


Oxford Core Strategy Examination Statement of Oxford City Council		<a href="http://www.oxford.gov.uk">www.oxford.gov.uk</a>  <b>OXFORD CITY COUNCIL</b>
C/M1/2	<b>Matter 1 – Procedural/Legal Requirements and General Issues</b>  <b>Issue 2 – General issues</b>	

## Issues facing the City to 2026

### i) Where are the issues defined that the City is facing to 2026?

23 spatial issues were identified in Issues and Options document (CD6/1, pages 10-12) and these were consulted upon in June and July 2006. These spatial issues were derived from the work to produce a spatial portrait of the city and the key drivers for change.

The decision was taken not to repeat the 23 spatial issues at each stage of the Core Strategy's production but to develop and refine them further as the document progressed. In the Preferred Options document (CD6/4 page 11) the spatial issues were distilled down into a set of 9 key challenges, and these were further refined and prioritised into four key challenges in the Proposed Changes to the Submission Core Strategy (CD1/1 pages 16-17).

Further information is provided in Background paper A(i) Links between stages of production (CD5/1). This document provides an audit trail of how issues identified at the Issues and Options stage were developed through the Preferred Options and Further Preferred Options into the policies in the original Submission document.

The Sustainability Appraisal also identified 11 key sustainability issues for Oxford (CD4/1 page 14) some of which overlap with the spatial issues identified at the issues and options stage.

The Spatial Portrait included in the Proposed Changes to the Submission Document (pages 10-17), also sets out the issues and challenges facing the city that the Core Strategy seeks to address.

### ii) Does the Core Strategy "key challenges" set these out clearly enough?

Yes, it is considered that the Core Strategy (as amended by the Proposed Changes) does set this out clearly. The additional text added at pages 16 and 17 tell the story beginning with the enhanced spatial portrait, leading through to some of the main issues and then onto the key challenges. These provide a succinct summary of the main challenges facing the city and those that the Core Strategy seeks to address.

A reading of the Spatial Portrait (section 1) gives a full picture of the District; the key issues facing Oxford can be discerned from that section.

**iii) How are these prioritised and how do these issues feed through into the Vision and Strategy?**

It is considered that all 4 key challenges (meeting development needs in the context of a shortage of land; protecting the built and natural environment; promoting social inclusion through regeneration; and addressing climate change) are important to Oxford and therefore to the Core Strategy. These are the 4 key priorities that have been refined from the earlier list of 23 spatial issues and it would be difficult to separate these. They form the key themes for the document and are all picked up in the vision (pages 18-20).

The first, meeting development needs is picked up in first, fifth and sixth paragraphs of vision and then flows through into the spatial strategy (section 3), maintaining a balanced housing supply (section 7), and strengthening prosperity (section 8) of the plan.

The second, protecting the built and natural environment is picked up in the second paragraph of the vision and flows into climate change (section 4) and social inclusion (section 6) parts of vision with policies on issues such as biodiversity, urban design, townscape character and the historic environment, and green spaces for example.

The third, promoting social inclusion through regeneration is picked up in first and fourth paragraph of the vision and flows through into the spatial strategy (section 3) and social inclusion (section 6) with policies on regeneration areas, community safety, cultural and community development, and leisure and sport for example.

The fourth, addressing climate change is picked up in the second paragraph of the vision and flows through into responding to climate change (section 4) with policies on energy, waste, flooding and biodiversity for example.

## Role of the Core Strategy

### i) Does the length of the document detract from the message?

No, document is fuller than when originally submitted, but it is still relatively concise. It is considered that the additions made through the Proposed Changes to the Submission Document complement the existing text and add value in terms of detail. The additions proposed have expanded the message of the Core Strategy rather than adding new messages. The structure of the document is clear making it easy to navigate.

### ii) What subsequent DPD's and SPD's are the Council planning to prepare?

There are already plans to prepare many more documents for the Oxford Local Development Framework. Oxford City Council has a good track record in this regard. The latest Local Development Scheme 2008-2011 (CD7/23) includes the following Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents. (These are also illustrated in figure 3 on page 7 of the Proposed Changes to the Core Strategy document.)

Development Plan Documents:

- Development Management DPD \*
- Site Allocations DPD \*
- Northern Gateway AAP
- Barton AAP

\* these documents may be combined into a Delivery DPD

Supplementary Planning Documents:

- West End Streamlined Contributions SPD
- Blackbird Leys SPD
- Affordable Housing SPD review
- Natural Resources Impact Analysis SPD review

These DPDs and SPDs will complement (or review) the existing documents of the Oxford Local Development Framework (West End Area Action Plan; SCl; Affordable Housing SPD; Natural Resource Impact Analysis SPD; Parking Standards; Transport Assessments and Travel Plans SPD; Planning Obligations SPD; Telecommunications SPD; and Balance of Dwellings SPD).

The City Council will continue to monitor the performance of the documents of the LDF and will review them as and when required. In addition to the documents set out in the LDS it may become appropriate to produce an SPD for the Cowley Centre. This SPD does not appear in the latest LDS as there are no resources to

progress it at present; however if development schemes don't come forward we will look to add this document to the LDS.

**iii) Does the Core Strategy, as revised, provide sufficient guidance for subsequent DPD's and SPD's, or is too much of the strategy left for future DPD's to determine?**

It is considered that the strategy for the city is clearly laid out in the policies of the Core Strategy. The big decisions to guide the future of Oxford have been taken and have not been left to subsequent documents. Decisions such as: how to meet and balance housing and employment needs; where to focus growth and regeneration efforts; and how to accommodate growth within the constraints of the city have been taken in the Core Strategy.

The Core Strategy now provides sufficient guidance for subsequent documents. For example the text for policies CS6: Northern Gateway and CS7: Land at Barton now sets out more detail on the vision and proposed outputs for these strategic locations; and the text that follows the policy boxes lists the key tasks for the subsequent AAPs. It is considered that Inspectors examining those AAPs in the future will be able to assess whether they have completed the key tasks as set out in the Core Strategy.