

WEST OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL PLAN 2011-2031
Publication Stage Consultation



This is the response of **Eynsham Parish Council**

Do you consider the Local Plan is:

- (1) Legally Compliant – Yes
- (2) Sound – No
- (3) Complies with the Duty to co-operate – Yes

Eynsham Parish Council considers the Local Plan (LP) generally sound, save for the following:

1. The LP does not give enough weight to neighbourhood planning, particularly neighbourhood plans (NPs) in preparation. 'Local Planning Authorities should create a shared vision with communities of the residential environment and facilities they wish to see' and 'should facilitate neighbourhood planning' (NPPF, para 69).
2. In particular, the District Council 'should avoid duplicating planning processes for non-strategic policies where a neighbourhood plan is in preparation', as, when 'brought into force the policies it contains take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in the Local Plan for the neighbourhood, where they are in conflict' (NPPF, para 185). Likewise, the District Council should not approve development under the LP which would conflict with non-strategic policies in NPs in preparation.
3. Weight that is given to NPs in the LP, such as incorporation as one of the Delivery Mechanisms, presumes a NP that is adopted and incorporated as part of the LP. The LP says the Council will work with landowners, developers, communities, individuals and groups, such as self-build groups, 'including the use of' (H1, etc.) NPs. However, no consideration is given to NPs already in preparation (with the exception of the emerging Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Development Plan, at LP 9.4.31).
4. Given the time it takes to bring a NP to adoption, NPs in preparation should be given consideration in any non-strategic development applications in the neighbourhood area. This would assure that the size, location, or character of such development approved would not be contrary to the overall community plan proposed by the emerging NP. Without this, some communities may be forced to abandon the NP prepared so far, or be discouraged from the idea of a NP altogether. This is contrary to NPPF, para 69.
5. At the time of the Draft LP, the only NP in preparation was that of Chipping Norton Town Council. Since that time, the District Council has approved neighbourhood areas for

emerging NPs by Broadwell Village Neighbourhood Forum, Chipping Norton Town Council and Eynsham Parish Council. The District Council is encouraging the creation of others. None, except Chipping Norton, are considered in the LP.

Modifications

6. The LP should be modified to incorporate all existing and future emerging NPs.

(a) The first paragraph of Policy H2 - Delivery of Homes should be modified (*addition in italics*) to read

The Council will deliver at least 10,500 new homes in the period 2011-2031. This will be achieved through a combination of homes already completed, existing commitments, allocated Strategic Development Areas (SDAs) sites identified as suitable and deliverable/developable in the Council's SHLAA *sites identified in adopted and emerging neighbourhood plans* and windfall development.

(b) In the 'Strategy at the Local Level' section the following paragraph (*addition in italics*)

Having regard to the profile and key issues outlined above, the strategy for [as appropriate] sub-area is set out below. *Regard should also be had to relevant emerging neighbourhood plans in the sub-area.*

should be included at the following sub-area sections:

Witney	9.2.26
Carterton	9.3.40
Chipping Norton	9.4.31
Eynsham-Woodstock	9.5.35
Burford-Charlbury	9.6.29

7. **Eynsham Parish Council reserves the right to participate at the oral examination if facts or circumstances subsequent to this response so require.**

DS for Eynsham Parish Council, 30/4/15