


Oxford Core Strategy Examination Statement of Oxford City Council		www.oxford.gov.uk  OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
C/M9/1	Matter 9 – Climate Change Issue 1 – General	

i) Does the Core Strategy pay sufficient attention to climate change and does it clearly set out the overarching sustainability principles that should apply?

Climate Change is an underlying theme throughout the Core Strategy. Section 1.3 of the Core Strategy introduces four key challenges facing Oxford: “addressing climate change” is highlighted as one of them. Section 2.1 sets out the vision and objectives for Oxford in 2026. “Responding to Climate Change” is an integral part of the city council’s vision. This vision is translated into the strategic objectives in section 2.2. One of the six broad themes that flow from the vision is “Responding to Climate Change”. The spatial strategy flows from the vision and strategic objectives. Underpinning each plank of the spatial strategy, is the purpose of limiting carbon dioxide emissions and as such reducing the impacts of climate change:

- Reducing the need to travel – reduces the CO₂ emissions associated with transport/ travel by locating developments near to shops, services and public transport hubs. Establishing a hierarchy is a key element in the implementation of reducing the need to travel.
- Regeneration and the use of previously developed land – enables people to live close to shops and services. This can help to reduce the need to travel and reduce associated CO₂ emissions.
- Meeting Oxford’s housing and employment needs – the provision of sustainable buildings in accessible locations close to services and shops can assist in the reduction of CO₂ emissions. Oxford is a compact city and is a very sustainable location for development.

These overarching sustainability principles are carried forward through the strategy. This approach has been taken in order that the topic of climate change is not pigeon-holed into one section, but instead should be seen to underpin the whole of the Core Strategy.

ii) Does it properly and fully reflect national guidance and the guidance framework set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy?

National guidance is fully reflected in the Core Strategy. Para.10 of the Climate Change Supplement to PPS1 (CD11/2) provides key decision-making principles. The provision for new development in Oxford, its spatial distribution, and the location of

the strategic housing and employment sites has been planned to limit carbon dioxide emissions. The other main planks of the spatial strategy – reducing the need to travel, and regeneration and re-use of previously developed land, both contribute towards reducing climate change by the provision of new homes close to existing shops and services.

Paragraphs 18-21 of the Climate Change supplement to PPS1 (CD11/2) discuss how the PPS applies to Local Development Documents. The Core Strategy, as paragraph 19 suggests, promotes rather than restricts renewable and low-carbon technologies. Due to its compact and predominantly urban nature, renewable and low-carbon energy developments are suitable in most locations across the city. The Core Strategy policy CS10 states that proposals for renewable energy developments will be permitted in appropriate locations. The only renewable technologies that are restricted to location are those that are powered by the elements – i.e., wind and water. The city council is currently investigating the potential for wind energy developments on its own land, both inside, and outside of the city. Given the above, the Core Strategy accords with the Climate Change Supplement to PPS1.

Regional Guidance is also well reflected in the Core Strategy. The relevant policies in the South East Plan (CD10/1) are CC2-4 and, NRM11-16. CC2-4 are cross-cutting policies that discuss mitigation of climate change through reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. Policies NRM11-16 are more specific policies that focus on resource use and renewable energy.

For instance, policy CS10 specifically mentions sustainable methods of design and construction. This assists in the implementation of RSS policy CC4. Sustainable design and construction methods are currently promoted through the City Council's adopted Natural Resources Impact Analysis (NRIA) SPD (CD7/10).