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| Oxford Core Strategy Examination Statement of Oxford City Council | | www.oxford.gov.uk  OXFORD CITY COUNCIL |
| C/OM/1 | Other Matters Issue 1 – Residential Moorings | |

i) Should the Core Strategy include the potential for use of Oxford’s waterways for residential purposes?

Policy HS.17 of the Oxford Local Plan 2001 – 2016 (OLP, CD7/6) deals with residential moorings on Oxford’s waterways. No such policy appears in the Core Strategy.

Partly this was due to the low level of use, indicating that this is not a key issue for Oxford and that the Core Strategy is not the place to deal with it. A number of permissions for residential boat use have been granted over the years, but since the adoption of the OLP in 2005, only one permission has been granted; for three residential boats at Walton Well Road. Our records show that the policy was referred to in officer’s reports only 2 times, which indicates the number of relevant applications over the period from the end of 2005 – 2008.

The low number of applications may in part be down to the fact that that the occupants of the boats often have neither the riparian rights nor the control of the wider adjacent land, which will make it difficult to satisfy requirements such as access and servicing. In addition, the location of potential sites are often difficult to reconcile with the need to allow access for the emergency services and to protect the amenity and conservation interest of the waterway.

The low use of this policy and the creation of only three residential moorings since adoption of the OLP does not mean that the potential for use of Oxford’s waterways for residential purposes should not be considered. However this is not a core issue in the strategic vision for Oxford, and was therefore not dealt with in the Core Strategy.

It is intended to address this issue in the forthcoming Development Management DPD. Policy HS.17 of the OLP has therefore been saved and will continue to be used if and when required.