



The countryside charity  
Oxfordshire

Campaigning to protect our rural county

[www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk)

# CPRE Oxfordshire briefing

## Oxfordshire Plan 2050

Are you and your representatives ready to speak up for Oxfordshire's countryside and rural towns and villages?

This summer will establish the direction of Oxfordshire for the next generation.

The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will define the development strategy for the county for the next three decades, including both the quality and quantity of housing and the broad locations for growth.

Now is the time to make sure your councillors are well-briefed and able to represent your views. Together, we need to make sure that our countryside and rural character are at the heart of future plans for Oxfordshire.

### About the Oxfordshire Plan 2050

This Joint Statutory Spatial Plan is being prepared by all four of our District Councils, Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council, working together through the [Oxfordshire Growth Board](#). You can read more about it here: [www.oxfordshireplan.org](http://www.oxfordshireplan.org)

An over-arching [Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire](#), which sits above the Plan, has already been agreed. This sets out the Growth Board's definition of 'good growth'.

### Watch out for the next consultation – due this summer

The next round of public consultation on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 is due to take place this summer 2021 and will be critical.

It will cover Spatial Growth Options, including setting out the scale and broad locations of growth.

NB In future, District/City Local Plans will not identify their own housing & development targets – instead these will be drawn down from the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan, so it's vital they are carefully considered.

We understand there will be a range of growth scenarios set out, but it is not clear what the 'bookends' of these will be. Work on an Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment has been undertaken, but to date the Growth Board has refused to publish this.

It may be that we are asked to comment on low/medium/high growth options (although 'low' in this context will almost certainly still be well above natural/organic growth).

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Please make sure your local councillor/s are well-briefed to respond on your behalf (as they may have a chance to comment in advance) and be ready to have your own say.

## Key Points

CPRE Oxfordshire believes the County's rural character should be the fundamental starting point from which decisions about the future development of the County should be made. This is not only because of its value in societal and environmental terms, but also its economic value in retaining and nurturing our educational and entrepreneurial assets.

Oxfordshire has already done more than its share in delivering growth well above and beyond local need. Housing stock is currently being increased by 100,000 houses, or 40% (2011-2031), which is a third more than even the Government's own flawed housing methodology suggests.

Our environment and rural character, as well as our biodiversity and climate emergencies, should rightly be strong constraints on further aggressive growth rates. The Oxford Green Belt, our three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the countryside which provides the historic setting to our rural settlements and Oxford City alike – all are precious assets that need to be treated with care for future generations.

The focus should be on organic growth, in line with local need, with sustainable development that protects and enhances the identity of our villages and countryside.

The quality of our local environment and landscapes is widely recognised as a key factor underpinning the success of our economy. Oxfordshire's world class high-tech sector must be supported, but as a seed-bed for ideas, for exploitation elsewhere in the country where employment growth is needed, rather than the creation of a county-wide industrial zone.

The Plan must be about more than the needs of Oxford City, but the needs of the county as a whole. For example, Bicester was promised high tech employment, but is being surrounded by land-hungry warehousing.

Read CPRE Oxfordshire's [A Better Vision for Oxfordshire](#).

You can also see our response to earlier Oxfordshire Plan 2050 consultations [on our website here](#).

## Why should you get involved? Let's make it bottom up, not top down

The Growth Board has said that the views and needs of Oxfordshire's people should be at the heart of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 – we must make sure that is the case.

The Oxfordshire Plan is also likely to be the best chance we have to influence the overall Oxford Cambridge Arc proposals and to limit a 'top-down' growth agenda.

Your voice will be vital.

## What can you do?

Make sure your councillor is well-briefed on the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan and knows your views.

Don't know who to contact? [Find out here](#).

Look out for & respond to the Oxfordshire 2050 consultation, summer 2021.

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