluation of the baseline, which predicts the significance of the effects without the implementation of further development.	Rejected: In the continued absence of a five-year housing land supply, Henley would continue to have speculative planning applications and as such the 'do nothing' approach would mean that additional development would be unplanned and would not take place in a coordinated manner with necessary supporting infrastructure. To not plan for further development at Henley would be to not recognise the opportunities of additional development. The plan period is to 2035 and it is not considered appropriate by the Council that one of the key towns within the district should be left without the opportunity to grow.
2. Allow Further Growth	Henley is one of the large market towns in the district and development at this location will help to strengthen the existing employment and services available. It also provides the opportunity to contribute towards meeting the housing needs of the district. Affordability is a key issue in the town and the provision of additional development will bring wider benefits.	Selected: Henley is one of the large market towns in the district and development at this location will help to strengthen the existing employment and services available. It also provides the opportunity to contribute towards meeting the housing needs of the district. Affordability is a key issue in the town and the provision of additional development will bring wider benefits.

Table B.9 Outline Reasons for the Selection and Rejection of Options for Nettlebed

Site Reference and Name	Reason for Inclusion	Reasons for Selection/Rejection
NET1: 0.8 ha site to the west of Priest Close	Submitted through the SHLAA	Selected: Land to the west of Priests Close is a greenfield site on the edge of the village. The Landscape Capacity Assessment found that development on the land to the west of Priest Close had the potential to harm the landscape setting of the village and the AONB, as it would expand the settlement into the wider countryside. However, the site is not visually prominent and provides a more balanced development option in terms of integration with the existing community.
NET2: 0.6 ha site on either side of Bushes Lane, South of Elms Way	Submitted through the SHLAA.	Rejected: Development of this site is considered to have more impact on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
NET3: 1.3 ha site to the west and south of Nettlebed Service Station, Port Hill	Submitted through the SHLAA.	Selected: Land south and west of the Service Station, Nettlebed has been allocated in addition to Land to the west of Priest Close and Joyce Grove in order to plan positively, provide a more balanced development option and supports existing facilities and services.
NET4: 1.9 ha site part of field to the west of the Ridgeway, North of High Street	Submitted through the SHLAA.	Rejected: Development of this site is considered to have more impact on the AONB.

<p>NET5: Land at Joyce Grove</p>	<p>Site owner has indicated site may become available and there is a pending planning application on the site.</p>	<p>Selected: Joyce Grove comprises a substantial Grade II listed house and outbuildings within a parkland setting. Given this, it would not be suitable for new-build housing but it is considered that there is the potential to re-use and sympathetically convert existing buildings to provide some new homes. The site is currently occupied by Sue Ryder and operates as a hospice. It is a highly valued facility for southern Oxfordshire. The district council is aware that the building does not currently meets their needs and they have been exploring options to relocate. At this point in time an appropriate alternative site has yet to be identified and this will be monitored in association with this policy.</p>
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Table B.10 Outline Reasons for the Selection and Rejection of Options for Travelling Communities

Site name and details	Potential Yield	Reason for Inclusion	Reason for Selection/Rejection
Didcot NE Greenfield Neighbourhood, 146.9ha	Site with Potential for up to 15 Pitches	Site considered by SODC to be a reasonable alternative.	Selected: Providing a site for gypsies and travellers at Didcot NE was identified in the Core Strategy in Policy CSH5 (referred to as a greenfield neighbourhood) and is being carried forward into the new Local Plan, as a suitable site for 4 pitches. The remaining 6 pitches that are required to meet the identified need are split between the strategic sites at Culham and Chalgrove.
Newlands, 0.1ha	Site with Potential for 1 Pitch	Site has 3 year temporary planning permission for 1 pitch and is a reasonable alternative.	Rejected: The Newlands site is not a preferred site, having regard to the fact that a mobile home creates limited harm to the surrounding area and the Chilterns AONB, the council's preferred approach was to grant a temporary planning permission for the site (three years).
Land South of Oxford Road, 1.6ha	Site with Potential for 12 Pitches	This site is in the green belt but treated as a reasonable alternative on a precautionary basis.	Rejected: Land South of Oxford Road is within the Green Belt and exceptional circumstances would need to be demonstrated to allow traveller use on this site.
Ten Acre Caravan Park, 0.6ha	Site with Potential for 5 Pitches (extension)	Potential for an extension to the site which might result in a net increase of 5 pitches. Considered to be a reasonable alternative.	Rejected: Ten Acre Caravan Park is an existing site managed by Oxfordshire County Council. The Council have no intention of expanding this site as larger sites are harder to manage. For this reason, it was rejected as an alternative. It was also not considered reasonable to have a private site adjacent to a public site for management reasons. The site is also in the green belt and would need to be inset from the green belt to allow any expansion.
Chalgrove Airfield,	3 pitches	Potential for incorporating pitches on strategic site.	Selected: The preferred option is to split the requirement between three small sites, suitable for family groups that are easier to manage and have less impact on infrastructure. Planning for need at the allocation stage means that the needs of the travellers can be considered at the outset of the design process and properly integrated into the design of the development.
Culham Science Village	3 pitches	Potential for incorporating pitches on strategic site.	Selected: The preferred option is to split the requirement between three small sites, suitable for family groups that are easier to manage and have less impact on infrastructure. Planning for need at the allocation stage means that the needs of the travellers can be considered at the outset of the design process and properly integrated into the design of the development.

Appendix C

Review of Monitoring Framework



Table C.1 Review of Proposed Monitoring Indicators against the Topics in the SEA Regulations

Local Plan Policy	Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective(s)	SEA Topic
STRAT1: The Overall Strategy	Covered by all other indicators in framework -see below	See below	See below
STRAT2: South Oxfordshire Housing and Employment Requirements	<p>Number of dwellings permitted and completed in the district to meet the overall need</p> <p>Progress towards meeting South Oxfordshire’s portion of unmet need in the housing market area</p> <p>Number of dwellings permitted and completed in the district to meet the overall need</p> <p>Quantum of land permitted and completed for employment by strategic site and allocation</p> <p>Number of Homes delivered at the Grenoble Road, Northfield, and North of Bayswater Brook strategic allocations</p>	<p>1. ‘Housing’.</p> <p>13. ‘Employment’</p> <p>14. ‘Science Vale.’</p>	Population
STRAT3: Didcot Garden Town	<p>Number of planning permissions granted on major development sites contrary to Policy STRAT3</p>	<p>The design principles cover design, local character, density and tenure, transport and movement, heritage, landscape and green infrastructure and social and community benefits. As such this indicator is relevant to a number of SA Objectives, including:</p> <p>1 ‘Housing’</p> <p>2 ‘Community safety’</p> <p>3 ‘Access to facilities’</p> <p>4 ‘Health and wellbeing’</p>	Population, Human health, Material assets, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Cultural heritage, Landscape



Local Plan Policy	Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective(s)	SEA Topic
		5 'Environmental protection' 6 'Travel choice' 7 Biodiversity 9 Historic environments 17 Community involvement	
STRAT4: Strategic Development	Progress of essential strategic infrastructure items Progress of other Strategic infrastructure items	1 'Housing.' 3 'Access to facilities' 10 Climatic factors	Population, Material assets
STRAT5: Residential Densities	Average density for major developments permitted by strategic allocation and location	8 Land use	Material assets
STRAT6: Green Belt	Status and type of permissions granted within the Green Belt	8 Land use	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil
STRAT7: Land at Chalgrove Airfield	Progress of Masterplan for the strategic allocation Number of homes permitted and delivered at strategic allocation Quantum of employment land permitted and completed at strategic allocation Number of pitches permitted and delivered for Gypsies and Travellers	1 'Housing' 13 'Employment'	Population
STRAT8: Culham Science Centre	Quantum of employment land permitted and completed at strategic allocation	13 'Employment' 14 'Science Vale'	Population
STRAT9: Land Adjacent to Culham Science Centre	Progress of Masterplan for the strategic allocation: Number of homes permitted and delivered at strategic allocation	1 'Housing'	Population

Local Plan Policy	Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective(s)	SEA Topic
	Number of pitches permitted and delivered for Gypsies and Travellers		
STRAT10: Berinsfield Garden Village	Number of planning permissions granted on major development sites contrary to Policy STRAT10	1 'Housing' 2 'Community safety' 3 'Access to facilities' 4 'Health and wellbeing' 5 'Environmental protection' 6 'Travel choice' 7 Biodiversity 9 Historic environments 17 Community involvement	Population, Human health, Material assets, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Cultural heritage, Landscape
STRAT10j: Land at Berinsfield Garden Village	Progress of Masterplan for the strategic allocation Number of homes permitted and delivered at strategic allocation Quantum of employment land permitted and completed at strategic allocation.	1 'Housing' 13 'Employment'	Population
Strat 10ii: Berinsfield Local Green Space	Status and type of permissions granted on land identified	3 'Access to facilities'	Population, Human health
Strat 11: Land South of Grenoble road	Progress of Masterplan for the strategic allocation Number of homes permitted and delivered at strategic allocation Quantum of employment land permitted and completed at strategic allocation	1. 'Housing'. 13. 'Employment'	
Strat 12: Land at Northfield	Progress of Masterplan for the strategic allocation Number of homes permitted and delivered at strategic allocation	1 'Housing'	Population



Local Plan Policy	Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective(s)	SEA Topic
Strat 13: Land North of Bayswater Brook	Progress of Masterplan for the strategic allocation Number of homes permitted and delivered at strategic allocation	1 'Housing'	Population
Strat 14: Land at Wheatley Campus, Oxford Brookes University	Number of homes permitted and delivered at strategic allocation	1 Housing	Population
Policy HEN 1: The Strategy for Henley-on-Thames	Number of homes permitted and delivered in Henley-on-Thames Quantum of employment land permitted and completed in Henley-on-Thames Quantum of retail floorspace permitted and completed in Henley-on-Thames	1 'Housing' 13 'Employment'	Population
Policy TH1: The Strategy for Thame	Number of homes permitted and delivered in Thame Quantum of employment land permitted and completed in Thame Quantum of retail floorspace permitted and completed in Thame	1 'Housing' 13 'Employment'	Population
Policy WAL1: The Strategy for Wallingford	Number of homes permitted and delivered in Wallingford Quantum of employment land permitted and completed in Wallingford Quantum of retail floorspace permitted and completed in Wallingford	1 'Housing' 13 'Employment'	Population
Policy H1: Delivering New Homes	Covered by all other housing indicators	See below	See below
Policy H2: New Housing in Didcot	Number of homes permitted and completed in Didcot by strategic allocation	1 'Housing'	Population
Policy H3: Housing in the Towns of Henley-on-	Number of homes permitted and completed in Henley-on-Thames, Thame and Wallingford	1 'Housing'	Population



Local Plan Policy	Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective(s)	SEA Topic
Thames, Thame and Wallingford			
Policy H4: Housing in the Larger Villages	Number of homes permitted and completed by Larger Village	1 'Housing'	Population
Policy H5: Land to the West of Priest Close, Nettlebed	Homes permitted and completed on allocated site	1 'Housing'	Population
Policy H6: Joyce Grove, Nettlebed	Homes permitted and completed on allocated site	1 'Housing'	Population
Policy H7: Land to the South and West of Nettlebed Service Station	Homes permitted and completed on allocated site	1 'Housing'	Population
Policy H8: Housing in the Smaller Villages	Number of homes permitted and completed by Smaller Village	1 'Housing'	Population
Policy H9: Affordable Housing	Percentage of affordable housing provided on major developments or where the site has an area of 0.5 hectares or more Tenure split	1 'Housing'	Population
Policy H10: Exception Sites and Entry Level Housing Schemes	Status of permissions granted for rural exception sites Site size and number of units permissioned for entry level exception sites by settlement	1 'Housing'	Population
Policy H11: Housing Mix	Average housing mix of planning permissions	1 'Housing'	Population
Policy H12: Self-Build and Custom-Build Housing	Number of registered interests on the self and custom build register compared with the potential supply of self and custom build housing	1 'Housing'	Population

Local Plan Policy	Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective(s)	SEA Topic
	Percentage of self and custom build plots on strategic allocations		
Policy H13: Specialist Housing for Older People	Amount and type of housing designed for older people permitted and within the district.	1 'Housing'	Population
Policy H14: Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Number of pitches permitted and delivered for Gypsies and Travellers by location	1 'Housing'	Population
Policy H15: Safeguarding Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites	Status and type of permissions granted on Safeguarded Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites	1 'Housing'	Population
Policy H16: Backland and Infill Development and Redevelopment	Status and type of housing permitted not in accordance with policy	1 'Housing'	Population
Policy H17: Sub-division and Conversion to Multiple Occupation	Status and type of permissions relating to sub-divisions of houses in multiple occupation	1 'Housing'	Population
Policy H18: Replacement Dwellings	Status and type of replacement housing permissions outside the built-up limits of settlements	1 'Housing' 8 'Land use'	Population Landscape
Policy H19: Rural Workers Dwellings	Status and type of Rural Worker Dwelling application	1 'Housing'	Population
Policy H20: Extensions to Dwellings	Status and type of permissions	1 'Housing'	Population
Policy H21: Loss of Existing Residential	Status and type of permissions	1 'Housing'	Population

Local Plan Policy	Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective(s)	SEA Topic
Accommodation in Town Centres			
Policy EMP1: The Amount and Distribution of new employment land	Quantum of employment land permitted and completed, by location	13 'Employment'	Population
Policy EMP2: Range, Size and Mix of Employment premises	Status of permissions proposing employment use of up to 150sqm Status of permissions proposing employment use of up to 500sqm	13 'Employment'	Population
Policy EMP3: Retention of Employment Land	Amount of employment land lost to other uses not in accordance with the policy	13 'Employment'	Population
Policy EMP4: Employment land in Didcot	Quantum of employment land permitted and completed in Didcot at EMP4i and EMP4ii	13 'Employment'	Population
Policy EMP5: New Employment Land at Henley-on- Thames	Quantum of employment land permitted and completed at Henley-on-Thames	13 'Employment'	Population
Policy EMP6: New Employment Land at Thame	Quantum of employment land permitted and completed at Thame	13 'Employment'	Population
Policy EMP7: New Employment Land at Wallingford	Quantum of employment land permitted and completed at Wallingford	13 'Employment'	Population
Policy EMP8: New Employment Land at Crowmarsh Gifford	Quantum of employment land allocated, permitted and completed	13 'Employment'	Population

Local Plan Policy	Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective(s)	SEA Topic
Policy EMP9: New Employment Land at Chalgrove	Quantum of employment land permitted and completed at Land at Monument Business Park	13 'Employment'	Population
Policy EMP10: Development in Rural Areas	Status and type of applications for employment uses in the open countryside	1 'Housing' 8 'Land use' 13 'Employment' 15 'Education and Skills'	Population Landscape
Policy EMP11: Tourism	Status and type of permissions granted for visitor economic developments.	8 'Land use' 13 'Employment' 15 'Education and Skills'	Population Landscape
Policy EMP12: Caravan and Camping Sites	Status and Type of permissions granted for Caravan and Camping Sites	8 'Land use'	Landscape
EMP14: Retention of Visitor Accommodation	Amount of C1 use floorspace lost	13 'Employment' 16 'Tourism'	
Policy INF1: Infrastructure Provision	Covered by all other infrastructure indicators	See below	See below
Policy TRANS1a: Supporting Strategic Transport Investment across the Oxford to Cambridge Arc:	Progress of infrastructure within the Oxford to Cambridge Arc	1 'Housing' 6 'Travel Choice' 10 'Climatic factors'	Population Material assets Climatic factors
Policy TRANS1b: Supporting Strategic Transport Investment	Progress of transport projects identified in the Local Transport Plan	1 'Housing' 6 'Travel Choice'	Population Material assets



Local Plan Policy	Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective(s)	SEA Topic
		10 'Climatic factors'	Climatic factors
Policy TRANS2: Promoting Sustainable Transport and Accessibility	Monitoring of Travel Plans for developments over 80 dwellings Progress of transport schemes To monitor designated Air Quality Management Areas Level of cycle movements	1 'Housing' 5 'Environmental protection' 6 'Travel Choice' 10 'Climatic factors'	Population Human health Material assets Climatic factors Air
Policy TRANS3: Safeguarding of Land for Strategic Transport Schemes	Status and use of planning permissions on land safeguarded	1 'Housing' 6 'Travel choice'	Population Material assets
Policy TRANS4: Transport Assessments, Transport Statements and Travel Plans	Monitoring of Travel Plans for developments over 80 dwellings	1 'Housing' 5 'Environmental protection' 6 'Travel choice'	Population Material assets Climatic factors Air
Policy TRANS5: Consideration of Development Proposals	Number of permissions granted against technical advice	1 'Housing' 5 'Environmental protection' 6 'Travel choice'	Population Material assets Climatic factors Air
Policy TRANS6: Rail	Status and type of planning permissions related to rail services	5 'Environmental protection' 6 'Travel choice'	Population Climatic Factors Air



Local Plan Policy	Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective(s)	SEA Topic
Policy TRANS7: Development Generating New Lorry Movements	Number of permissions granted against technical advice	5 'Environmental protection' 6 'Travel choice' 10 'Climate Change'	Population Material assets Climatic factors Air
Policy INF2: Electronic Communications	Compliance with Building Regulations	8 'Land-use'	Landscape
Policy INF3: Telecommunications Technology	Number of planning permissions refused	8 'Land-use'	Landscape
Policy INF4: Water Resources	Number of planning permissions granted against technical advice	5 'Environmental protection' 11 'Flood Risk'	Biodiversity, fauna, and flora Water
Policy ENV1: Landscape and Countryside	Status and type of permissions permitted in the AONBs	8 'Land-use'	Landscape
Policy ENV2: Biodiversity-Designated Sites, Priority Habitats and Species	Changes in areas of Priority Habitats and Species Number of permissions granted contrary to consultee advice on impact on Special Areas of Conservation Number of permissions granted contrary to consultee advice on impact on SSSI's	7 'Biodiversity'	Biodiversity, fauna, and flora
Policy ENV3: Biodiversity	Change in biodiversity area and/or sites	7 'Biodiversity'	Biodiversity, fauna, and flora
Policy ENV4: Watercourses	Number of planning permissions granted against technical advice	10 'Climate Change'	Human health Water



Local Plan Policy	Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective(s)	SEA Topic
		11 'Flood Risk'	Climatic factors
Policy ENV5: Green Infrastructure in New Developments	Number of planning permissions granted against technical advice	7 'Biodiversity' 8 'Land-use'	Biodiversity, fauna, and flora Human health Climatic factors
Policy ENV6: Historic Environment	Number of buildings on the 'Heritage at Risk' Register Number of new Conservation Area Character Appraisals Progress of Heritage Partnership Agreements	8 'Land-use' 9 'Built-heritage'	Cultural Heritage
Policy ENV7: Listed Buildings	Number of planning permissions granted against technical advice	8 'Land-use' 9 'Built-heritage'	Cultural Heritage
Policy ENV8: Conservation Areas	Number of planning permissions granted against technical advice	8 'Land-use' 9 'Built-heritage'	Cultural Heritage
Policy ENV9: Archaeology and Scheduled Monuments	Status and type of planning permissions	8 'Land-use' 9 'Built-heritage'	Cultural Heritage
Policy ENV10: Historic Battlefields, Registered Park and Gardens and Historic Landscapes	Status and type of planning permissions	8 'Land-use' 9 'Built-heritage'	Cultural Heritage
Policy ENV11: Pollution- - Impact from Existing and/or Previous Land Uses on new Development	Number of planning permissions granted against technical advice	1 'Housing' 2 'Environmental Protection' 8 'Land-use'	Population Human health Soil

Local Plan Policy	Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective(s)	SEA Topic
(Potential Receptors of Pollution)			Air Material assets Climatic factors
Policy ENV12: Pollution-Impact of Development on Human Health, the Natural Environment and/or Local Amenity (Potential Sources of Pollution)	Number of planning permissions granted against technical advice	1 'Housing' 5 'Environmental Protection' 8 'Land-use'	Population Human health Soil Air Material assets Climatic factors
Policy EP1: Air Quality	To monitor designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)	5 'Environmental Protection'	Air
Policy EP2: Hazardous Substances	Number of planning permissions granted against technical advice	5 'Environmental Protection' 8 'Land-use'	Air Soil Material Assets
Policy EP3: Waste Collection and Recycling	Percentage of household waste sent for re-use, recycling or composting	12 'Waste'	Material Assets
Policy EP4: Flood Risk	Number and detail of permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on flooding	11 'Flood Risk'	Climatic Factors
Policy EP5: Minerals Safeguarding Areas	Status and use of planning permissions on land safeguarded.	8 'Land-use'	Material Assets Soil
Policy DES1: Delivering High Quality Development	Covered by all other design indicators	See Below	See Below

Local Plan Policy	Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective(s)	SEA Topic
Policy DES2: Enhancing Local Character	Number of planning permissions granted against technical advice	1 'Housing' 8 'Land-use'	Population Material Assets
Policy DES3: Design and Access Statements	Number of permissions granted for major development supported by an appropriate masterplan and design and access statement.	1 'Housing' 13 'Employment'	Population
Policy DES4: Masterplans for Allocated Sites and Major Development	Covered by indicator for DES3	See DES3.	See DES3.
Policy DES5: Outdoor Amenity Space	Covered by indicator for DES3	See DES3.	See DES3.
Policy DES6: Residential Amenity	Covered by indicator for DES3	See DES3.	See DES3.
Policy DES7: Efficient use of Resources	Covered by indicators for EP1, EP3 and DES9	See STRAT12, EP1 and EP3	See STRAT12, EP1 and EP3
Policy DES8: Promoting Sustainable Design	Number of permissions granted that incorporate climate change adaptation measures. Covered by Indicators for DES10	5 Environmental Protection 8 'Land-use' 9 'Built Heritage' 10 'Climatic factors'	Air Soil Climate Factors Material Assets Cultural Heritage Landscape
Policy DES9: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	Number of, status and type of permission granted for renewable energy Renewable energy capacity	8 'Land-use' 10 'Climatic factors'	Material Assets Climatic Factors Material Assets

Local Plan Policy	Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective(s)	SEA Topic
	Renewable generation electricity generation		
Policy DES10: Carbon Reduction	Percentage carbon reduction approved as part of planning application (against 2013 Building Regulations compliant base case) Number of permission approved supported by an appropriate energy statement	10 'Climatic factors'	Climatic Factors
Policy TC1: Retail and Services Growth	Net change in comparison and convenience retail floorspace	3 'Access to Facilities' 13 'Employment'	Population Material Assets
Policy TC2: Retail Hierarchy	Retail use class development permitted by settlement hierarchy Number of applications approved and refused for 500m2 or greater accompanied with a Retail Impact Assessment	3 'Access to Facilities' 13 'Employment'	Population Material Assets
Policy TC3: Comparison Goods Floorspace Requirements	Comparison retail floorspace permitted by settlement hierarchy	3 'Access to Facilities' 13 'Employment'	Population Material Assets
Policy TC4: Convenience Floorspace Provision in the Market Towns	Provision of convenience floorspace (sqm retail floor space) at Henley, Thame and Wallingford	3 'Access to Facilities' 13 'Employment'	Population Material Assets
Policy TC5 – Primary Shopping Areas	Number of planning permissions granted resulting in loss of retail floorspace in Primary Shopping Areas	3 'Access to Facilities' 13 'Employment'	Population Material Assets
Policy CF1: Safeguarding Community Facilities	Number of community facilities ²⁰ lost	3 'Access to Facilities'	Population

²⁰ Facilities under use Class F2 Local Community Uses (shops smaller than 280 m² and without another shop in 1,000 m², a hall or meeting place for the principal use of the local community, outdoor sport or recreation locations, and swimming pools or skating rinks), Use Class F1 Learning and non-residential institutions, and the following Sui Generis uses: drinking establishments, cinemas, concert/dance/bingo halls, theatres.

Local Plan Policy	Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective(s)	SEA Topic
		4 'Health'	Human Health
Policy CF2: Provision of Community Facilities and Services	Status and type of permissions for community facilities	3 'Access to Facilities' 4 'Health' 7 'Biodiversity'	Biodiversity, fauna and flora Population Human Health
Policy CF3: New Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities	Provision of sporting facilities	3 'Access to Facilities' 4 'Health' 7 'Biodiversity'	Biodiversity, fauna and flora Population Human Health
Policy CF4: Existing Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities	Number of permissions leading to the loss of open space, sport and recreation facilities	3 'Access to Facilities' 4 'Health' 7 'Biodiversity'	Biodiversity, fauna and flora Population Human Health
Policy CF5: Open Space, Sport and Recreation in New Residential Development	Number of new residential development permissions that provide for, or contribute towards, open space, recreation and play facilities	3 'Access to Facilities' 4 'Health'	Population Human Health

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