

Oxford Local Plan
Examination Hearings
Matter 3 – Housing need and the housing requirement
Wednesday 12 June 2024 – 09:30
and continued at 9.30 on Thursday 13 June if necessary
Rose Hill Community Centre
AGENDA

Issue

Whether the Local Plan has been positively prepared and whether it is justified, effective and consistent with national policy in relation to housing need and the housing requirement.

1. The HENA and housing need

- Justification for departing from the standard method
- Basis and justification for assessing housing need on an Oxfordshire wide level
- Explanation of each of the other scenarios for housing need used (other than standard method), evidence sources and assumptions:
 - 2021 Census adjusted
 - CE Baseline
 - Economic Development led
- Basis and justification for choosing the CE baseline scenario
- Basis and justification for apportioning housing need to each authority using the distribution of forecast jobs and merits of other scenarios:
 - Standard method distribution
 - Employment Based Distribution Current (2021)
 - Employment Based Distribution Projected (2040)
- Whether the HENA adequately addresses specialist housing need
- Comparison with approach in adopted Local Plans
- Objectives and intended outcomes of identifying a housing need of 1,322 homes per annum for Oxford City

2. Capacity within Oxford City and resultant housing requirement

- Overview of methodology and process of assessing capacity
- Assumptions and policy approaches used
- Potential for capacity to be increased by amending these and merits of alternative approaches suggested
- Rationale for setting housing requirement to match capacity – implications of this and whether there is a need for more flexibility

3. Unmet housing need

- Scale of unmet need from Oxford City and how this varies depending upon the scenarios used
- Existing agreements with other authorities and position in adopted Local Plans
- Emerging Local Plans in other authorities
 - Emerging housing requirements and standard method figures compared with adopted Local Plan housing requirements
 - Potential for continuing existing commitments on unmet needs/allocations in emerging Local Plans
 - Implications of meeting unmet needs in full, for example in terms of Green Belt alteration
- Extent of shortfall and effect of not meeting unmet need in full

4. Overview and potential alternative approach

- Would delivering more housing in other authority areas achieve the objectives and intended outcomes – access to affordable housing, supporting the local economy and creating a liveable city for all/reducing commuting? How?
- Implications of using standard method to calculate Oxford City's housing need and potential for resultant unmet need to be fully met
- Position of Oxford City Council and other Councils on such an approach
- What additional work/agreements would be required?