



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
OXFORDSHIRE

Comment by South Oxfordshire CPRE Districts on Policy CSH1 and paragraphs 7.18

1. One of the purposes of planning policy is to reduce uncertainty for all concerned. For Didcot and the 3 market towns, the draft strategy is highly specific about not only the number of new dwellings proposed but also their precise location. However for larger villages a figure of 740 is calculated with certain criteria for the specific number for individual villages but no figures are nominated for each.

2. The principal criterion is outlined in paragraph 7.18 where allocation is by 'proportional growth'. We take this to imply proportional to the number of existing dwellings in the village. Further in the paragraph it is stated that site availability and local constraints will influence the calculation of precise numbers. CPRE welcomes this statement but wishes to draw attention to two considerations. The first is that, in line with government policy, villages should be encouraged to determine the number they consider acceptable/desirable. This applies as much to smaller villages (see final sentence of Policy CSR1) as to larger. The second is that while clearly the Site Allocations Document will necessarily be more specific, some reassurance as to likely end result of this planning exercise should be incorporated in the overarching Strategy. At present residents are quite ignorant of the numbers of new houses which the strategy implies.

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