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OXFORD LOCAL PLAN 2001-2016

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The Planning Policy team
Oxford City Council
Ramsay House
10 St. Ebbes Street
Oxford
OX1 1PT

Tel: 01865 252847
E-mail: planningpolicy@oxford.gov.uk
Fax: 01865 252144



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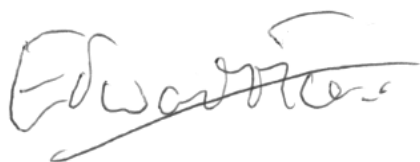
Foreword

Oxford's unique architectural heritage is commonly acknowledged, but this is only one aspect of the character of this complex city. Oxford is home to a diverse and vibrant mix of urban communities, to world-class universities and major regional health services, and to an expanding economy ranging from skilled manufacturing industry to cutting edge scientific research. However, alongside these strengths come difficult challenges such as meeting the pressing need for more affordable housing and accommodating new development within a historic setting.

When work on this Plan began, the City Council set out to prepare an ambitious document that would take Oxford forward into the 21st Century by meeting the needs of all those who use the City, whether as residents, workers, shoppers or visitors. We have been successful in steering some innovative new policies through the statutory procedures into the adopted Plan, and I hope that those policies will help us to address the many challenges faced by Oxford over the coming years. For example, we are leading the way nationally with our policies on securing more affordable housing and minimising the use of natural resources.

The publication of this Plan also marks the culmination of a process that has witnessed extensive consultation and dialogue with a wide range of individuals, organisations and interest groups. I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the development of the Plan, including members of all political parties on the City Council who have worked together in a spirit of cross-party cooperation. I believe that all their efforts have helped ensure that this is a Plan of which the City Council can be proud.

The new Local Plan has been produced at a time of change within the planning system. Our challenge now is to build on these achievements by positively embracing the new system introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Over the next few years we will be bringing forward a variety of documents, such as Area Action Plans, a Core Strategy and Supplementary Planning Documents, which will collectively form Oxford's Local Development Framework. This Local Plan will be the starting point for the Local Development Framework, and I believe that it provides a sound and sustainable basis for the future development of the City.



Cllr Ed Turner

Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning, Housing and Economic Development

February 2006

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