

Early Engagement Report

Oxford Local Plan 2042



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1. Introduction

Oxford City Council is undergoing the preparation of a new Local Plan for the city to guide where new development can go. An early involvement survey was conducted, prior to the legally required consultation stages, to seek early views from residents, businesses and other bodies to help identify the main issues facing Oxford. It is important to gain insight as this engagement will be used as a preview to understand what is most important to residents and businesses to shape options for how the Local Plan could tackle some of these issues within the wider planning framework.

The new Local Plan will aim to address the key issues facing all of Oxford's residents and businesses. Based on the existing use of the land in the city, it will outline where and how new housing developments can take place in the future, ensuring the city's economic growth is managed and made more inclusive for everyone whilst preserving the qualities that make Oxford unique.

The plan will include policies on the following key topics:

- Prioritising the delivery of affordable housing for Oxford's needs, especially social housing and key worker housing.
- Flexibly allowing residential development on land currently used for employment, such as offices.
- Addressing climate change, flood risk and seeking to protect new buildings from adverse impacts.
- Requiring low carbon and environmentally friendly buildings with carbon and efficiency standards that will seek to go beyond national requirements.
- Protecting heritage assets and their surroundings, protecting in-use cultural and community venues.
- Promoting good design of new buildings across the whole of the city.

2. Methodology of Survey

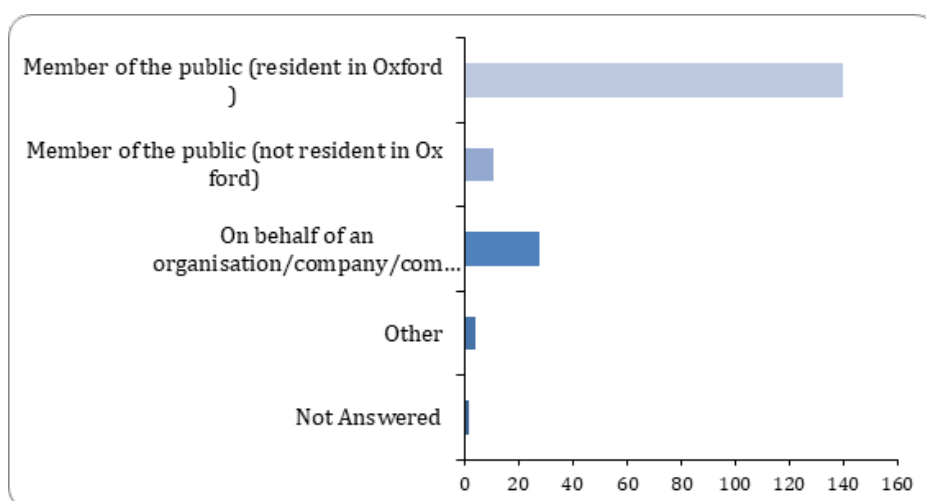
The early engagement survey was designed to ask a series of questions to assess to what extent the public and businesses deem certain topics important for the Local Plan to influence and prioritise. This survey was designed to preview certain topics that are prevalent in Oxford City and that can be addressed within a Local Plan. There were seven main topics screened into the survey to gain a sense of how important these are to the respondents and what should be a main focus for the preferred options consultation stage of the Local Plan.

The consultation survey was open for six weeks, running from 17/03/25 to 28/04/25. It was distributed via the Oxford City Council website, social media, press releases, the Oxford City Council newsletter, email lists, and posters in libraries and community centres.

3. Responses to Survey

3.1 Responses to Survey

There were 185 total responses to the survey. Of this total, 75.68% were members of the public and residents of Oxford, 5.95% were members of the public but not Oxford residents, and 15.14% were answering on behalf of an organisation/company/community group.



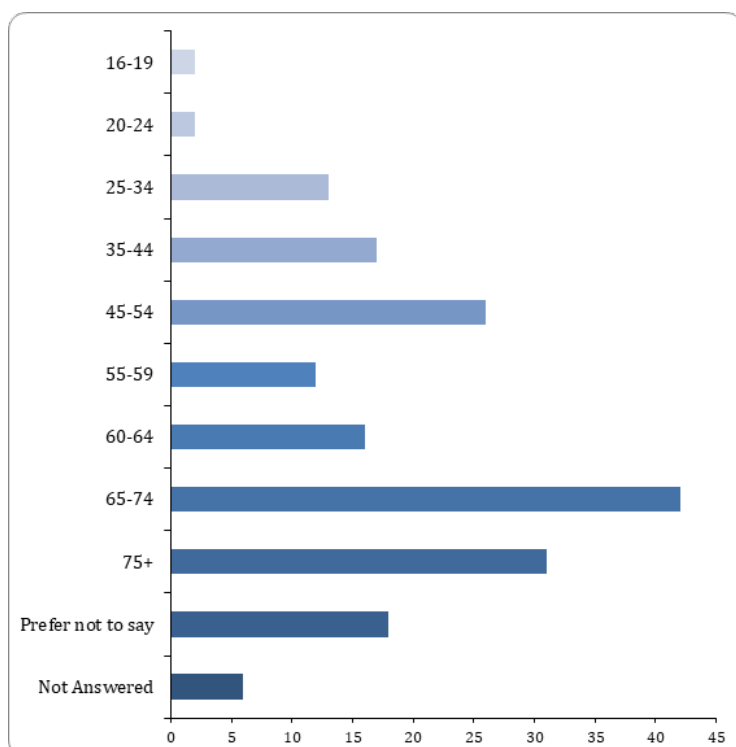
Graph 1: What capacity respondents are responding to this consultation

3.1.1 Demographics of Respondents

Age

Q12. Which age bracket do you fall into?

There were 179 responses to this question.



Graph 2: Age of Respondents

There were no respondents under the age of 16. There were two respondents aged 16-19. There were two respondents aged 20-24. There were thirteen respondents

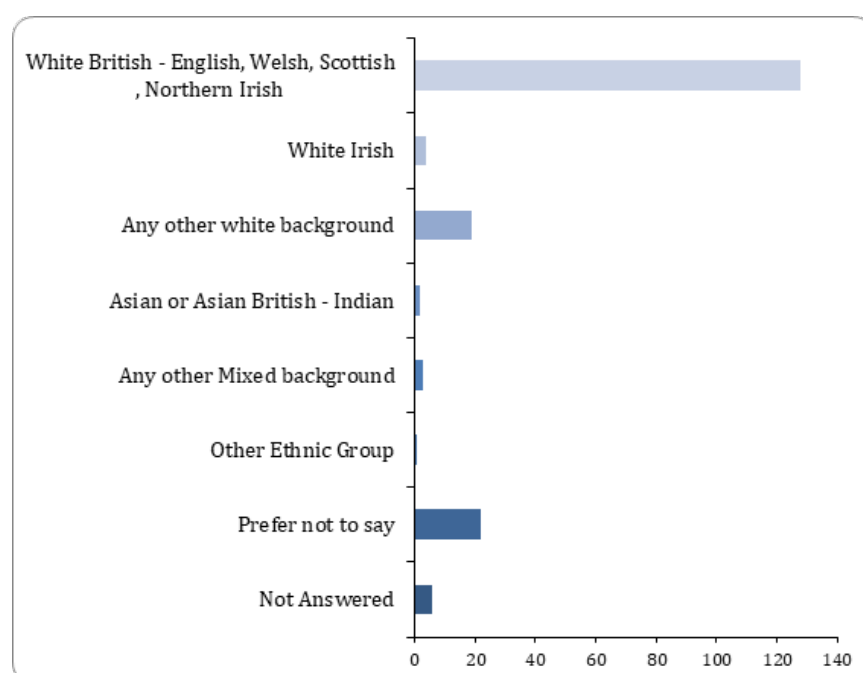
aged 25-34. There were seventeen respondents aged 35-44. There were twenty-six respondents aged 45-54. There were twelve respondents aged 55-59. There were sixteen respondents aged 60-64. There were forty-two respondents aged 65-74. There were thirty-one respondents aged 75+. There were eighteen respondents who preferred not to say and six respondents who didn't answer this question.

The highest number of respondents are aged 65-74. Followed by respondents aged 75+ then respondents aged 45-54. The lowest number of respondents are those aged 16-19 and 20-24. 9.73% of respondents preferred not to disclose their age and 3.24% of respondents didn't answer the question. This demonstrates that the majority of respondents answering the survey were over the age of 65 and the younger demographics of Oxford were either not reached or did not choose to respond.

Ethnicity

Which of the following best describes your ethnic background?

There were 179 responses to this question.



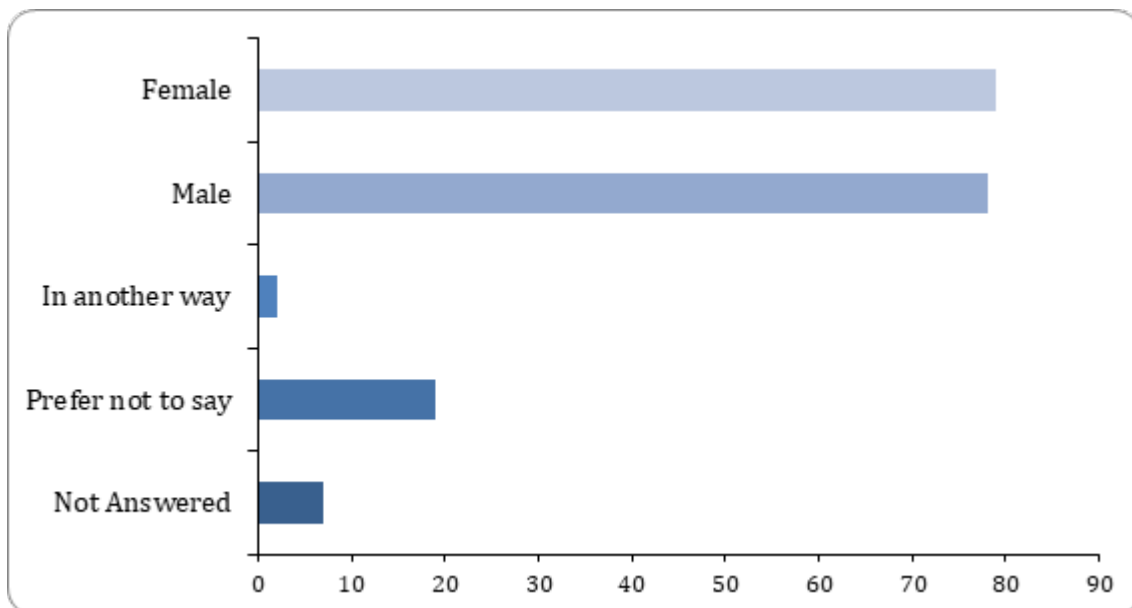
Graph 3: Ethnic background of respondents

The majority of respondents answering this question declared their ethnic background to be 'White British – English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish'. 11.89% of respondents preferred not to declare their ethnic background and 3.24% of respondents didn't answer the question.

Gender

Q14. Which of the following best describes how you think of yourself?

There were 178 responses to this question.



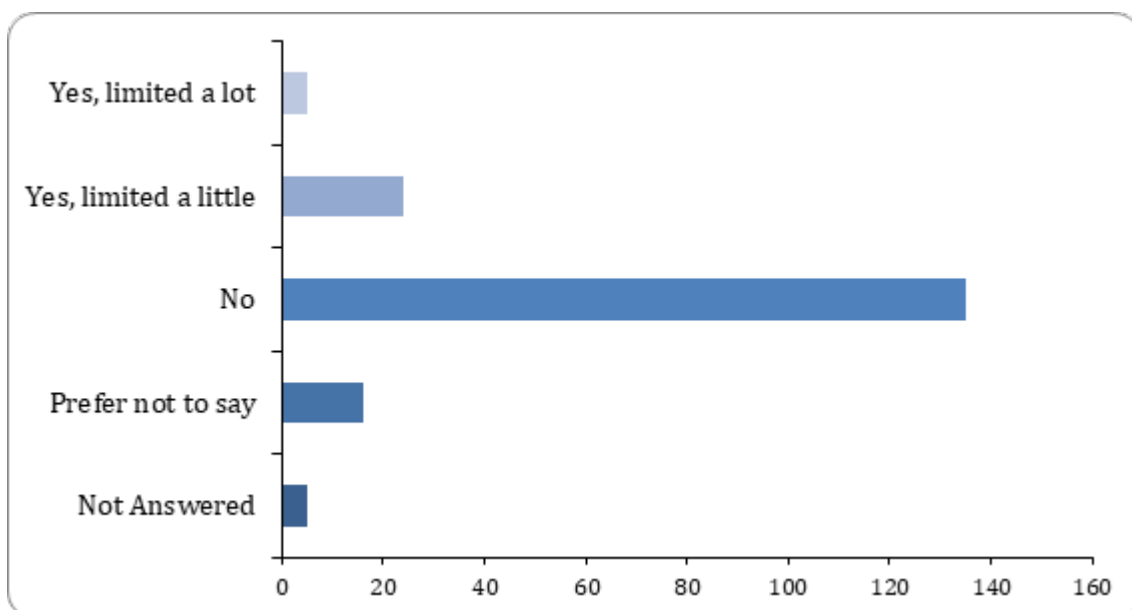
Graph 4: Gender of respondents

42.70% of respondents answered they identify as female. 42.16% of respondents answered they identified as male. 1.08% of respondents answered that they identify in another way. 10.27% of respondents answered that they'd prefer not to say and 3.78% of respondents didn't answer the question.

Disability

Q15. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

There were 180 responses to this question.



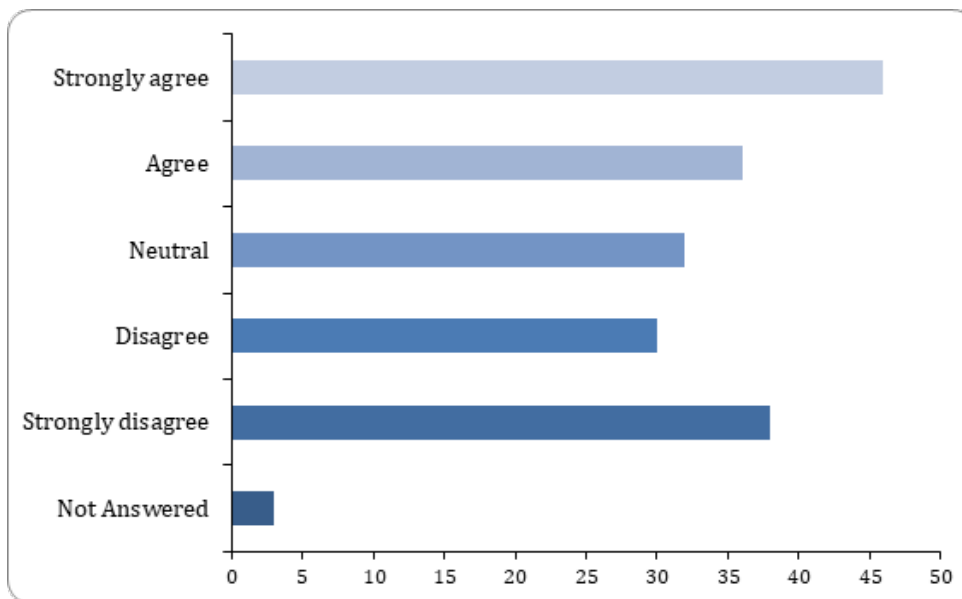
Graph 5: Health problems or disabilities of respondents

The majority of respondents answered no to having a health problem or disability. 10.27% answered that they would prefer not to say, and 3.78% of respondents didn't answer the question.

3.1.2 Respondents Answers to Topic Questions

Density

Q5. To what extent would you support well-designed higher density residential development in your area, which would mean more homes on individual pieces of land to help deliver new homes in the city?



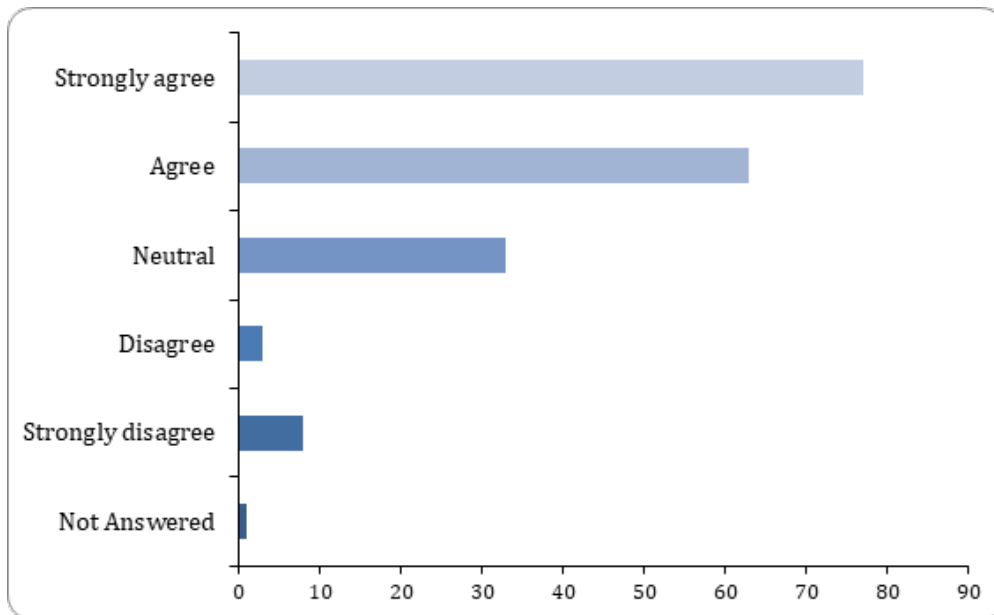
Graph 6: Responses to density question

This question was addressing whether development should support higher density residential development. There is no clear trend as the responses are fairly similar between agreeing and disagreeing. However, there is a slightly higher number of respondents strongly agreeing (24.86%) and agreeing (19.46%) to those disagreeing (16.22%) and strongly disagreeing (20.54%). Although there is not a clear pattern, the majority agree/strongly agree that higher density is something the Local Plan should address to deliver new homes in the city.

Housing on Employment Land

Q6. To what extent would you support proposed policies allowing residential development on existing employment and business land (policies may allow this to happen but cannot make it happen)?

There were 184 responses to this question.



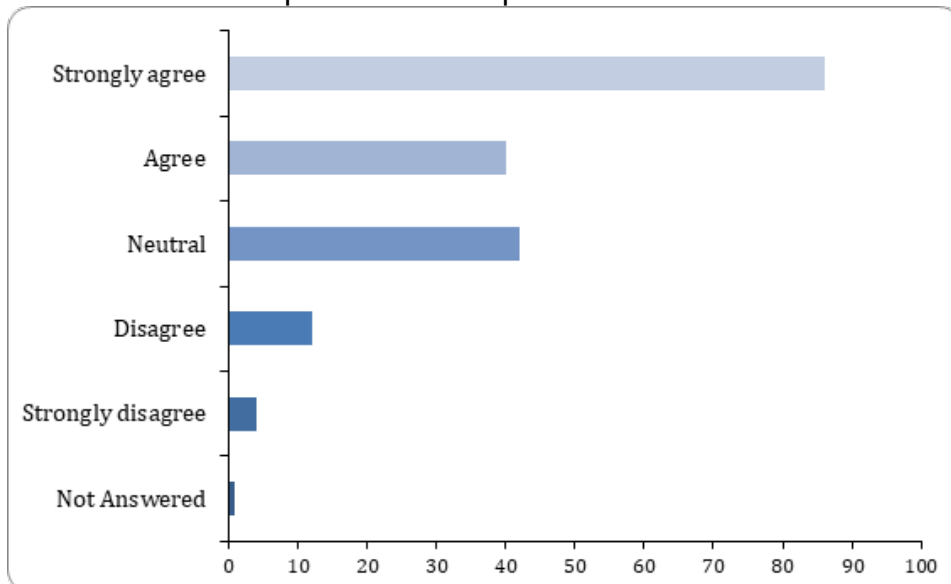
Graph 7: Responses to housing on employment land question

There is a clear trend in the responses for this question where the majority of answers agree (34.05%) or strongly agree (41.62%), with very few respondents disagreeing (1.62%) or strongly disagreeing (4.32%). This clearly implies that the majority of respondents would like to see the Local Plan include policies allowing residential development on existing employment and business land.

Affordable Housing

Q7. To what extent do you agree that the local plan should prioritise building affordable housing, especially socially rented housing, over other type of housing?

There were 184 responses to this question.



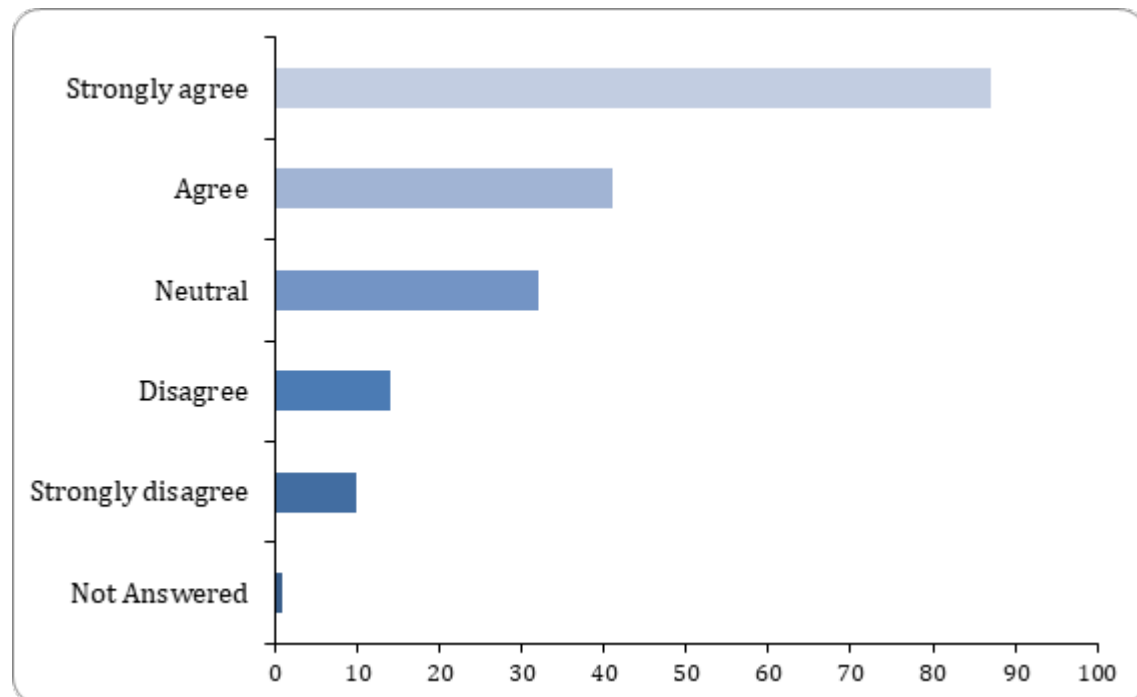
Graph 8: Responses to affordable housing question

There is a clear trend in the responses to this question, whereby the majority of answers agree (21.62%) or strongly agree (46.49%) that the Local Plan should prioritise building affordable housing.

Carbon and Climate Change

Q8. To what extent do you agree that the local plan should apply stricter carbon and climate standards than current national standards?

There were 184 responses to this question.



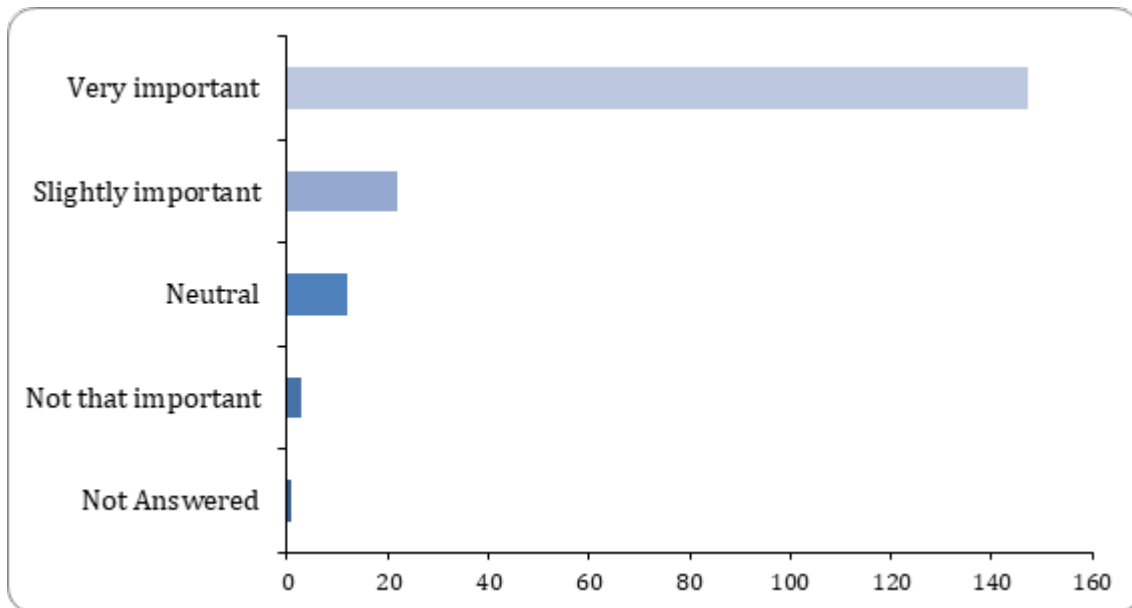
Graph 9: Responses to carbon and climate change question

There is a clear trend that respondents strongly agree (47.03%) or agree (22.16%) that the Local Plan should apply stricter carbon and climate standards than current national standards.

Design, appearance, layout

Q9. How important do you think it is that the local plan should seek good design, appearance and layout of new buildings?

There were 184 responses to this part of the question.



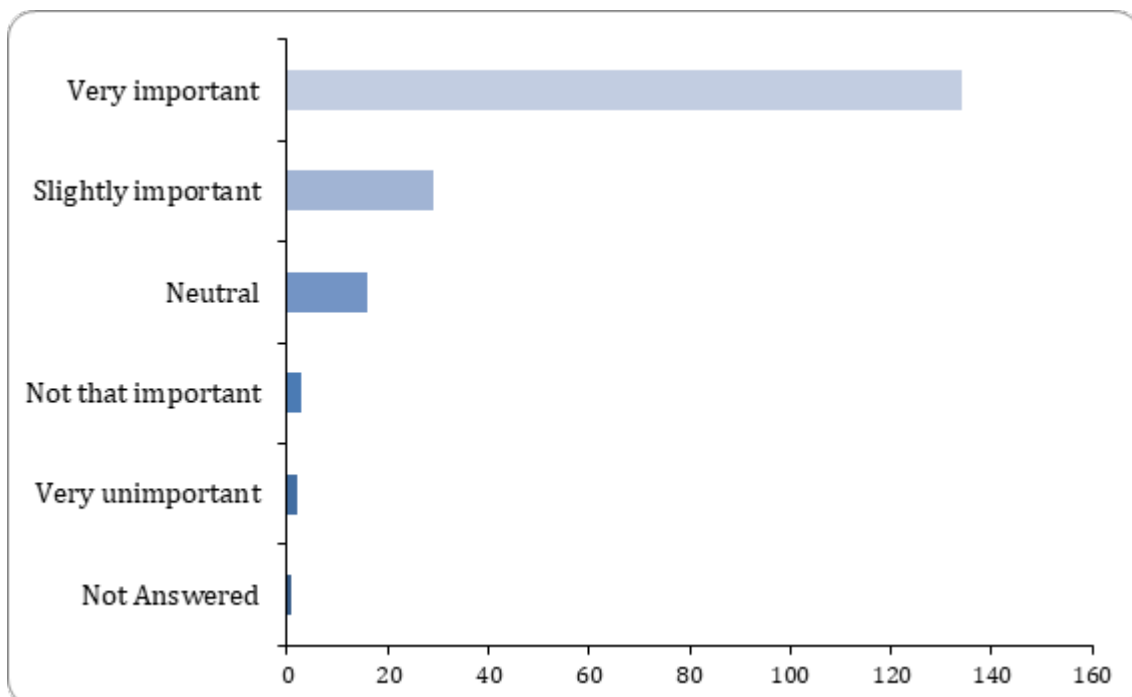
Graph 10: Responses to design, appearance, and layout question

Responses to this question indicate a very clear pattern that it is important for respondents that the Local Plan should seek good design, appearance and layout of new buildings. Over half of respondents declared that design, appearance, layout is very important to them (79.46%), only 1.62% of respondents declared it to be not that important and no respondents declared this was very unimportant to them.

Biodiversity

Q10. How important is it that the local plan includes measures to protect and enhance biodiversity?

There were 184 responses to this question.



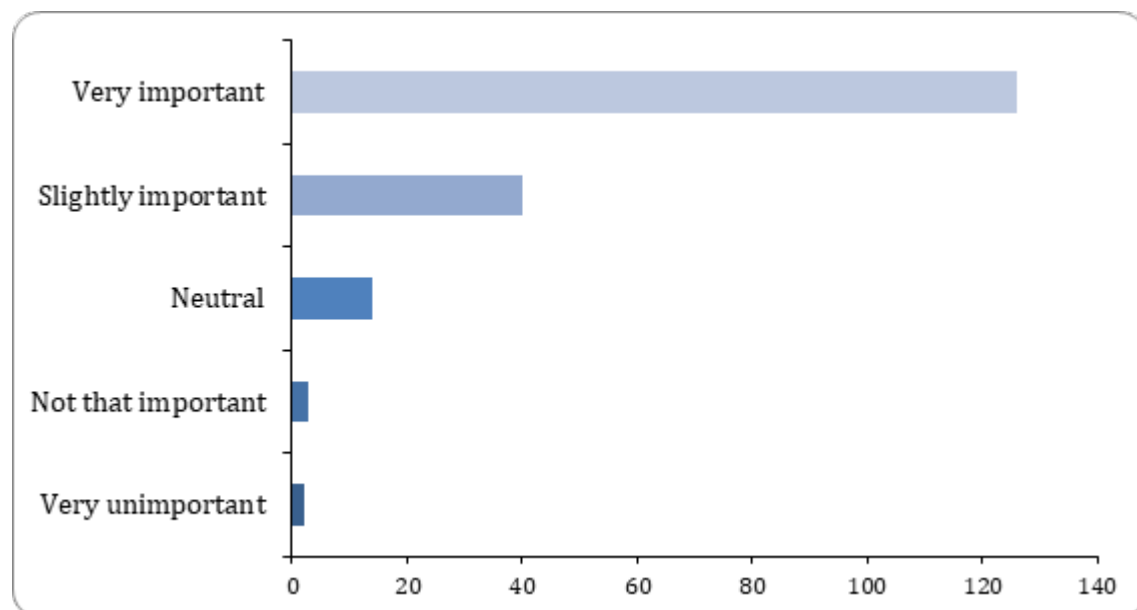
Graph 11: Responses to biodiversity question

The responses to this question indicate a very clear trend that the majority of respondents believe the Local Plan should include measures to protect and enhance biodiversity as it is a topic very important. 72.43% of respondents declared biodiversity to be very important to them and 15.68% declared biodiversity to be slightly important to them.

Cultural heritage sites and events

Q11. How important is it that the local plan prioritises the preservation and promotion of local cultural heritage sites and cultural events and venues?

There were 185 responses to this question.



Graph 12: Responses to cultural heritage sites and events

The responses to this question show a very clear pattern that cultural heritage sites and events are significantly important and something the Local Plan should prioritise in terms of preservation and promotion. 68.11% of respondents declared this topic to be very important and 21.62% declared this to be slightly important.

4. Data Analysis

4.1.1 Quantitative Data Analysis

The seven topics assessed in the survey were:

1. Density
2. Housing on employment land
3. Affordable housing
4. Carbon and climate change
5. Design, appearance, layout
6. Biodiversity
7. Cultural heritage sites and events

From the results, it is clear that all the topics are somewhat important and significant to all respondents. Design, appearance, and layout had the highest rate of

respondents agreeing and strongly agreeing importance with 91.35% of respondents declaring this. The next most important is cultural heritage sites and events, where 89.73% of respondents declared this. The next most important is biodiversity, where 88.11% of respondents declared this as important. Next was housing on employment land, where 75.67% of respondents would like to see this prioritised. Carbon and climate change closely followed, where 69.19% of respondents declared this important. Density was the only topic that had slightly mixed responses. Just under half of respondents support higher density development - 44.32% of respondents expressed support. Whereas 36.76% of respondents don't support higher density developments.

4.1.2 Qualitative Data Analysis

There was a total of 68 qualitative responses, 50 of these responses were regarding the site 'horse fields' and the other 18 were about the local plan in general. They have been analysed by category below.

Density

Concern	Summary
Brownfield Land	All brownfield sites must be developed first
Infrastructure and the environment	Development outside of the city imposes environmental costs in terms of transport provision. Provision of schools, doctors surgeries often runs behind housing growth, higher density should be evaluated to increase housing
Oxford city sprawling	Towns and villages should remain separate with green spaces in between. Priority should be given to housing in the city and higher density should be considered
Brownfield Land	Why can't commercial properties be replaced with housing and repurpose closed retail units.
Brownfield Land	Brownfield sites must be developed first

Table 1: Comments about density

Table 1 shows that there were five separate comments regarding density. Three of these comments were concerning brownfield land, commenting that brownfield land should be prioritised for development particularly vacant commercial buildings.

Housing on Employment Land

Concern	Summary
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Concern	Summary
Protecting Oxford's green lungs	Construction should be restricted to brownfield sites, including repurposing empty retail and office space
Policy which eases restrictions	Introduce a policy which eases restrictions to allow housing on land currently reserved for employment
Protecting Oxford's green lungs	Construction should be restricted to brownfield sites, including repurposing empty retail and office space

Table 2: Comments on housing on employment land

Table 2 shows there were three comments regarding housing on employment land. There is a clear theme that respondents would like to see brownfield sites prioritised, with empty retail and office space prioritised.

Affordable Housing

Concern	Summary
Prioritise affordable housing over new employment sites	Providing new homes should be prioritised over new employment. There needs to be more accessible and affordable social rent housing. Policy should ensure that social rent should come from a researched 'housing mix' with an appropriate amount of family sized homes.
Housing need and green space	There should be a focus on affordable homes for social rent but not at the expense of green spaces whether in the green belt or not. Brownfield sites should be the preferred location
Prioritise affordable housing over new employment sites	Underhoused residents of Oxford must take priority over developing new employment sites which could exacerbate mismatches between jobs and homes, increasing commuting and further worsen traffic congestion
Affordable housing	Oxford's housing need should be met before new employment
Affordable housing	More accessible and genuinely affordable social rent housing should be prioritised to meet identified need
Affordable housing	Create a better balance of employment and housing and build more affordable housing to avoid commuting

Concern	Summary
Prioritise affordable housing over new employment sites	The balance has been weighted in favour of creating job spaces. This places more pressure on housing, and pushed development into surrounding areas. The Oxford North Project is the worst example of this.
Affordable housing	It seems the old housing model worked well but was made unattractive for councils by the right to buy. It has been suggested that one way round this problem might be Community Land Trusts
Prioritise affordable housing over new employment sites	The plan should prioritise homes to meet current needs over new jobs in a city with full employment. CPRE estimated space set aside in the city is sufficient for 60,000 jobs. This occupies brownfield land that could be used for housing.
Affordable housing	New homes should be at genuinely and permanently affordable social rents. This could be possible by using Community Land Trusts
Deprivation and Poverty	Littlemore is in an area of deprivation and inequality. This should be reduced through improved educational and employment opportunities and access to more affordable housing, especially social housing. Littlemore should be designated as a local centre.
Prioritise affordable housing over new employment sites	The plan should prioritise homes to meet Oxford's current needs over new jobs in a city with full employment. CPRE estimates that the amount of space in the city currently set aside for new office and lab space is sufficient for 60,000 jobs. This occupies brownfield land that could be used for housing, pushing new housing onto the city's dwindling green spaces, and massively increases housing demand, keeping house prices high.
Housing targets	Oxford's housing targets should be revised and based on realistic building rates over the past decade. High housing targets mainly benefit private developers, who are under no obligation to build unless it suits market conditions. Increasing development does not guarantee affordable or need-based housing.
Healthy Developments	Planning should promote health and wellbeing by: encouraging active travel and access to healthy food, providing green spaces and social interaction areas, considering climate change resilience and pollution, ensuring inclusive, affordable housing and health-oriented design. Policies should require Health Impact Assessments where appropriate.
Affordable housing for NHS staff	Housing costs impact NHS workforce recruitment and retention. The council should: factor NHS staff housing needs into housing assessments, engage with NHS bodies during planning, consider site allocations near major healthcare employers.

Concern	Summary
Prioritise affordable housing over new employment sites	The plan should prioritise homes to meet Oxford's current needs over new jobs in a city with full employment

Table 3: Comments about affordable housing

Table 3 shows that there were 16 separate comments concerning affordable housing. In summary, the comments agree that affordable housing should be a priority, and development should be built on brownfield land first. Six separate comments declare that affordable housing development should be prioritised over development for employment.

Carbon and Climate Change

Concern	Summary
Zero Carbon	All new developments and supporting infrastructure must comply with Oxfordshire's zero carbon targets
Zero Carbon	New development including supporting infrastructure must comply with Oxfordshire's zero carbon targets
Zero Carbon	Thermal efficiency and good ventilation is dramatically cheaper than retro-fitting. So solar panels, heat pumps, and good insulation should be mandatory on all new buildings (domestic and commercial). Can there not be solar panels at all car parks - help with EV charging.
Zero Carbon	All new development, including supporting infrastructure should be zero carbon in construction and operation if the county and the UK are to meet their zero carbon budgets.
Zero Carbon	NHSPS supports carbon-neutral policies and suggests carbon offset funds be used to improve NHS estates and contribute to NHS net zero goals.
Zero Carbon	New builds must be sustainable in terms of energy usage
Zero Carbon	All new development, including supporting infrastructure should be zero carbon in construction and operation if the county and the UK are to meet their zero carbon budgets
Zero Carbon	Need to consider whether house building aims are compatible with aims for net zero carbon release. Developments should not be permitted which damages stored carbon held in the ground.
Climate and Soil Concerns	SUDs are inadequate substitutes for natural green spaces in critical catchment areas. They support Policy RE6 but want stronger recognition of the link between catchment protection and peat preservation

Table 4: Comments about carbon and climate change

Table 4 shows there were nine separate comments regarding carbon and climate change. Eight of these comments specifically referred to zero carbon, whereby there is a strong sense that the local plan should ensure that all new developments and supporting infrastructure should be zero carbon and new builds should be sustainable.

Design, layout, and appearance

There were no comments regarding design, layout, and appearance.

Biodiversity

Concern	Summary
Biodiversity Action Plan	The council urgently needs a Biodiversity Action Plan which should inform the whole local plan.
Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity	Development proposals should seek to conserve and enhance land with significant wildlife or ecological value. Developers should demonstrate that the benefits of the development clearly outweigh the loss
Biodiversity net gain	Biodiversity net gain provision should be guaranteed to last in perpetuity.
Biodiversity net gain	Concern about relying on BNG, especially offsite offsetting, as it often fails in practice and does not guarantee long-term biodiversity improvements.

Table 5: Comments about biodiversity

Table 5 shows there were four separate comments regarding biodiversity. Two separate comments addressed the concern of biodiversity net gain whereby it is clearly important to the respondents that it should be a priority in the local plan. Additional comments urge for the plan to include a specific Oxford Biodiversity Action Plan and for developers to take more responsibility.

Cultural heritage sites and events

Concern	Summary
Oxford City Centre	Oxford City Centre should be designated as a World Heritage Site to preserve its unique beauty
Protecting the character of a site	Development should only be permitted where its design responds appropriately to the site and character of the surrounding area

Table 6: Comments about cultural heritage sites and events

Table 6 shows there were two additional comments regarding cultural heritage sites and events.

Other/General Comments

Concern	Summary
Green Space	Green space must be protected and interconnected. Strong desire to link the emerging plan with Oxfordshire County Council's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)
Flooding	Do not build on flood plains
Wastewater facilities	Wastewater facilities must meet Environment Agency requirements, with work undertaken prior to development
Structure and Contents of Survey	Poor presentation in survey questions, the survey doesn't address the problems in an integrated way or offer opportunity to comment as free text.
Green Space	Green sites need to be considered at a higher level and include nature networks not just grass
Flooding	New developments should not be built in flood-prone areas. To prevent surface water flooding, they must manage runoff effectively, avoiding impermeable surfaces. Road and paved access should be kept to a minimum relative to the size of the building and garden areas.
Wastewater Facilities	All new builds of any use class should have realistic solutions for wastewater and sewage before occupation
Neighbourhood Planning	The Local plan should accept the importance of neighbourhood plans and address what their plans address.
Green Space	Green space provides multiple benefits and must be protected. There has been little interest in creating new public accessible green space, but rather building on them e.g. Warren Meadow and Valentia Road
Allotment land	Existing and designated allotment land should be retained. Proposals to extent or encourage more would be welcomed
Green Space	The Local Plan should protect all green spaces in the groundwater catchment area of the North and South Lye Valley fen SSSIs as well as the Boundary and Lye brooks. SUDS are no compensation for loss of groundwater catchment
Flooding	Flood plains should be restored rather than built over e.g. Oxpens, Osney Mead
Sewage Infrastructure	The EA opposed all new development until the sewage treatment works could be upgraded. The Local Plan should adopt this strategy to.

Concern	Summary
Traffic and Transport	Roads in Headington are at full capacity. There should be no development in Headington which creates and increases traffic flows.
Green Space	Must be protected and interconnected and increased inline with an increasing population
Flooding	Do not build on flood plains
Wastewater Facilities	Must meet EA requirements with any necessary work undertaken before development
Green Space	The area leased to North Oxford Golf Course is green belt and should be preserved and opened up to the free use of the public. There is a historic right of way across it. Roman farm buildings were discovered when Parkway Station was excavated. A school is scheduled to be built nearby and should be open for them to use. There should be a full issues consultation.
Structure and Contents of Survey	The survey is making inappropriate assumptions and asking leading questions. Having closed questions could mean development happens in the wrong places as there is no option to expand the viewpoint. The city's remaining green spaces should be protected
Employment sites	The many acres of employment sites should be released as there is near full employment in the city
Sewage Infrastructure	The EA has raised concerns about the ability of the sewage system to cope with additional demand, it is really important that where development takes place, the local infrastructure should be able to support it
Green space	People need to have access to parks and we all feel better with trees in the environment
Structure and Contents of Survey	Disappointment in the restrictive nature of the survey. It appears to only focus on one issue being housing delivery. It seems like it is rolling on from LP2040 and not looking to revisit or change any issues.
Green Space	Green spaces in the city provide multiple benefits and must be protected, interconnected and increased in line with the planned 30% increase in population. The Local Plan should use the recent Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation results as an evidence base
Flooding	Flood plains should be restored rather than built over e.g. Oxpens, Osney Mead
Sewage Infrastructure	Follow the EA guidelines opposing all new development until the sewage treatment works could be upgraded

Concern	Summary
Structure and Contents of Survey	The survey is too general and restrictive in format to make meaningful contribution. The aggregated public responses will be limited value for future policy-making as there are too many 'for or against' questions.
Infrastructure in Littlemore	There is a need for a local health centre, dentist and pharmacy. There is limited bus services to the hospitals. There needs to be more modern community facilities to promote well-being and a sense of community.
Traffic and Transport	Welcoming the emphasis on encouraging cycling and walking and reducing car usage but there is a danger of disadvantaging the already disadvantaged unless public transport is improved to access all areas of Oxford.
Development and Infrastructure	Littlemore has had substantial development without adequate accompanying infrastructure. There should not be further significant development except in the Ozone Leisure Park/Kassam Stadium.
Structure and Contents of Survey	The survey is restricted in its scope and does not allow for any free text responses
Green Space	The local plan should use the recent Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation results as an evidence base. More use of Local Green Space Designation in the Local Plan
Flooding	Oxford's flood plains are key to flood protection as our winters become warmer and wetter and extreme weather events increase. They should be restored rather than built over. e.g.: Oxpens, Osney Mead and warehousing on the Botley Road flood plain.
Sewage Infrastructure	Oxford's sewage infrastructure is not able to cope and polluting our rivers. Until recently the Environment Agency opposed all new development until the sewage treatment works could be upgraded.
Traffic and Transport	There are worsening traffic and infrastructure issues in Oxford which are deterring workers and raising service costs. Promoting higher housing numbers without simultaneously addressing transport and infrastructure will harm quality of life and economic activity
Structure and Contents of Survey	The survey is restrictive in its scope and does not allow for any free text responses and is not a suitable replacement for an issues consultation
Green Space	Stricter protection of green areas in Lye Valley's rainwater catchment zones to preserve spring flow and groundwater recharge.
Neighbourhood Planning	Incorporate Headington Neighbourhood Plan's green space policies into the new local plan

Concern	Summary
Wildlife corridors	Identifying and protecting wildlife corridors in Headington to enhance urban biodiversity
Oxford Biodiversity Strategy	Urge the resumption and progress of the stalled Oxford Biodiversity Strategy
Electricity and Power (National Grid Electricity Transmission)	<p>NGET owns and operated the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales. NGET has key infrastructure within the area: including: (1) 400kV overhead transmission lines (Cowley-Walham and Cowley-Minety routes) (2) substations and underground cables in North and South Hinksey.</p> <p>Future Infrastructure and Net Zero Goals: while no new infrastructure is currently planned in the area, NGET anticipates growing electricity demand due to the UK's transition to net zero by 2050. The shift will require: upgrading the grid, increasing network capacity between regions, connecting new offshore wind farms and international interconnectors.</p> <p>NGET requests that the council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider its assets in planning decisions - Consult NGET on all relevant documents or proposals that may impact their infrastructure - Add NGET to the consultation database
Health Infrastructure and Housing Growth	<p>NHS Property Services (NHSPS) believe new housing developments increase pressure on healthcare services. Developments should contribute proportionally to healthcare infrastructure needs. Health infrastructure is vital for sustainable communities and must be prioritised in planning policies. Health infrastructure should be defined as essential in local plans. Developer contributions must fund both large and cumulative smaller developments' health demands. Flexible options should be available to meet healthcare needs. NHS needs flexibility in using, redeveloping, or disposing of surplus land to fund improvements. Policies shouldn't restrict alternative use of NHS land once it's declared surplus by health authorities. Proceeds from disposals should be reinvested into healthcare locally and nationally.</p>
NHSPS should be a key stakeholder	The NHS should be a key stakeholder in local planning to ensure healthcare services can meet the needs of growing populations, and policies must support flexible, sustainable, and affordable development that enables excellent patient care.

Table 7: General and other comments

Table 7 displays 43 separate general and other responses to the engagement exercise but not via the survey. There were 10 responses regarding green space with a consensus that green space should be more tightly protected in the Local Plan and there should be provision to create new green space. There were six responses regarding flooding, with a strong view that there should be no development on flood plains. There were seven responses regarding wastewater and sewage

infrastructure, all commenting and agreeing on recent Environment Agency recommendations to pause developments until there is sufficient sewage infrastructure to cope with extra demand. There were six responses regarding the structure and content of the survey all stating that the survey was restrictive and had no opportunities for free text.

Sites

Concern	Summary
Protecting the green space of 'horse fields' in Iffley	<p>There were 50 separate emails regarding this site.</p> <p>All emails had the strong view that this space should not be developed on and that the green space should remain, as people use and value the land as well as the ecological/biodiversity value.</p> <p>The majority of emails were asking for 'Horse Fields's to be designated as local green space in the upcoming local plan and that it could then be used for educational purposes for local schools and children. Several responses believe the site meets the criteria for it do be designated as Local Green Space.</p>

Table 8: Comments about sites

Table 8 displays comments regarding specific sites. One particular site had significant interest, Horse Fields in Iffley (Site allocated for housing development in the Oxford Local Plan 2036 as SP42 Land at Meadow Lane). There were 50 separate comments regarding this site, the majority of which with the same opinion that this site should be designated as green space in the Local Plan.

5. Conclusion

The early engagement survey has provided valuable insights into the priorities and concerns of Oxford's residents, businesses, and community groups as the city begins to shape its new Local Plan. The responses reveal a strong public interest in a number of key policy areas, notably the urgent need for affordable and social rent housing, protection of green space the preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage and biodiversity.

There is substantial support for policy approaches that promote residential development on brownfield and underutilised employment land, and a clear call for the Local Plan to exceed national standards in addressing climate change through zero-carbon construction and infrastructure. The feedback also highlighted a number of cross-cutting themes, including the protection of green spaces, sustainable infrastructure (particularly sewage and flooding concerns), and the importance of aligning development with community health and wellbeing.

The extensive commentary, particularly around Horse Fields in Iffley, reflects how passionately local communities feel about their environment and the importance of

safeguarding valued open spaces. It also underscores the public's desire for more meaningful opportunities to contribute to local planning decisions.

Overall, this engagement exercise emphasizes the need for the Local Plan to balance growth with sustainability, inclusivity, and the protection of Oxford's unique character. The findings will play a crucial role in informing the next stage of consultation, helping to ensure the plan reflects the aspirations and concerns of those who live, work, and invest in Oxford.