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## **OXFORD LOCAL PLAN 2036**

### **DUTY TO COOPERATE COMPLIANCE STATEMENT**

**OXFORD CITY COUNCIL**

**March 2019**

## Contents

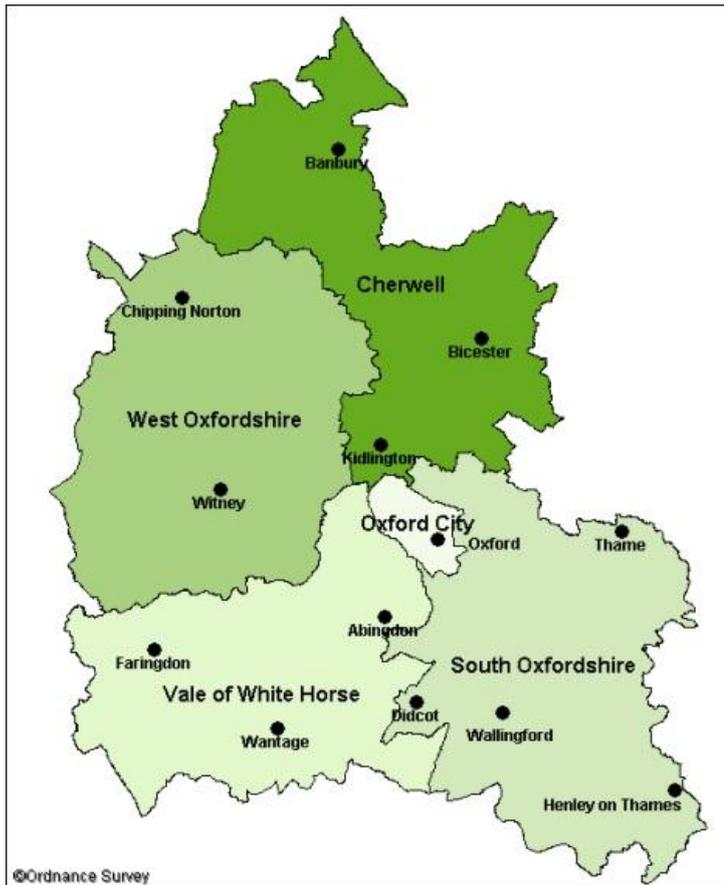
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## INTRODUCTION

### The local context

1. Oxford City sits at the centre of, and is surrounded by, the constituent District areas of Cherwell, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire (Figure 1). Together these five District Council Areas form the County of Oxfordshire which is considered in the 2014 SHMA to form a discrete Housing Market Area.

Figure 1 Map of Oxfordshire Districts



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## REQUIREMENTS OF THE DUTY TO CO-OPERATE – LOCALISM ACT 2011

### Duty to co-operate requirements

2. The Duty to Co-operate is a requirement of the Localism Act 2011. It requires Local Planning Authorities and other prescribed bodies to engage with a view to maximising the effectiveness of the preparation of development plan documents and other activities so far as they relate to strategic matters. This is normally most important in considering strategic issues such as the location of development and availability of strategic infrastructure.
3. It requires on-going, constructive and active engagement on the preparation of development plan documents and other activities. It is a ‘duty to co-operate’ not a ‘duty to agree’, but there must be genuine, positive and continuous dialogue with the intention of reaching agreement.
4. The Duty requires bodies subject to the requirement to:
  - engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis with other Duty to Co-operate bodies on the preparation of plans and supporting activities;
  - have regard to activities of other Duty to Co-operate bodies; and
  - consider joint approaches to relevant activities including plan making.
5. In addition to the legal requirements set out above, the NPPF emphasises the importance of joint working and co-operation between local authorities and other agencies on cross boundary issues and issues of shared interest. The NPPF states that Plans should “be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan-makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees”. It is complemented and supported by more the detailed advice in the Planning Practice Guidance<sup>1</sup>.
6. The revised NPPF 2019 strengthens the Duty to Cooperate concept by ensuring that the necessary range of strategic issues are covered and that the cooperation is effective and on-going. Importantly the requirement to achieving and “maintaining effective cooperation” has been brought forward within the NPPF (paragraphs 24-27). In particular, the specific requirements have been strengthened at Para 27 by the new requirement for authorities to prepare one or more “Statement(s) of Common Ground” (SoCG). The purpose of the SoCGs are to show how cross boundary issues have been jointly addressed and how they will be progressed into the future by the council along with its neighbouring authorities and the other prescribed bodies. Additionally, the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making>

2018 Planning Policy Guidance<sup>2</sup> provides extensive guidance as to how Government considers these SoCG should be prepared.

7. The SoCG requirement encapsulated in the NPPF is intended to meet three primary objectives:
  - (a) increasing certainty and transparency, earlier on in the plan making process, on where effective co-operation is and is not happening;
  - (b) encouraging all local planning authorities to co-operate effectively and seek agreement on strategic cross-boundary issues; and
  - (c) helping local planning authorities demonstrate evidence of co-operation by setting clearer and more consistent expectations as to how co-operation in plan making should be approached and documented.
  
8. Paragraph 35 goes on to set out the soundness tests against which local plans are assessed at the examination stage and proposes a strengthening of the 'positively prepared' and 'effective' soundness tests so that local plans are:
  - (a) informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development; and
  - (b) based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters, as evidenced by a statement of common ground.
  
9. Although the NPPF 2012 is replaced by the Revised NPPF 2019, co-operation will continue to be tested by virtue of the statutory duty to co-operate. However, the SoCG(s) should provide the primary evidence of compliance with the duty to co-operate. They should and establish a clear link between that compliance and the assessment of whether a local plan can be considered sound. SoCGs have been prepared alongside this Duty to Cooperate Statement and contain more details on specific matters. In particular, the SoCG between the Oxfordshire authorities details the considerable joint working and agreement that has been established between them

#### **Duty to Co-operate bodies**

10. The legal basis for the Duty is set out in Section 110 of the Localism Act, which inserts Section 33A into the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It applies to all local planning authorities, National Park authorities and county councils in England, and to a number of other public bodies. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 specify which bodies this duty applies to.

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making>

11. In the context of Oxford the City Council has the Duty to Co-operate with neighbouring local authorities and a range of prescribed bodies<sup>3</sup>:

- Oxfordshire County Council
- Cherwell District Council
- West Oxfordshire District Council
- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Vale of White Horse District Council
- Environment Agency
- Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (known as Historic England)
- Natural England
- Civil Aviation Authority<sup>4</sup>
- Homes and Communities Agency (now Homes England)
- NHS Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- National Health Service Commissioning Board (now NHS England)
- Office of Rail Regulation
- Highways England

12. In addition, although not defined by statute in the same way as the above listed organisations, Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships are bodies defined in the Regulations<sup>5</sup> as bodies that local authorities have a duty “*to have regard to*”. In respect of Oxford these are:

- Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership (known as Wild Oxfordshire).

13. Other Duty to Co-operate bodies specified in the Regulations but considered *not* to apply in the context of the City of Oxford are:

- Mayor of London,
- Transport for London,
- Integrated Transport Authorities; and
- The Marine Management Organisation.

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<sup>3</sup> Prescribed by Regulation 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

<sup>4</sup> In response to an earlier Oxford planning policy consultation the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) stated: “*Although the CAA is identified (in Schedule 1) as a consultee, in most cases our advice will take a standard form which is already in the public domain through our publications. One element of our advice to planning authorities will be that land-uses which involve an aeronautical activity should be specifically consulted.*”

<sup>5</sup> Under section 33A(9) and Regulation 4(2)

## STRATEGIC MATTERS

14. A Duty to Cooperate scoping statement was consulted on with the duty to cooperate bodies in July 2016. This included an analysis of the strategic matters likely to apply to the Oxford Local Plan 2036. Appendix 1 shows a matrix of duty to cooperate partners and strategic issues related to them. The “strategic matters” of the Localism Act and the “strategic priorities” that may apply to the Oxford Local Plan 2036 have been identified as follows:

### ***Homes needed in the area***

15. Housing needs and provision is one of the top issues that the Local Plan must address, and where the duty to co-operate is essential. The NPPF states that authorities must work to address housing needs within their housing market area. It also expects authorities to co-operate on meeting one another’s housing needs if it cannot be accommodated within the authority where it arises.

### ***Gypsy and traveller needs and boat dwellers***

16. The nature of provision for gypsies and travellers means that it is often a cross-boundary matter.

### ***Employment land provision/Jobs needed***

17. Another important issue for the Local Plan is economic growth, ensuring that the city can continue to play its role in the local and national economy. The City Council has signed a City Deal with partners and the government to bring around £55.5 million of government funding (over £1.2billion including private finance) that can be used locally to boost innovation and business growth, create jobs and help secure Oxfordshire’s place as a world leader in technology, knowledge and expertise. Close working with the other Oxfordshire authorities and the LEP will be required in this area.

### ***Provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development***

18. Oxford city centre plays an important sub-regional role and co-operation with neighbouring authorities is essential as current and future populations will not shop exclusively in their own areas, but will travel to others.

### ***Provision of infrastructure for transport***

19. Strategic transport infrastructure requires cross boundary co-operation. Oxford has an important location on the rail network and there are significant improvement works taking place and planned in the area and so the Office of Rail Regulation will need to be engaged with in this regard. Although not defined as a duty to cooperate body, continuing discussion with Network Rail is also important.

***Provision of utilities infrastructure (including telecommunications, waste, water and energy)***

20. Infrastructure is provided by a range of Duty to Co-operate bodies including the County Council. In addition other bodies (outside of the duty to co-operate) including Thames Water and energy and telecoms providers are important to involve in plan making in Oxford.

***Flood risk and mitigation of climate change effects***

21. Large parts of the city of Oxford are at risk of flooding so careful attention so this is an important strategic matter in Oxford and the Environment Agency is a key Duty to Co-operate body. Oxfordshire County Council (as lead drainage authority) and Thames Water (although not a Duty to Co-operate body) also have important roles to play.

***Provision of health infrastructure and local facilities***

22. Oxford is a regionally (and nationally) important location for health and medical research. Its hospitals serve a very wide catchment area. At local level Oxfordshire County Council has responsibility for public health.

***Provision of security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities***

23. Neighbouring authorities, Oxfordshire County Council and Homes England are important to involve in the Local Plan in this field.

***Climate change mitigation and adaptation***

24. Managing flood risk is a key element of Oxford's climate change mitigation plans, involving the Environment Agency, Oxfordshire County Council and neighbouring authorities. Carbon reduction and associated emissions and air quality issues are also important in mitigating climate change.

***Conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape and HRA***

25. Oxford has a wealth of historic buildings and valuable landscapes that need careful consideration in the Local Plan. Oxford has a Special Area of Conservation at Oxford Meadows, this a European level protection and as such Natural England is key to inputting into and assessing policies and proposals that may have an impact on that site.

***Green Belt review***

26. The Oxfordshire Green Belt is shown by Figure 2 (below). This illustrates one of the many constraints placed on the City of Oxford in accommodating new development. This, along with Oxford's very tight city boundary in relation to the existing built form

and settlement pattern, underlines the need for the Oxfordshire authorities to cooperate in their plan-making. The Green Belt is relevant to all local authorities in Oxfordshire. Oxford's limited capacity and unmet need for homes means that cooperation across the county on this issue is important.

**Figure 2: Oxfordshire Green Belt**



## MECHANISMS FOR COOPERATION

### ***Regular partnership meetings***

27. The City Council is actively involved in a number of cross boundary and joint partnership relationships that have informed the preparation of the Local Plan. Many of these are formalised, regular meetings or forums where a variety of topics are discussed, and some of these may be tailored for the purposes of producing the Local Plan.
28. These existing partnerships are an invaluable mechanism for facilitating Duty to Co-operate discussions. They have enabled regular direct contact with a range of bodies. A number of these partnerships have actively followed progress of the Local Plan, making it a standing agenda item at meetings and dedicating significant agenda time to discussing emerging work.
29. Some of the existing partnerships have meetings at officer, senior officer and elected member levels. For example, the Oxford Regeneration Programme Partnership has a fortnightly Core Officer Group and a quarterly Programme Board which includes both directors and lead members of the City and Council Councils. This is helpful in ensuring

that co-operation has been taking place at all levels within the Duty to Co-operate bodies and that there is corporate buy-in to the project from the top of the organisations.

30. Table 1 (overleaf) sets out details of regular partnership meetings that have a direct relevance to the Local Plan project (including their frequency and role). All of these meetings include at least one of the Duty to Cooperate bodies.

**Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal 2017**

31. The Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal is a deal the Oxfordshire authorities signed with Government in 2017. It was announced in the Autumn 2017 Budget Statement that Oxfordshire’s six local authorities will be required to produce a county-wide joint statutory spatial plan (JSSP, now known as the Oxfordshire Plan 2050), and to plan for and support the delivery of 100,000 new homes by 2031. This work is overseen by the Oxfordshire Growth Board, working in partnership with Homes England, the Highways Agency and other partners. This has formalised and strengthened the joint working between the Oxfordshire authorities that has been taking place for many years.

**Table 1 Regular partnership meetings**

Group / Meeting	Regularity	Includes	Role
Oxfordshire Growth Board  OGB incorporated the previous SPIP and LTB (see below)	Every two months	Oxfordshire authorities with Network Rail and Highways Agency (on LTB matters) and non-voting members (LEP, Oxfordshire Skills Board, the two Universities, Harwell Innovation Campus, Culham Science Centre)	The Oxfordshire Growth Board is a Joint Committee charged with the delivery, on behalf of the Local Enterprise Partnership, of the projects agreed in the City Deal and Growth Deal that fall to the councils, working collaboratively, to deliver. It also exists to advise on matters of collective interest, to seek agreement on local priorities and influence relevant local, regional and national bodies. An Executive Officers group exists to advise the board. The decision making body is the Lead Members from each Oxfordshire authority.
Oxford Regeneration Programme Partnership	Core Officers Group (fortnightly); Programme Board (quarterly)	Core Officer Group: City and County Council officers  Programme Board: City and County Council officers including directors and lead members and additional stakeholders	These groups are made up of city and county officers and members and additional stakeholders to discuss the key regeneration projects within the city.
Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)	Executive Board meets monthly  Presentation to and	The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership is a voluntary body made up of representatives from business, academia and the wider public	The Partnership is business led with senior academic figures and local authority members. It provides leadership and champions growth and innovation, helping to break down barriers and providing

	discussion about First Steps consultation with Economic Growth Steering Group 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2016	sector	support mechanisms. Prepared the Strategic Economic Plan and is currently preparing the Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy..
Oxford Strategic Partnership (OSP)	Every two months  23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2018: Presentation and discussion about draft Plan with guidance on consultation and how to comment  20 <sup>th</sup> July 2017 Presentation and discussion about Preferred Options  14 <sup>th</sup> July 2016 Presentation and discussion about First Steps	City and County Councils, universities, Police, health bodies, local business and community organisations.	The Local Strategic Partnership helps to provide direction for the city's future, and responds to local priorities. Produced the Oxford Economic Growth Strategy.
Oxfordshire Partnership	Twice a year	Oxfordshire councils, Police, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, universities, business groups, voluntary sector.	The overarching partnership for the county; produces the Sustainable Community Strategy
Oxfordshire Skills Board	Every two months	Board is made up of public and private employers, secondary, further and higher education skills providers and stakeholder groups.	Charged with understanding and communicating the needs of employers and providers in Oxfordshire relating to business development, employment and skills issues which impact on the economic well-being of the area. Works closely with the LEP.
Health and Wellbeing Board	Every two months	Includes local GPs, District and County Councillors, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Healthwatch Oxfordshire, and senior council officers	The Board seeks to provide strategic leadership for health and wellbeing across Oxfordshire, ensure that plans are in place and that action is taken to realise those plans. The Board produces the Oxfordshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
Oxfordshire Leaders Group	Approx. six times a year	The Leaders of all the Oxfordshire Local Authorities	Key elements of the group's work include consideration of impacts of changes in government policy and guidance; agreement of county wide programmes; monitoring the impact on resources and services due to changes; implementing savings.
Oxfordshire Chief	Approx. six times a	The Chief Executives of all the	Advises and supports the Oxfordshire

Executive's Group	year	Oxfordshire Local Authorities	Leaders Group on the above issues
City and County Bilateral Meetings	Every 6 weeks	Senior officers and Members of both authorities	This group discusses current work and emerging issues that affect both authorities. The group is used to sound out senior people on major issues and in turn allocates actions to officers of each council.
City and County Transport Bilateral Meetings	Twice a year	Senior officers of both the City Council and County Council together with cabinet members of both authorities.	Used to discuss important transport issues for example relating to emerging policies and programmes of work.
Oxford Area Flood Partnership	Four times a year	City, County and Vale of White Horse Councils, Environment Agency, Network Rail, Thames Water	Share expertise and information and developing joint strategies.
Oxford Green and Blue Spaces Network	Quarterly	City and County officers (several departments), Wild Oxfordshire (Local Nature Partnership), BBOWT (Wildlife Trust), Oxford University and additional amenity groups	The Green & Blue Spaces Network focuses on enabling partners to work collaboratively to improve Oxford's green spaces and blue corridors. The partnership has agreed three priority areas that support the delivery of the city's Green Space Strategy and also meet the objectives of individual partners: (a) to ensure everyone living, working and visiting Oxford has easy access to open space; (b) to increase and support volunteers; and (c) to develop a meaningful PR campaign. These three objectives are underpinned by the two determinants of Funding and Biodiversity.
Oxfordshire Planning Policy Officers Meetings (OPPO) (previously met as the Post SHMA group)	Frequency of these groups as varied from monthly to quarterly to ad hoc. Current agreement is every two months.	Planning Policy Officers of all Oxfordshire authorities	Regular forum for authorities to provide update on plan progress to monitor joint strategy progress and to discuss other cross boundary issues. Currently taking forward joint work in meeting unmet housing needs arising from the SHMA.
JSSP Liaison Team Meeting	Every two weeks	Planning policy officers of all Oxfordshire authorities	Liaison meeting so that policy officers from each council can feed into progress on the JSSP and so that they can report back to their individual councils on how the JSSP is being shaped.
JSSP officer project board	Quarterly with flexibility to reflect work programme	Heads of service from city and district councils, Oxfordshire Plan project sponsor and housing and growth deal workstream leads as well as other statutory bodies such as Homes England, County Council	Discusses key decisions on direction of the JSSP and prepares to brief and advise member sub-group.

JSSP member sub-group	Quarterly with flexibility to reflect work programme	Members from the districts and a county observer as well as representatives from statutory agencies when relevant.	This is not a decision making group but they offer political advice and input and make recommendations to the growth board and individual local planning authorities.
Oxfordshire Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership (SPIP)	Board (Leaders) at least quarterly & Executive (Directors) 6 weekly.  In 2014 SPIP was subsumed into Oxfordshire Growth Board	Key members of the SPIP were: Oxfordshire authorities, HCA and Oxfordshire LEP.  Supported by: Environment Agency, Highways Agency, Natural England, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Thames Valley Police.	The SPIP was the framework for the Oxfordshire Local Authorities to agree strategic and cross-boundary priorities and investment for economic growth, housing, regeneration and infrastructure. It comprised the planning and highway authorities and aligns planning policy and funding through the Local Investment Plan (LIP). Lead members from each authority had responsibility for decisions of the SPIP board. They were supported by an executive officers group.  <b>Now part of Oxfordshire Growth Board.</b>
Oxfordshire Local Transport Board (LTB)	Met at least quarterly until 2014 when LTB was subsumed into Oxfordshire Growth Board	Was made up of the Leaders of the Oxfordshire authorities and the Oxfordshire LEP. Highways Agency, Network Rail and the Department for Transport were standing invitees as non-voting observers.	Responsibility for making decisions on devolved local authority major funds and for determining the priority of investment in transport schemes and for other pots of devolved funding, such as the Growing Places Fund, where they are utilised for transport purposes.  <b>Now part of Oxfordshire Growth Board.</b>

### **Joint working on strategies and infrastructure planning**

32. Many of the partnerships detailed above have produced, adopted and published joint strategies as part of their work, consistent with the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate. This illustrates that the process of engagement and cooperation has been effective since it has resulted in outcomes that all parties considered they could sign up to. Many of these strategies have direct relevance to the Local Plan. In addition, several of the partnerships have jointly commissioned studies or evidence base work which has, in turn, influenced the policies of the Local Plan.

33. Table 2 (overleaf) details many of the jointly produced strategies and jointly commissioned studies that relate to the Local Plan. All of the listed strategies and documents were produced by or commissioned by at least one prescribed body for the Duty to Cooperate.

Table 2: Joint working on strategies and infrastructure planning1

Project/ document	Commissioned /produced by	Role/purpose
Oxford-Cambridge Arc  Joint declaration between government and local partners (2019 published with the Spring Statement	National Infrastructure Commission	<p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-oxford-cambridge-arc-government-ambition-and-joint-declaration-between-government-and-local-partners">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-oxford-cambridge-arc-government-ambition-and-joint-declaration-between-government-and-local-partners</a>). This document provides an update on government’s overarching ambition for the Arc, including a joint declaration between government and local partners, signalling the importance of collaboration to achieve these aims. To ensure coordination across the arc the following groups have been established:</p> <p>An Arc Leaders Group of local authority Leaders and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) Chairs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Arc Chief Executives Group of local authority and LEP chief executives;</li> <li>• Thematic groups across different policy pillars with local leadership and engagement, including from the LEPs, local authorities across the Arc, and England’s Economic Heartland;</li> <li>• Increased coordination with the universities based in Arc.</li> </ul>
Oxfordshire Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (Consultation on ‘Introducing the Oxfordshire Plan’ Reg 18 and SA Scoping Report 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb- 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2019.	Oxfordshire authorities	Production of the JSSP (Oxfordshire Plan 2050) was one of the commitments of the Growth Deal. It will provide an Oxfordshire-wide, integrated strategic planning framework and supporting evidence base to support sustainable growth across the county to 2050, including the planned delivery of the new homes and economic development, and the anticipated supporting infrastructure needed. It has currently undergone early stakeholder engagement. All district councils agreed the document at their relevant member meetings before it was made available for consultation. Adoption of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will need to happen at each district council and is expected to be in early 2021.
Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal (2018)	Oxfordshire authorities, Government	The Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal with Government, signed by all of the local authorities in Oxfordshire in February 2018, commits the Oxfordshire authorities to work together to deliver 100,000 homes in the 20 year period to 2031. It also commits the Oxfordshire authorities to produce a joint statutory spatial plan by 2021. It commits the Government to providing Oxfordshire with up to £215 million in funding to go towards delivery of affordable housing and infrastructure to unlock key housing sites. It also commits the Government to exploring options to grant Oxfordshire certain time-limited planning flexibilities, subject to consultation where appropriate.
Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2018)	Oxford City Council – in cooperation with a range of infrastructure providers	The IDP identifies existing deficiencies and surpluses of infrastructure and looks at what is required in the future, when it will be needed, who is responsible for providing it, how it will be funded and, if there are an funding gaps, how they will be bridged.

Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) (Technical negotiating draft submitted to Government 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2018)	OxLEP	Will provide a programme for long-term economic growth for the Oxfordshire area.
Oxfordshire Infrastructure Study (OXIS) (2017)	Commissioned by Oxfordshire Growth Board	The Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OXIS) was prepared on behalf of the Oxfordshire Growth Board to provide a view of emerging development and infrastructure requirements to support growth from 2016 to 2031 and beyond.
Spatial Options Assessment (September 2016)	Oxfordshire Growth Board	This project involved the identification and assessment of a list of 36 plausible areas of search as strategic options for growth, particularly for meeting the housing needs of Oxford city. It offered high level areas for development consideration rather than precisely defined sites. The sites' relative sustainability at strategic level was tested. This has informed further Local Plan work.
Education Assessment of Spatial Options (September 2016)	Oxfordshire Growth Board	<p>This report sets out the findings from a high level assessment of the implications for the provision of primary and secondary school places of development of 36 potential spatial options for accommodating Oxford's unmet housing needs that were generated through the joint post SHMA work programme.</p> <p>It is one of a number of option assessments that were undertaken to help identify the most sustainable options or groups of options to help inform a decision by the Oxfordshire Growth Board on how Oxford's unmet housing needs should be apportioned between the districts.</p>
High Level Transport Assessment of Spatial Options (May 2016)	Oxfordshire Growth Board	This was an assessment of the transport implications of development at 36 sites in Oxfordshire that could potentially accommodate Oxford City's estimated unmet housing need. This work fed into the Spatial Options assessment.
Process which led to a Signed Memorandum of Cooperation between the Oxfordshire authorities in (November 2016)	Oxfordshire Growth Board Agreement on Oxfordshire Growth Board Report and minutes	<p>In November 2014 the Oxfordshire Growth Board (OGB) agreed a programme of work for addressing the unmet housing need arising from the Strategic Housing Market Area (SHMA) for Oxford City. On 19 November 2015 the OGB agreed upon the working assumption of 15,000 for Oxford's unmet housing need.</p> <p>On 26 September 2016 the OGB decided on an apportionment of 14,850 for consideration in the preparation of Oxfordshire authorities Local Plans. This apportionment was followed by a signed Memorandum of Co-operation (November 2016). The Memorandum of Co-operation was signed by all other Oxfordshire authorities with the exception of South Oxfordshire District Council. Although not signed by South Oxfordshire District Council, South's officers played an active part in the Growth Board work programme and contributed to the preparation of all evidence documents.</p>
Draft Updated Advice Note on Oxford's	Fortismere Associates on behalf of the	An important first work stream of the Post SHMA work programme was to clarify the extent to which Oxford's housing need could be accommodated in Oxford City itself. This was done by reference to the published Oxford

Development Capacity (2015)	Oxfordshire Growth Board -	Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), a study of the available housing capacity of Oxford commissioned by the City Council, the Cundall report (a critique of the City Council's SHLAA commissioned by South, Vale and Cherwell), plus the Oxford City response to this report. Fortismere Associates (FA) were appointed to draw conclusions about whether the assessment of Oxford's capacity was correct in the context of existing policies and in the context of a consideration of reasonable adjustments to existing policy that Oxford City could consider, whilst maintaining consistency with the NPPF. This helped inform the agreement over a working assumption for the unmet housing need of Oxford City The report concluded that Oxford City Council's approach to assessing its housing supply is compliant with government policy and guidance (NPPF, PPG).
Oxford Green Belt Study (2015)	LUC for Oxfordshire County Council	This study was commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council (on behalf of the six Oxfordshire Local Authorities) to assess how the land within the Oxford Green Belt performs against the purposes of Green Belt, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The agreed methodology of this work has formed the basis of Cherwell, South Oxfordshire and Oxford Councils' own detailed Green Belt Studies (all also carried out by LUC).
Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) (2014) (Refreshed 2016)	Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (as table 1 above)	Prepared by the LEP, it sets out their ambitions for Oxfordshire to 2030 – to drive accelerated economic growth to meet the needs of the science and knowledge rich economy placing Oxfordshire at the forefront of the UK's global growth ambitions.  <i>"This is our Strategic Economic Plan for Oxfordshire and our bid to Government for Local Growth Funding. This plan has been developed by, and is jointly supported by, our business community, academic institutions and county and district councils."</i> (page v)  It focuses on increasing business growth and productivity supported by accelerated housing delivery, better integrated transport, a better qualified workforce underpinned by great quality of place.  A refreshed version of the SEP to take into account new evidence and to provide support to the planning process via the additional linkage of the identification of strategic employment and housing sites.
Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) (April 2014)	Jointly commissioned by all Oxfordshire districts with County Council in support.	A technical study to help the Oxfordshire districts understand how many homes will be needed in the period 2011 – 2031. It also considers the housing needs of specific groups such as older people, minority groups and people with disabilities. Mention that this was subject to stakeholder engagement as referenced at para. 1.35 of the 2014 SHMA report.  Oxford City Council commissioned an update in 2018 to support the new Local Plan which plans forward up until 2036, found that the housing target was similar to that identified in the Oxfordshire SHMA.
Oxford and Oxfordshire City Deal	City Deal Partnership (all Oxfordshire	The City Deal is an agreement between the bodies that produced it (see left) and central government. It means that around £55.5 million of government funding can be controlled locally to boost innovation and business growth and create jobs. The deal is expected to be worth over £1.2 billion when

(January 2014)	councils, Oxfordshire LEP and both universities)  Approved and signed off by central government (Deputy Prime Minister's Office)	private sector investment is taken into account.  The City Deal Partnership and the Government have agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An investment package to deliver a network of new innovation and incubation centres</li> <li>• Local partners will invest to accelerate the delivery of 7,500 homes across the county, including a request to lift the Housing Revenue Account debt cap</li> <li>• To enable three new transport schemes to support developments at the Enterprise Zone, Northern Gateway and 'Science Transit'</li> <li>• To deliver over 500 new Apprenticeships for young people</li> <li>• To put in place a governance structure to deliver the City Deal</li> </ul>
Local Investment Plan (LIP)  (May 2013)	Oxfordshire Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership (as table 1 above)	Prepared by SPIP, sets out a shared vision and priorities for delivering housing growth, economic development, regeneration, and infrastructure. First published in 2010 and updated in 2013. The LIP integrates the plans of the Oxfordshire councils and other partners to deliver housing and economic growth and associated strategic infrastructure to 2030.  <i>"The purpose of the Local Investment Plan is to provide a strategic framework for growth and investment over the next twenty years. It will inform work on Local Plans and the Community Infrastructure Levy and the development of other strategies and programmes. By looking across a wide area it provides the basis for aligning the capital investment programmes of the local authorities and other service providers; for ensuring that investment programmes and plans of other delivery agencies reflect Oxfordshire's needs; and for bidding for funds from national and local funding pots for Oxfordshire."</i> (page 5)
Economic Forecasting Report  (February 2014)	Commissioned jointly by all the Oxfordshire district councils	A set of economic forecasts were commissioned to inform the SHMA and the LEP's Strategic Economic Plan.
The Oxfordshire Innovation Engine report  (October 2013)  And update (2016)	Commissioned by University of Oxford and Science Oxford with support from Oxfordshire LEP	The report seeks to provide an analysis of the factors that have led Oxfordshire to become one of the UK's most significant centres for science based research and enterprise in a national and international context and identify the constraints that are currently preventing Oxfordshire from realising its full potential with recommendations for the future. The update uses case studies and analysis of data to report on progress in terms of company growth and improvements in the hard and soft infrastructure to support growth.
Oxfordshire Statement of Cooperation  (September)	All Oxfordshire authorities	The purpose of the Statement of Co-operation was to set out the scope and structure of cooperation between the parties on a range of issues. In particular, it outlines the process and arrangements for cooperation between local authorities should one of the parties be unable to accommodate their objectively assessed need identified in the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing

2013)		Market Assessment (SHMA). The parties agreed to use SPIP (now replaced by the Oxfordshire Growth Board) to act as a coordinating body for this joint working, supported by OPPO.  Represents early recognition of the need for effective joint working on housing as a cross-boundary strategic priority, which is in full accordance with paragraph 182 of the NPPF (2012).
Oxford Economic Growth Strategy  (January 2013)	Produced by the Oxford Strategic Partnership	This strategy seeks to establish a shared narrative on the future direction of the Oxford economy; and define clear strategic priorities, objectives and actions for delivering and managing economic growth in Oxford over the next ten years.
Oxford Sustainable Community Strategy  (latest version 2008)	Produced by the Oxford Strategic Partnership	In November 2012 the Partnership also agreed a new vision statement, aims and priorities for the next five years: “Vision statement, aims, challenges and priorities 2013 – 2018”. The Partnership has set four priority work areas for the next five years: Economic Development, Growth and Regeneration; Stronger Communities; Low Carbon City; and Safer Communities.

### ***Communication at formal stages of Local Plan production***

34. The Duty to Co-operate bodies, as well as other relevant organisations and the wider public have been invited to submit comments to inform the Local Plan preparation. A Consultation Statement has been produced detailing how statutory bodies and members of the public were engaged in development of the Oxford Local Plan 2036 and the outcome of that engagement. The format and methods used along with a summary of responses received are detailed in the Consultation Statement.

35. Early engagement was held with many stakeholders to introduce the plan, make them aware of the up-coming consultation and to help us identify issues. This has included the Universities (and larger colleges), the Environment Agency, Highways Agency, Historic England, Natural England, Thames Water, Oxfordshire County Council and others. The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was published for consultation in June 2016. All the statutory consultees were contacted together with the other Oxfordshire local authorities as listed in Table 3.

36. Statutory stages of consultation (Regulation 18 and Regulation 19 consultations) took place in 2017 and 2018. All of the statutory bodies were notified. The consultation statement summarises comments received at each stage and how these were taken into account in the Plan. Table 3 below summarises the dates of formal stage involvement with statutory bodies.

**Table 3: Local Plan communications with external stakeholders at formal stages**

Local Plan stage	Date	Communication	Partner organisation contacted / invited
Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report consultation	27.06.16 - 05.08.16	Notification of consultation	Environment Agency English Heritage Natural England Highways Agency Oxfordshire County Council Cherwell District Council South Oxfordshire District Council West Oxfordshire District Council Vale of White Horse District Council
First Steps consultation	27.06.16 - 05.08.16	Notification of consultation	Duty to Co-operate bodies Specific consultation bodies General consultation bodies Additional organisations/bodies Neighbouring Parish Councils
Duty to Co-operate Scoping Strategy	11.07.16	Document circulated for consultation	Duty to Co-operate bodies Additional Local Planning Authorities
Preferred Options consultation	Summer 2017	Notification of consultation	Duty to Co-operate bodies Specific consultation bodies General consultation bodies Additional organisations/bodies Neighbouring Parish Councils
Proposed Submission consultation	1 <sup>st</sup> November – 28 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Notification of consultation	Duty to Co-operate bodies Specific consultation bodies General consultation bodies Additional organisations/bodies Neighbouring Parish Councils

### ***Local Plan meetings with external stakeholders***

37. In addition to the periods of more formal consultation (Table 3), there has also been a significant degree of contact between the City Council and a number of the Duty to Co-operate bodies on a more informal basis in order to inform the drafting of the Local Plan's policies and proposals. This has principally taken the form of dedicated meetings, telephone conversations and email exchanges.

38. Significant contact has been maintained with the following bodies, amongst others, throughout the development of the Plan:

- Thames Water
- South Oxfordshire DC
- Vale of White Horse DC
- West Oxfordshire DC
- Cherwell DC
- Oxfordshire County Council )on various matters including education, highways, social care and public health
- County Council: Property
- Historic England
- Environment Agency
- County Council: Education
- Highways England
- Natural England
- Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Oxford Strategic Partnership
- Economic Growth Steering Group
- Oxford Brookes University/ University of Oxford

## IMPACT OF CO-OPERATION ON OXFORD LOCAL PLAN 2036 – STRATEGIC MATTERS

Strategic Matter cooperated on	Duty to cooperate bodies involved	Effect of cooperation/how have strategic issues been addressed
Homes needed in the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council</li> <li>• Cherwell District Council</li> <li>• South Oxfordshire District Council</li> <li>• Vale of White Horse District Council</li> <li>• West Oxfordshire District Council</li> </ul>	<p>The Statement of Common Ground between the Oxfordshire Authorities provides more detail in relation to cooperation on this strategic matter.</p> <p>The City Council worked jointly with neighbouring authorities to assess the whole Oxfordshire Housing Market Area and produced a joint study the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment. The SHMA identifies housing need for Oxford ranging between 24,000 to 32,000 homes between 2011 and 2031. The housing need would clearly not be a deliverable target or a realistic requirement for Oxford due to the tight administrative boundary and extensive land constraints in the city.</p> <p>A Memorandum of Co-operation was agreed upon between Oxfordshire County Council and four Oxfordshire Local Authorities (Cherwell, Oxford City, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, West Oxfordshire) in September 2016 to formally record and make public the agreement to assist Oxford in meetings its housing need, subject to LPA ratification by their full Councils as part of their individual local plan preparations. Despite South Oxfordshire not signing that agreement its draft Local Plan does reflect this agreed apportionment.</p> <p>Cooperation through a Post SHMA Strategic Work Programme, which involved a series of projects designed to enable the mentioned Councils of Oxfordshire to arrive at an agreed apportionment of an agreed level of unmet need for Oxford, has led to the following apportionment:</p>

		<table border="1" data-bbox="958 193 1989 571"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="958 193 1989 236">Proportion of unmet need apportioned</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="958 236 1473 320">Cherwell DC</td> <td data-bbox="1473 236 1989 320">4,400</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="958 320 1473 363">Oxford City Council</td> <td data-bbox="1473 320 1989 363">550</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="958 363 1473 448">South Oxfordshire DC</td> <td data-bbox="1473 363 1989 448">4,950 (as incorporated in the proposed submission Local Plan)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="958 448 1473 491">Vale of White Horse DC</td> <td data-bbox="1473 448 1989 491">2,200</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="958 491 1473 534">West Oxfordshire DC</td> <td data-bbox="1473 491 1989 534">2,750</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="958 534 1473 571">Total</td> <td data-bbox="1473 534 1989 571">14,850</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="958 576 2058 683">In addition to the above, the Oxfordshire authorities meet regularly through various groups such as the Oxfordshire Growth Board and this provides a platform to discuss a range of issues and cooperate where necessary.</p> <p data-bbox="958 719 2058 895">With respect to meeting this need, Oxford City Council carried out a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) in 2016 to assess capacity to deliver new housing. This was updated in 2018 (HELAA). Both have been consulted on publicly to help ensure the Council is working towards maximising housing delivery to meet the agreed apportionment as per the Memorandum of Cooperation.</p>	Proportion of unmet need apportioned		Cherwell DC	4,400	Oxford City Council	550	South Oxfordshire DC	4,950 (as incorporated in the proposed submission Local Plan)	Vale of White Horse DC	2,200	West Oxfordshire DC	2,750	Total	14,850
Proportion of unmet need apportioned																
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Vale of White Horse DC	2,200															
West Oxfordshire DC	2,750															
Total	14,850															
Gypsy and Traveller needs	<ul data-bbox="629 970 920 1177" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cherwell District Council</li> <li>• South Oxfordshire District Council</li> <li>• Vale of White Horse District Council</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="577 1185 920 1329">As well as this a number of neighbouring authorities were contacted to fully understand the wider issues</p>	<p data-bbox="958 970 2058 1329">The authorities have cooperated on addressing this issue from the beginning. A joint Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) was undertaken in 2017 between four of the Oxfordshire County Council authorities – Cherwell DC, South Oxfordshire DC, Vale of White Horse DC and Oxford City (West Oxford had recent evidence already available for their local plan).; however it was identified through the GTAA that there was no need identified for Oxford City Council. Needs identified for the other districts are being provided for through their own local plans. At this stage there is no need for further joint working to address the needs identified in the GTAA, although the issue will be picked up again through the Oxfordshire Plan and/or the next round of local plans.</p>														

	and impacts centred around this topic. Interviews with the residents on all occupied pitches and plots and travellers living in bricks and mortar were also attempted.	
Boat dwellers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council</li> <li>• Environment Agency</li> </ul>	<p>A Boat Dwellers' Accommodation Needs Assessment (BDANA) was undertaken to quantify the accommodation and housing related support needs of boat dwellers in the Oxford administrative area between 2016 and 2036, in terms of both permanent residential and temporary moorings for boat dwellers. This was carried out to support a policy on homes for boat dwellers in the Oxford Local Plan.</p> <p>Consultations with a range of stakeholders were conducted in March 2018. Stakeholders included Oxfordshire County Council, the Canal and River Trust, Oxfordshire Police and the Environment Agency among others. The aim of the consultation was to obtain an overall perspective on issues facing boat dwellers, and an understanding of local issues specific to the study area. Themes raised through the consultations included: the main issues facing boat dwellers; the main barriers to delivering new mooring places; suitable places for new mooring; preferred type of mooring management, travelling patterns and transit mooring needs; the relationship between local boat dwellers and the settled community; and access to health, education and other services. This assessment helped inform the Oxford Local Plan 2036.</p>
Employment land provision/jobs needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership</li> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council</li> <li>• Cherwell District Council</li> <li>• South Oxfordshire District Council</li> </ul>	<p>One of the purposes of the Oxfordshire Growth Board is to facilitate and enable collaboration between local authorities on economic development, strategic planning and growth. The Oxford Local Plan 2036 economic policies are underpinned by the Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan (2017) which sets out the long term vision and ambitions for economic growth in the county, going beyond Oxford's administrative boundaries, and the Oxford and Oxfordshire City Deal agreement which aims to build on its existing assets and deliver new homes, jobs and infrastructure. The SEP was produced by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OXLEP) which is a voluntary body made up of representatives from business, academia and the wider public sector. A shared economic strategy for the</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Oxfordshire District Council</li> <li>• Vale of White Horse District Council</li> <li>• Central Government</li> <li>• University of Oxford</li> <li>• Oxford Brookes University</li> </ul> <p>The Oxford and Oxfordshire City Deal and Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal include Central Government as a signatory, and as such government agencies (including Environment Agency, English Heritage, Natural England, Homes and Communities Agency and Highways England) are also committed to helping delivering the government’s ambitions.</p>	<p>Oxfordshire LPAs is in essence joint working and helps ensure each is working towards common aims and objectives. The City Deal also includes Central Government as a signatory, and as such government agencies (including Environment Agency, English Heritage, Natural England, Homes England and Highways England) are also committed to helping deliver the government’s ambitions.</p> <p>A shared economic strategy for the Oxfordshire LPAs is in essence joint working and helps ensure each is working towards common aims and objectives. The SEP also underwent an extensive public consultation.</p> <p>At a local level, Oxford City Council also commissioned an Employment Land Assessment (ELA) to identify demands for employment floorspace in the area and explored ways of meeting this need through the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA). Both were published and consulted on in 2018 with a range of organisations both within and beyond the Oxford City boundary, including the Duty to Cooperate bodies listed earlier in the report.</p> <p>The Oxford Local Plan 2036 seeks to protect key employment sites and deliver additional employment floorspace through intensification of existing sites and the city and district centres where possible which will significantly contribute towards achieving objectives set out in several joint strategies. The City Council has aimed to strike a balance between employment and housing needs, whilst prioritising the delivery of housing in order to meet as far as possible the housing need of the city. The City Council has not aimed to meet all employment need. This has not been raised as an issue by duty to cooperate bodies. It is anticipated that joint working across the county will ensure needs will be met. there are opportunities aligned to the spatial decisions about housing to align emerging economic strategies, in particular the LIS. The issue will be picked up again through the Oxfordshire Plan and/or the next round of local plans.</p>
Retail, leisure and other commercial development		An update of the retail needs survey to cover a broader range of town centres uses was commissioned and has informed the Local Plan. The city’s forecast needs are predicted to be met by the Local Plan policies and strategy. There are not considered to be outstanding strategic issues in relation to this topic and duty to cooperate bodies have not raised any.

<p>Provision of infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council</li> <li>• Environment Agency</li> <li>• Highways England</li> <li>• OCCG</li> <li>• NHS Trusts</li> </ul> <p>Other bodies outside the duty to cooperate such as Network Rail</p>	<p>The Oxfordshire Infrastructure Study provides an overview of the county-wide infrastructure requirements to support growth in the area from 2016 to 2031 and beyond. Delivery of strategic infrastructure necessary to deliver homes will also be supported through the Housing and Growth Deal and the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. Oxford City Council is regularly in contact with infrastructure providers to determine needs and plan ahead to meet requirements. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan is informed through discussion with infrastructure providers where appropriate and the parties listed were engaged as part of the IDP.</p> <p>Meetings were also held with Network Rail about the potential station redevelopment and any potential implications to the Local Plan. Highways England and Network Rail were engaged in County Council work on the transport plan and strategy.</p>
<p>Provision of health infrastructure and local facilities</p> <p>Provision of security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHS England</li> <li>• Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group</li> </ul> <p>Local NHS hospital trusts Thames Valley Policy Oxfordshire County Council Homes England Neighbouring authorities</p>	<p>Oxford is a regionally (and nationally) important location for health and medical research. Its hospitals serve a very wide catchment area. Meetings have been held with Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundations Trust to discuss issues and their future plans in relation to their sites, and this is reflected in the Local Plan. There has also been communication with Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, in particular about their future plans for their sites, including their masterplan for Warneford Hospital. The site allocation policies reflect this as far as possible.</p> <p>Provision of health infrastructure is a cross-boundary strategic issue which requires joint-working to plan for. The Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) provides an overview of potential requirements going forward in terms of the social infrastructure required to serve Oxford’s housing growth through the Oxford Localities Plan. The Localities Plan suggests that there is a growing shortage of GP’s in the NHS Oxford City locality, which is larger than the administrative area of Oxford City, and which is likely to be further impacted by changes to urgent and emergency care and the growing demands of the population. Delivery of GP surgeries is largely beyond the scope of the Local Plan but new facilities are being provided at Barton and new policies allow residential conversion to GP surgeries, as well as a potential relocated and expanded facility being allowed for at Diamond Place. The OCCG has not raised any issues with the draft policies.</p>

		<p>At local level Oxfordshire County Council has responsibility for public health and also social care. The County Council has been consulted frequently regarding these matters. They have inputted into the policy regarding health impact assessments. Frequent discussions have also been held with regard to social care workers, as the County Council is particularly concerned about the impacts of the difficulties in recruitment and retention in this area. This has informed policies regarding allocation of county-owned sites.</p> <p>Neighbouring authorities, Oxfordshire County Council and Homes England have had opportunities to comment on the issue of security, community, cultural and other local facilities. Thames Valley Police have requested strengthened wording in relation to secured by design, which has been made as minor modifications to the Plan. Other issues have not been raised.</p>
Provision of utilities infrastructure (include telecommunications, waste, water and energy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electricity and gas providers</li> <li>• Telecomms providers</li> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council</li> </ul> <p>Other bodies outside the duty to cooperate such as Thames Water</p>	<p>A range of Duty to Co-operate bodies including the County Council, neighbouring authorities and the Environment Agency have been involved in framing the policies and proposals of the Local Plan in this regard. Energy and telecoms providers have been consulted through the formal consultation process and energy providers were also consulted once enough information was known about proposed site allocations to see whether there were any issues. In addition other bodies (outside of the duty to co-operate) including Thames Water are important infrastructure providers. The City Council has kept Thames Water informed as proposed site allocation policies were developed and their comments as a result of information consultation were reflected in the Plan. Nevertheless, Thames Water has requested additional wording in relation to a number of sites and the City Council has put forward potential main modifications that would overcome their concerns.</p>
Flood risk/mitigation of climate change effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment Agency</li> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council</li> <li>• Vale of White Horse District Council</li> <li>• Network Rail</li> <li>• Oxfordshire Local Enterprise</li> </ul>	<p>Large parts of the city of Oxford are at risk of flooding so careful attention has been paid to this when drafting policies and proposals of the Local Plan. The Environment Agency is the key Duty to Co-operate body in this regard. Oxfordshire County Council (as lead Local Flood Authority) and Thames Water (although not a Duty to Co-operate body) also have important roles to play. Meetings have taken place throughout Plan preparation with all of these parties and engagement with County Council and City Council emergency planning departments has also taken place.</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Partnership</p> <p>And other bodies outside the duty to cooperate including Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, Oxford Area Flood Partnership, Thames Water, Oxford Flood Alliance, University of Oxford</p>	<p>Oxford City Council and the Environment Agency have been meeting regularly throughout the preparation of the Local Plan on a one-to-one basis and the EA are also a statutory consultee on relevant planning applications. They are also, together with Oxfordshire County Council, Vale of White Horse Council, Network Rail and Thames Water, part of the Oxford Area Flood Partnership (OAFP), which meets quarterly to share expertise and information and to develop joint strategies. The OAFP meets quarterly but partners are in regular contact more often than that. The OAFP's original aim was to build and maintain strong regular links between operational managers in a range of organisations to improve co-operation in a crisis. The OAFP has evolved since then, and now liaises on flood defence projects and involves residents and community groups in its business.</p> <p>Cooperation is also maintained through work on the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme. The Environment Agency is working with partners on a major new scheme to reduce flood risk to homes and businesses in Oxford, as well as to services and major transport routes into the city. The Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme will cost around £121m and is one of the biggest flood schemes in the country, second only to the River Thames Scheme. The scheme partners are Oxfordshire Country Council, Oxford City Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, Thames Water, Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, Oxford Flood Alliance, Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and University of Oxford.</p> <p>The Environment Agency has also been involved in the preparation of key evidence based documents to support policies related to flood risk management. The OCC Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 and 2 (2017) was prepared in consultation with the EA and the lead local flood authority. In order to inform the SFRA, the EA and LLFA were contacted to confirm the most up to date information available, and this was followed up by a series of meetings, along with proactive engagement to agree the structure, methodology and mapping required for the SFRA. As a living document, developers and planners are in regular contact with the EA to confirm the most up-to-date positions.</p> <p>A Statement of Common Ground between the City Council and the Environment Agency has been prepared alongside this Duty to Cooperate statement and sets out in more detail the cooperation and agreement that has been reached between the two parties.</p>
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Climate change mitigation and adaptation		Managing flood risk (discussed above) will be a key element of Oxford’s climate change mitigation plans, involving the Environment Agency, Oxfordshire County Council and neighbouring authorities. Carbon reduction and associated emissions and air quality issues will also play a part in preparing the city for changes associated with climate change.
Conservation and enhancement of natural and historic environment including landscape and		Oxford has a wealth of historic buildings and valuable landscapes that need careful consideration in the Local Plan. Historic England has a key role to play in terms of the built heritage and also the views into and through the city and the famous spires. Historic England has been involved in two key projects that have informed the Local Plan in relation to this matter: the Central Conservation Area Appraisal (still at stage 2) and the High Buildings Study and TAN. Historic England has been at inception meetings and update meetings for both of these projects and has informed the scope and details.
Habitats Regulations Assessment		Oxford has a Special Area of Conservation at Oxford Meadows, a site with European level protection, and as such Natural England has a strong interest in the Plan. Natural England was consulted at all three stages of the Plan and Sustainability Appraisal. Meetings were held with Natural England in relation to the First Steps consultation and also following the Preferred Options consultation in order to discuss their comments and a way forward to inform drafting of the Plan. Specific discussions were held with Natural England as the HRA was drafted, including telcons and a site visit. The City Council and Natural England have signed a statement of common ground that sets out a proposed way forward in order to reach a satisfactory outcome over the coming months in advance of the hearing sessions.
Green Belt review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council</li> <li>• Neighbouring Local Planning Authorities</li> </ul>	Following the Oxfordshire SHMA carried out in 2014, and as a result of the Post-SHMA Strategic Work Programme, Oxfordshire County Council commissioned the LUC on behalf of the Oxfordshire authorities to undertake an assessment of the Green Belt within the County. The study was overseen by a steering group comprising officers of the local authorities. The overall aim of the Study was to assess the extent to which the land within the Oxford Green Belt performs against the purposes of Green Belts, as set out in paragraph 80 of the then National Planning Policy Framework (2012).

		<p>The brief emphasised that the Study will not advise on the suitability or potential of land in the Oxford Green Belt for development. However, the outputs of the study, alongside other assessments will assist local authorities in considering the extent to which some existing Green Belt land could be used to accommodate sustainable forms, patterns and types of new development.</p> <p>Following this county-wide study, Oxford City Council, in response to the challenging housing needs requirements considered using Green Belt land to address these needs and consulted on the idea at the Issues and Options Consultation stage in Summer 2016. A set of options for the Green Belt were further consulted on at the Preferred Options stage in Summer 2017. An additional Green Belt assessment was then commissioned by OCC and this reviewed the potential to develop on specific parcels of Green Belt land within the city boundary. This evidence has also been made available for comment during the Proposed Submission consultation stage in December 2018.</p> <p>Discussions around the potential development value of the Green Belt land within OCC's administrative boundary, and also around the results of the 2015 study, have occurred on a regular basis throughout the study.</p>
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## CONCLUSION

39. This statement outlines the detailed, active and on-going cooperation that has informed the development of the Oxford Local Plan 2036. The extent of cooperation is evidenced by the Statements of Common Ground submitted alongside the Local Plan and also the limited number of significant responses to the Plan at Regulation 19 stage.
40. Cooperation will strengthen and continue. The Oxfordshire Growth Board and the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal are in place to deliver needed housing and infrastructure in the county in a coordinated way. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will strengthen the countywide evidence-base further and stretch it further into the future. It will contain strategic policies to guide development in a coordinated way across Oxfordshire.

41. Cooperation has involved prescribed bodies and other organisations relevant to the Duty to Cooperate at relevant stages of Plan preparation. It demonstrates that the City Council has complied with Duty to Cooperate requirements throughout preparation of its Local Plan in accordance with requirements in Section 110 of the Localism Act, Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the NPPF.

## APPENDIX 1

Summary of strategic issues and relevant Duty to Co-operate bodies											
	Homes needed	Gypsy & traveller needs	Jobs needed	Retail/leisure /commercial development	Infrastructure for transport	Utilities infrastructure	Flood risk & climate change	Health infrastructure and local facilities	Security/community/cultural infrastructure	Climate change mitigation & adaptation	Natural and historic environment/landscape/greenbelt
Oxfordshire County Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cherwell District Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
West Oxfordshire District Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
South Oxfordshire District Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vale of White Horse District Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Environment Agency						✓	✓			✓	✓
Historic England											✓
Natural England							✓			✓	✓
Civil Aviation Authority					✓						
Homes England	✓	✓									

NHS Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group								✓			
NHS England								✓			
Office of Rail Regulation					✓						
Highways England					✓						
Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership	✓		✓	✓	✓						
Wild Oxfordshire							✓				✓