

Joint South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2041 – Issues consultation - June 2022

CPRE South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse responded to this consultation in June 2022. A review of the consultation has now been published and is available to download as a pdf on this link:

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/02/JLP-Issues-Consultation-Results-Document.pdf>

This report aims to highlight the main results and actions from the consultation and the degree to which our comments are supported by others and/ or have been taken onboard and actioned.

Headline findings:

- The majority of our comments have made it into the consultation report, several “verbatim”.
- There are no clear, definitive actions from this report, such as “We will introduce a policy on XYZ”. However, there are many positive comments such as “We will review and amend as appropriate based on consultation responses”. We need to await the details in the next stage.
- The majority of responses were supportive of the same key issues we raised. “Protecting our countryside”, which we encouraged people to rate as a top priority came out overwhelmingly as a top priority.
- There were two areas where the consultation responses differed from our response. There was disagreement on the need for high density build in developments, with a view that this would impact quality of life. The consultation action is that they will use densities appropriate to the area and with good design. There was also some negativity to reducing car parking spaces at new builds, although many mentioned the need to have public transport and local services in place in advance of new build homes if this were to be successful and supported.
- Approach to Green Belt and the scale of future housing development were acknowledged as areas which were missing from this consultation and will be addressed in the next consultation.
- In the Duty to cooperate scoping model CPRE were named by respondents as non-obligatory consultees who should be engaged with. It was reported that “where appropriate” this engagement should take place.

Key consultation statistics:

The consultation received:

314 completed responses, 156 via the online survey, 153 via email (this includes those where an email was sent to supplement a response submitted via the online survey directly- which CPRE did) and 5 by mail.

They also received **97** responses which **promoted specific sites** for development. They comment that the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment is being undertaken and will consider any newly promoted sites which were included in the 97 responses as part of that assessment.

There was a fairly even geographical split of responses.

The type of response was interesting, with the highest category being **38.1% from an agent, developer or landowner**, 30.8% from an individual member of public, 16.3% from a district, county or parish council or councillor and 14.7% from another category (which is where CPRE fall as a charity/ campaign group).

CPRE Key concerns

The CPRE S Oxon & VoWH response took two forms; a letter detailing our key concerns and also an online response to the consultation survey. The following section gives the outcome of our key concerns:

1. Addressing the emergency- Climate Change

The report states "*There was much support for climate change awareness and for thinking about development proposals in a climate change context.*"

Actions identified :

We propose to: *continue developing policies to ensure developments within the districts produce as little air and water pollution as possible, both in their construction and during their use, and require building designs to be adapted to be resilient to climate change impacts like overheating.*

We propose to: *develop policies within the Local Plan that are ambitious in their aims to keep our communities safe from pollution, flooding and the effects of climate change. We will explore further the wide range of opportunities and challenges raised through the consultation, including through detailed evidence studies.*

2. Overall principle - Keeping our Oxfordshire countryside open

We strongly welcomed 'Protecting our countryside' being identified as a key issue and encouraged others to also support. Almost a third of responses selected 'Protecting our countryside' as the most important of the issues. Given that 38% of respondents were developers or land owners who are less likely to have chosen this option this is a strong result.

It was also reported that countryside does not just mean AONB and Green Belt.

We called for the terms 'countryside' and / or 'rural' to be included within the vision wording, and this was also reported although no firm action or commitment given.

3. Housing numbers

There was an acknowledgement that this consultation had not gone into detail in relation to housing growth figures.

“In terms of anything the Issues Consultation missed, one of the most common categories of response was around housing numbers, housing need and the location of housing.”

“Many responses felt that the biggest challenge for the Joint Local Plan is how to overcome excessive housing numbers from Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and the growth plan. There were requests for less housing.”

Actions taken:

We propose to: *address the matters of housing requirements and Green Belt through future engagement on the Joint Local Plan.*

We propose to: *continue with our focus on the main issues raised through the Issues Consultation and commission evidence to explore the issues in greater detail.*

We propose to: *utilise the most up to date data we can access, including the Census data which is being released in stages at the moment.”*

4. Spatial Strategy

It was reported *“We received a number of comments about the spatial strategy, where development should be focused and what should influence the emerging strategy. Comments were also received supporting a brownfield first approach and exploring opportunities to re-develop under-utilised areas.”*.

We propose to: *develop a spatial strategy and related policies within the Joint Local Plan that support existing sustainable places with good access to services, as well as promote 20 minute neighbourhoods in new developments, so that people have good access to services and facilities.*

We strongly opposed *“support affordable housing on sites we’d normally protect from development”* and it was reported that *“a noticeably larger number of responses also disagreed”* with this statement.

5. Housing Density

Whilst CPRE strongly supported the option around *‘Minimise greenfield use by increasing density of developments’*, this was the option which generally received the most disagreement within the consultation. There was concern that this would impact quality of life for residents.

Action taken:

We propose to: *continue to develop a policy to achieve the right housing densities in the right locations, making sure that this won’t adversely impact on the quality of life for current and future residents. We will have policies that require all developments to be of high quality.*

There was strong support for our call for 20 minute neighbourhoods to offer a **full range** of facilities

We propose to: *develop a spatial strategy and related policies within the Joint Local Plan that support existing sustainable places with good access to services, as well as promote 20 minute neighbourhoods in new developments, so that people have good access to services and facilities.*

6. Renewable Energy

The report identified through consultation top priorities in relation to renewables and these matched many of our concerns:

- *A need to not burn fossil fuels*

- *Need for a countywide renewable strategy*
- *A request for openness regarding current renewables ambitions*
- *Support for increasing renewables and for higher standards of efficiency*
- *Requiring solar panels on all new roofs*
- *Maximising passive energy capture*
- *Encouragement to permit wind generation*
- *A need for new homes to have the highest levels of insulation*
- *Concerns that obtaining solar panels/air source heat pumps is currently difficult*
- *Concerns regarding fusion energy*

No definitive commitments were given.

7. Hedgerows

Many respondents highlighted the value of trees and hedgerows and felt that more should be done to protect them and to encourage new trees and hedgerows to be planted

Actions included :

We propose to: *develop policies within the Joint Local Plan that are ambitious about protecting and restoring the natural environment. We will consider the wide range of opportunities and challenges raised through the responses, including through commissioning specialist studies to help us.*

8. Dark Skies

Our call for a proactive dark skies policy has been acknowledged , with responses calling for “*A need to protect landscape character and/or dark skies including suggestions for a positive/proactive dark skies policy*”.

In relation to nature recovery and landscape “*respect landscape character, dark skies and the natural beauty of the countryside in development decisions*” achieved the highest number of respondents including it as a top opportunity.

Actions taken : ***We propose to:*** *develop policies within the Joint Local Plan that are ambitious about protecting and restoring the natural environment. We will consider the wide range of opportunities and challenges raised through the responses, including through commissioning specialist studies to help us.*

9. Protect and improve our blue spaces and plan for improved water conservation

It was reported that a large number of respondents “*raised points on the topics of water, sewerage and flooding; particularly raising concerns regarding sewerage and ensuring watercourses and rivers are protected.*”

Our call that all new buildings should include measures for water conservation and re-use were also reported.

Online survey results

CPRE S Oxon & VoWH also submitted an online response to the consultation survey. The following section gives the outcome of these responses by question.

Questions posed are in orange.

Our initial response is in blue.

Consultation responses and actions are in black.

1 What three things do you value most about where you live?

We answered :CPRE Oxfordshire value and seek to protect the countryside in our rural county.

Top words in the consultation response were : countryside, access, community and green space, so it is encouraging to see that many had the same views as us.

2. In fewer than 50 words, if you could make one change to improve where you live, what would it be? Include the name of the town, village or area you're talking about.

Tighter protection for the countryside, AONB and Green Belt recognising its role as a major contributor to the quality of life for residents, its importance for the local economy, and its vital role in tackling our climate and biodiversity emergencies. This would include the extension of the AONB as proposed by the Glover report (together with the designation of the Chilterns AONB as a national Park) and definition of boundaries for settlements in the AONB to reduce the loss of designated landscape.

Lack of adequate infrastructure and services were the majority response in this area; with a call for infrastructure and services in front of new development

Partial win: It was acknowledged that two areas which were not covered in any detail through the Issues consultation, but were raised in response to this question, were the approach to Green Belt and the scale of future housing development. They propose to address the matters of housing requirements and Green Belt through future engagement on the Joint Local Plan.

3. Overall, do you agree that these are the main issues that the Joint Local Plan should consider?

We agreed 85% of others either agreed or strongly agreed

If you think there are other issues the Local Plan should consider, please let us know in this box:

Farming – especially in relation to food security

The setting of the AONB needs to be included.

Protection of our water sources, aquifers & chalk streams.

Lack of Infrastructure and services scored the highest (44 responses), then housing provision and affordability and sustainable farming (both 31), with Green Belt and climate change (both 16)

4. Which of these issues do you think is the most important?

We consider all these issues important and interlinked and the next stage of consultation needs to detail how priorities and inevitably trade-offs will be made.

Two issues, Protecting Our Countryside and Climate Change should be given the highest priority.

Respondents agreed with us :Protecting the countryside came first at 30.9%, then climate change 24.5%

5. How much do you agree with this vision for the Joint Local Plan?

We agreed as did 85% of respondents agree or strongly agree

If there is anything you disagree with in particular, or you have any other thoughts let us know here:

The current settlement pattern means that it is unrealistic to expect cars to go away and residents of rural communities should not be penalised for this. If this vision is to be anything other than a pipe dream, then the plan must contain, or be supported by, a substantial programme to transition to renewables, to install the infrastructure required to support non internal combustion engine motor vehicles without losing substantial areas of countryside and for measures to support carbon capture. All, not just new, houses need insulation and help to move away from gas. Public and voluntary sector buildings (e.g., village halls) will need help with transition to renewables.

The consultation acknowledged the points we raised along with others, but overall concluded that they proposed to: carry forward the vision, with minor adjustments, into the next stages of drafting the Joint Local Plan.

Reducing Carbon Emissions

6. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

1. Plan for a move away from fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions
2. Require new homes and buildings to minimise energy use through their layout and design, and have the highest standards of fabric efficiency
3. Transition to renewable forms of energy and support the districts in playing an international role in fusion energy power plant research and deployment
4. Ensure the amount of development taking place stays within the districts' carbon budget
5. Plan for new development in locations that enable sustainable lifestyles (20 minute neighbourhoods)
6. Limit parking at new developments
7. Require electric vehicle charging points
8. Encourage carbon sinks and increase tree cover
9. Limit developments with high greenhouse gas emissions e.g. intensive indoor livestock farming

2 New homes to minimise energy use came first, then 5 – 20 min neighbourhoods, then 1 move from fossil fuels.

7. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

- 3 – fusion energy

6 – Limit car parking at new development was the standout statement that was disagreed with

8. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to reduce carbon emissions, please write them here.

Further detail on our option choices in Questions 6

It is unreal to expect the district to achieve carbon neutrality given the renewable energy generation technologies that will be available during the plan period. A major effort to decarbonise the district is, therefore, vital.

Therefore, we consider “Plan for a move away from fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions” is a statement of the challenge, which needs to be addressed and not an opportunity within this plan period.

Whilst we also support “Limit developments with high greenhouse gas emissions e.g., intensive indoor livestock farming,” we feel this statement implies a number of smaller emitters would be acceptable, which we would oppose.

Further detail on our option choices in Questions 7

- i. We strongly support the principle of a transition to renewable energy, in a way that supports the countryside.
- ii. 3 which is not a statement of how and refers to fusion energy which remains decades away and requires little or no support from the Local Plan. The reference to fusion energy should be omitted from this option.

Other thoughts on reducing carbon emissions.

- i. Approximately one-half of greenhouse gas emissions in the district come from transport. Therefore, placing development in existing high-density areas with a **full range of facilities** (more than those required on a daily

basis) will reduce both car travel and that of delivery and other service vehicles. We refer to facilities such as doctors, dentists, opticians and a wide range of shops and other services; all of which serve existing high-density areas.

- ii. The district has a housing stock that is poorly insulated and, given that some 25% of greenhouse gas emissions are produced by households, significant reductions will not be achieved unless there is a major programme to support the reduction of emissions from the domestic sector.
- iii. It should also be noted that, on average, the construction of a new dwelling produces around 100 tons of greenhouse gases, primarily CO₂.
- iv. The Local Plan should require all new developments, domestic, commercial, or public sector to install solar panels with minimum nominal capacities. For a three bedroomed dwelling this could be set at 3kWh. A policy should be included that relates the nominal power output to the roof area.
- v. The natural world is a substantial absorber and fixer of CO₂. The IPPC recognises that forests alone could absorb between 15 and 25% of CO₂ emissions. The two districts are fortunate in having extensive wooded areas and open countryside and the plan needs to recognise and protect their role as essential CO₂ removers and storers.
- vi. The plan also omits to mention support for companies that devise carbon free carbon-free energy sources or employing technology to capture CO₂ emissions and permanently store it.
- vii. All new development should insist on limiting loss of light energy & light spillage by minimising large expanses of glazing and/or insisting on light emission reducing glazing on all types of building
- viii. All new development should insist on more energy efficient building designs using the building of terraces, high density developments across a whole development site, limit the number of garages and do not allow garage conversions
- ix. Plan for increasing hedgerow cover.
- x. Renovation over demolition & rebuild should be promoted.
- xi. Look at energy recovery in big buildings – new schools, offices, industry.
- xii. Look at bio-methane capture from sewage works

The majority of our points were reported and several actions were suggested in this area:

ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

We propose to: think carefully about where to apply new limits on car parking for new residential developments.

We propose to: commission specialist advice to help develop our standards for sustainable design and test them for viability.

We propose to: keep going with developing policies that ensure developments within the districts produce as few carbon emissions as possible, both in their construction and during their use, and require building designs to be adapted to be resilient to climate change impacts like overheating. We also propose to develop policies ensuring that the location and design of our developments encourage more sustainable lifestyles.

We propose to: develop policies that are ambitious in their aims to reduce carbon emissions. We will pursue further the opportunities we presented, and also give thought to how the plan can support the retrofitting of existing homes, encourage active travel and public transport use (including in rural areas), and ensure its policies are viable and deliverable.

Nature Recovery and Landscape

9. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

1. Respect landscape character, dark skies and the natural beauty of the countryside in development decisions
2. Research and map effective nature recovery networks
3. Restrict the amount of development in and around our top biodiversity areas
4. Require developments to generate a net gain in biodiversity
5. Ensure a net gain in biodiversity takes place where it's most effective
6. Require improvements to air and water quality

7. Protect trees and recognise the value of nature, giving us clean air, flowing water, soils to grow food in, and enjoyment
8. Support farmers, foresters and landowners committing to restore nature
9. Minimise the use of greenfield land by increasing the density of developments

1 was the winner in the consultation – then 3, then 7

10. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

- None

Increasing density was the most unpopular option, with concern on the quality of life for residents.

Action : We propose to: continue to develop a policy to achieve the right housing densities in the right locations, making sure that this won't adversely impact on the quality of life for current and future residents. We will have policies that require all developments to be of high quality.

11. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to protect the natural environment, please write them here.

We have felt restricted by identifying three factors here and would support all these opportunities.

1. We consider the most important ONE which we feel should be heavily weighted is "Minimise the use of greenfield land by increasing the density of developments".
2. It is essential that biodiversity (and landscape impact) is assessed by genuinely independent authorities not appointed by developers, landowners or others with an interest in the development proceeding.
3. Avoid development in the AONBs, the Green Belt and other open countryside and woodland.
4. Do not allow development where water abstraction/stress causes damage to the water courses/habitats & environment.
5. The Plan needs to include a flood map for Ground Water flooding. Do not allow development where ground water surface flooding leads to sewage discharge into the water courses.
6. Promote hedgerow planting.
7. Increase the generation of electricity from solar power by utilising domestic and commercial roof space to avoid loss of natural habitat and landscape.
8. Control and reduce light pollution. Insist on limiting loss of light energy & light spillage by minimising large expanses of glazing and/or insisting on light emission reducing glazing on all types of building.

Again, most of these points were reported.

We propose to: develop policies within the Joint Local Plan that are ambitious about protecting and restoring the natural environment. We will consider the wide range of opportunities and challenges raised through the responses, including through commissioning specialist studies to help us.

Protecting and Enhancing Local Heritage

12. No response

13. No response

14. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to protect and enhance local heritage please write them here.

We have chosen not to rank our top three of these statements as we consider them all to be vague and "nice to have." They are imprecise and need substance and factual detail in order to comment further.

We would highlight that Preserving heritage must not be an excuse for loss of countryside or landscape, or for intrusion into or destruction of areas of high biodiversity.

Our points do not seem to have been reported, although it was mentioned that some thought these questions were too vague. Several responses highlighted that preserving heritage regulations should not come at the cost of net zero and retrofitting to improve energy efficiency.

There was also support to restore Wilts/ Berks canal as heritage asset

Thriving Inclusive Communities

15. No response

16.No response

17. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to tackle housing inequality and affordability, please write them here.

- i. Much of this is desirable but, in practice, unachievable. Average house prices in the district are around 3 times what is generally accepted as being affordable. As development is delivered by private sector companies using land for which the owners wish to obtain the maximum price then genuinely affordable housing can only be delivered through a combination of compulsory purchase and public sector construction. Failing that then smaller houses in high density developments in towns and locations that are more affordable, cheaper to heat, and do not impact on the designated landscapes of the districts will be needed.
- ii. Option 4 suggests allowing affordable housing on sites normally protected from development. **This option should be removed**. This is likely to be abused by developers and produce dwellings that intrude into designated landscapes and, furthermore, that are poorly serviced thus adding to local vehicle traffic and CO₂ emissions. This being removed was supported by many.
- iii. Option 6 must be supported and Neighbourhood Plans need to be genuinely allowed to reflect local needs and not expected to slavishly follow a Local Plan covering two districts.
- iv. Relatively affordable, smaller, dwellings become unaffordable as the properties are enlarged. The Local Plan should protect smaller dwellings by removing permitted development rights when granting planning permission.

All our points were reported.

We propose to: commission evidence to assess the need for affordable housing and housing to meet the needs of specific groups within the plan area.

We propose to: develop policies within the Joint Local Plan that are ambitious in their aim to address the housing needs of our communities but are appropriate in what can be delivered and balanced against the other objectives of the plan.

We propose to: work with neighbourhood planning groups in bringing forward plans for their areas.

18. We'd like to hear your ideas for how we could adapt our town centres and high streets to meet our changing needs. **Are there any improvements, new facilities or uses that you would like to see in the locations marked on the map?**

- We remain supportive of the need for a new train station at Wantage/Grove

There were a large number of responses to this question. Wantage / Grove station was generally supported.

We propose to: use the feedback, together with the findings of the Town Centres and Retail Study, as evidence to underpin the formulation of new town centre and retail policies in our Joint Local Plan.

Transport and Facilities

19. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

1. Focus new development in settlements where the facilities for everyday living are available within 20 minutes' walk or cycling distance
2. Restrict development in locations which are not able to function as 20 minute neighbourhoods.

3. Safeguard shops, community facilities and services from redevelopment to new uses

4. Plan for new infrastructure alongside development, especially in Garden Communities at Didcot, Berinsfield and Dalton Barracks and on strategic allocation sites
5. Plan a transition to sustainable transport modes by walking and cycling, shared transport, electric and alternative fuel cars, driverless cars, and plan for enhanced public transport including re-opening of the Cowley Branch line and a station at Grove
6. Plan for safe routes for walking and cycling, new quietways, new routes between settlements, secure bike parking, cargo bikes, electric bikes and scooters, electric vehicle charging
7. Plan for sustainable travel that is reliable, integrated and accessible
8. Plan for new technological innovation in transport and communications technologies

There was a fairly even response to all these questions, with number 7 marginally being the most popular.

20. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

- 8

No option was disagreed with by the majority. Although option 8 was the least popular opportunity it was not disagreed. Number 2 (20 minute neighbourhoods) was the most disagreed with- but again not by the majority.

21. If you currently drive, what would encourage you to drive less and/or walk, cycle or take public transport more?

Choosing to walk or cycle rather than use a car requires the following to be overcome:

- i. Road safety. Cycling and walking is often dangerous in locations where there are no pedestrian footpaths, cycle paths or busy roads connecting communities.
- ii. Properly surfaced footpaths suitable for those with walking disability, requiring a mobility scooter, or pushing a pram with young children.
- iii. Full local services (including a dentist, optician, hardware store) within safe walking distance.
- iv. A reliable and inexpensive bus service. Superficial settlement assessments note the published frequency of bus services but fail to consider the number of different service routes and fail to note the poor reliability of services to settlements outside the district's towns.
- v. Inability to park the car and/or very high car parking fees.

Our points were reported and raised by others:

Action:

We propose to: provide policy support for the delivery of well-designed walking and cycling infrastructure.

We propose to: work with Oxfordshire County Council, as the highway authority, to help deliver infrastructure improvements that will prioritise walking, cycling and public transport convenience and safety

22. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to ensure people have easy access to the services they need to use on a day-to-day basis, please write them here.

We consider all these are all good objectives for new developments, but don't address problems of existing settlements. Whilst we support the two objectives which refer to 20 minute neighbourhoods in principle, we cannot support these objectives as written; they will merely increase private vehicle use between settlements as public transport options are not available and everyday living needs to reflect the **real, full** everyday needs of an aging population who cannot cycle and have difficulty walking. It is readily apparent even in those settlements classed as larger villages that the car is used to travel from home to local shop, surgery or community facility. This is why we feel new development is best placed within existing high density areas where a **full range** of facilities already exist.

“Plan for new technological innovation in transport and communications technologies” is merely hoping for a miracle. The plan must operate on current and known technology that can be reliably seen as being widely adopted within the plan period.

Again, our points were reported.

ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

We propose to: think carefully about planning for car parking and its impact on certain groups and how they access services.

We propose to: consider how our policies may affect rural communities and their access to services.

We propose to: develop a spatial strategy and related policies within the Joint Local Plan that support existing sustainable places with good access to services, as well as promote 20 minute neighbourhoods in new developments, so that people have good access to services and facilities.

Healthy Lifestyles and Safe Communities

23. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

1. Provide opportunities for active travel, exercise, social interaction and recreation
2. Enhance opportunities for exercise and enjoying high-quality open spaces and the countryside
3. Plan places for people to grow their own food
4. Avoid inappropriate development in flood risk areas.
5. Limit and control new sources of air, water, noise and light pollution
6. Require building designs to be adapted to be resilient to climate change impacts like overheating

4 – Avoid development on flood plain was most popular response- followed by 3 – place to grow your own food

ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

We propose to: ensure that we evaluate the potential health and wellbeing impacts of future plan policies.

We propose to: reflect on healthy place shaping principles and how they can be incorporated into policy, particularly in relation to those on design.

We propose to: update our evidence on the need for leisure facilities and playing pitches in our district. Part of this work will look at how to support residents with accessing these facilities by means of transport other than private vehicles.

We propose to: provide policy to support the delivery of well-designed walking and cycling routes.

We propose to: review suitability of all safeguarding in the existing adopted local plans.

We propose to: retain and update our existing policies that protect allotments and other community facilities.

24. No response

25. No response

26. No response

Jobs and Opportunities for Innovation

27. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

1. Plan jobs near homes and homes near jobs
2. Support working from home and community based work hubs/ facilities.
3. Provide employment opportunities for innovation in Science Vale
4. Work to support innovation in Science Vale like the fusion work at Culham Science Centre, and space technology and vaccine manufacture at Harwell
5. Support the ‘circular economy’ and businesses working towards a greener future
6. Support rural land-based businesses, the local food economy and rural tourism

1,2 and 6 scored the highest.

28. No response

29. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to cater for future working styles and patterns, please write them below.

Whilst we support “Plan jobs near homes and homes near jobs” we would caveat this support by pointing out providing homes near employment centres is **only** effective if those homes are occupied by those working in the centres and there are effective, cheap, low-carbon shuttles or other public means of travelling between work and home.

30. No response

31. Have we correctly summarised the issues, challenges and opportunities for the Joint Local Plan?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

If you've said no, what do you think we've missed?

Whilst we have responded with a qualified yes. However, two ‘super’ issues need explicit recognition:

- i. Some issues are more important and urgent than others – how will they be prioritised?
- ii. The land area of the two districts is too small to accommodate the competing requirements of land for (a) actions to reduce the net CO₂ emissions from the district, (b) land for off-setting the CO₂ impact of constructing new homes, and (c) maintaining the countryside with its essential contribution to food security, biodiversity and amenity.

In terms of anything the Issues Consultation missed, one of the most common categories of response was around housing numbers, housing need and the location of housing.

Many responses felt that the biggest challenge for the Joint Local Plan is how to overcome excessive housing numbers from Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and the growth plan. There were requests for less housing.

There were also responses which highlighted that Green Belt protection and enhancement had not been addressed through the consultation.

ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

Now that the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 is not progressing, the Joint Local Plan will need to consider the housing needs for the area and what needs to be done to address this.

The government is consulting on changes to the way housing need is calculated through proposed amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework. We will continue to monitor any changes to national policies or legislation, and respond to these accordingly.

We propose to: address the matters of housing requirements and Green Belt through future engagement on the Joint Local Plan.

We propose to: continue with our focus on the main issues raised through the Issues Consultation and commission evidence to explore the issues in greater detail.

We propose to: utilise the most up to date data we can access, including the Census data which is being released in stages at the moment.

31. Any other comments

There are many other comments reported and these have been categorised , although there are no specific actions and recommendations from them.

Sustainability Appraisal

ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

The Sustainability Appraisal of our emerging Joint Local Plan will be an iterative process and the next stage of reporting will form an important part of our Preferred Options (Regulation 18 Part 2) consultation. At this next stage, we will include details of all the comments made at the scoping stage and how these have influenced the way in which we have undertaken the appraisal of our emerging policy options.

Settlement Assessment

We are in the processing of collating and analysing replies. We will consult on the results of the settlement assessment in the next consultations on the Joint Local Plan.

Duty to cooperate scoping document.

Engaging with other groups- and **CPRE was mentioned** ... is suggested

They propose....where appropriate, engage with the additional, non-prescribed, bodies suggested (that are not subject to the legal Duty to Cooperate) during the plan-making process

Lynda Moore – March 2023