

Council Agenda



Contact: Steven Corrigan, Democratic Services Manager
Telephone number 01235 422526
Email: steven.corrigan@southandvale.gov.uk
Date: 4 October 2016
Website: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on Wednesday 12 October 2016 at 7.00 pm
The Ridgeway, The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Reed', is written in a cursive style.

Margaret Reed
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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Agenda

Open to the Public including the Press

Council's vision

The council's vision is to take care of your interests across the Vale with enterprise, energy and efficiency.

1. Apologies for absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

(Pages 6 - 18)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Council minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2016 attached.

3. Declarations of interest

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

4. Chairman's announcements

To receive any announcements from the chairman.

5. Statements, petitions and questions from the public relating to matters affecting council.

Any statements, petitions and questions from the public under standing order 32 will be made or presented at the meeting.

6. Urgent business

To receive notification of any matters which the chairman determines should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances which have made the matters urgent.

7. Petitions under standing order 13

To receive petitions from members of the council under standing order 13 (if any).

8. Questions under standing order 12

No questions submitted from members of the council under standing order 12.

9. Treasury management outturn 2015/16

(Pages 19 - 41)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 12 August 2016, considered the report on the outturn performance of the treasury management function for the financial year 2015/16.

The report of the head of finance, which Cabinet considered on 12 August 2016, is attached.

RECOMMENDATION to Council

- (a) To approve the treasury management outturn report for 2015/16; and
- (b) To approve the actual 2015/16 prudential indicators within the report.

10. Longworth Neighbourhood Plan

(Wards Affected: Thames)

(Pages 42 - 81)

On 7 October 2016 Cabinet will consider a report on the adoption of the Longworth neighbourhood plan as part of the Development Plan for Vale of White Horse.

The report of the head of planning, which Cabinet will consider on 7 October, is attached.

The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to councillors on 7 October.

11. OxLEP Strategic Economic Plan

(Pages 82 - 87)

At its meeting on 7 October 2016 Cabinet will consider a report on the OxLEP Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). As part of that report Cabinet will consider the Joint Scrutiny Committee request that Cabinet defer its response to the SEP pending its consideration by Council. If Cabinet agree to this request Council will be invited to consider the SEP.

The report of the interim head of development, regeneration and housing, which Cabinet will consider on 7 October, is attached.

The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to councillors on 7 October.

12. Report of the leader of the council

(1) Urgent cabinet decisions

In accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rules, a cabinet decision can be taken as a matter of urgency, if any delay by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the council's or the public's interest. Treating the decision as a matter of urgency must be agreed by the chairman of the Scrutiny Committee and must be reported to the next meeting of the council, together with the reasons for urgency.

Councillor Matthew Barber, Leader of the council, will report that on 12 August 2016 Councillor Mike Murray took a confidential decision to grant a lease to Boundary Park Sports Association. The chairman of the Scrutiny Committee agreed to waive call-in because any delay could impact on the agreement.

(2) Delegation of cabinet functions

To receive details of any changes to the leader's scheme of delegation.

(3) Matters affecting the authority arising from meetings of joint committees, partnerships and other meetings

To receive the report of the leader (if any).

13. Notices of motion under standing order 11

To receive notices of motion under standing order 11.

(1) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Debby Hallett, seconded by Councillor Judy Roberts:

Council notes that government is still open to practical suggestions for devolved government. Council notes that the benefits of devolution are far more likely to be achieved if council leaders in Oxfordshire are serious about reaching a consensus.

Council also notes that both of the recently-commissioned reports identified strengths and weaknesses in each proposal, and made recommendations for addressing them.

Council believes these recommendations are capable of forming the basis for further discussion.

Council therefore:

- Calls on all council leaders in the county to resume talks about a workable model of local government re-organisation, with the express intention of reaching a workable consensus, and with the primary objective of achieving the best outcomes for the people of Oxford in terms of service delivery and efficiencies
- Calls on the Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council to play a full and constructive part in such talks

(2) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Bob Johnston, seconded by Councillor Jenny Hannaby:

Given that HM Government has announced that the New Homes Bonus is to be top sliced to pay for Adult Social Services in areas such as Oxfordshire, this Council calls for the officers to prepare a report on the implications for the Vale's finances. The report should go to Scrutiny in the first instance and thence to Cabinet and Full Council.

Minutes

of a meeting of the

Council



held on Wednesday 20 July 2016 at 7.00 pm
at the The Ridgeway, The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BY

Open to the public, including the press

Present:

Members: Councillors Mike Badcock (Chairman), Reg Waite (Vice-Chairman), Alice Badcock, Eric Batts, Matthew Barber, Yvonne Constance, Roger Cox, Margaret Crick, Stuart Davenport, Charlotte Dickson, St John Dickson, Katie Finch, Robert Hall, Debby Hallett, Jenny Hannaby, Dudley Hoddinott, Simon Howell, Vicky Jenkins, Bob Johnston, Mohinder Kainth, Sandy Lovatt, Ben Mabbett, Chris McCarthy, Chris Palmer, Helen Pighills, Julia Reynolds, Judy Roberts, Robert Sharp, Emily Smith, Henry Spencer, Elaine Ware and Catherine Webber

Officers: Steven Corrigan, David Buckle and Margaret Reed

Number of members of the public: 10

Co.17 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Edward Blagrove, Gervase Duffield, Anthony Hayward, Monica Lovatt, Mike Murray and Janet Shelley.

Co.18 Minutes

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the annual Council meeting and special Council meeting held on 11 May 2016 as correct records subject to the deletion of the words "Once finalised, the Local Plan will be subject to statutory consultation" (last sentence of Minute Co.14) and agree that the Chairman sign them as such.

Co.19 Declarations of interest

None.

Co.20 Chairman's announcements

The chairman provided housekeeping information.

He thanked Ed Vaizey MP for his work as the Minister for Culture, Creative industries and Communications and especially his work on broadband rollout which had benefitted residents in the Vale.

He congratulated Nicola Blackwood MP on her appointment as Parliamentary Under Secretary in the Department of Health.

He congratulated Ron Green, former district councillor, on the award of the British Empire Medal in recognition of his services to his local community.

At the request of the chairman Council formally put on record its thanks to David Buckle for his hard work for the council and wished him well for the future. He reminded councillors that they would have the opportunity to say farewell at a future event and led Council in a round of applause.

Co.21 Statements, petitions and questions from the public relating to matters affecting council.

Dr Les Clyne made the following statement on housing.

“One way of assessing the trend in the overall demand for housing in the Vale is to look at the figures for those on the Housing register. Mr Hamid Khan, Interim Head of Housing, has kindly given me the following figures. As of April 2015, 1,265 households were on Bands 1-3 of the Vale Housing register, and 2,288 were on Band 4. A year later, April 2016, 1,143 households were on Bands 1-3, and 2,520 were on Band 4. Thus over this period it appears that the Vale is tackling the more pressing problems for housing in the Vale (Bands 1-3), but is seeing an increase in the general demand for housing (Band 4). Overall there has been an increase of 110 in the total on Bands 1-4.

Thus the backdrop to the supply side of the housing is an increase in demand. The Grove airfield development is due to deliver 2,500 housing units but it has been severely delayed. The sooner the current impasse on this development is overcome, namely the signing of the Section 106 agreement, the sooner the Vale can see a major boost to the supply side of its housing commitments.”

Dr Les Clyne asked the following question of Councillor Matthew Barber, Leader of the council.

"Grove airfield development - the design work for the Grove airfield development was completed over three years ago. When is it expected that all parties will have signed the section 106 agreement?"

Councillor Matthew Barber responded that talks were ongoing with the developers. He hoped to achieve a resolution by October 2016 but this could not be guaranteed as the matter was outside the control of the council.

Dr Andrew Pritchard of North Hinksey Parish Council and Mr Tim Comyn, Chairman, Sparsholt Parish Council made statements on the proposed constitution changes to planning set out at agenda item 9. The following points were raised:

- welcomed the proposal to involve parish councils at an earlier stage of the planning process;
- the current system worked well;
- under the proposed scheme parish councils would need to hold more frequent meetings to meet the district council deadlines;and
- under the proposed scheme district councillors would need to attend parish council planning committee meetings to ensure they were informed of the parish council comments.

The chairman thanked the speakers for their statements and informed them that their points would be considered at agenda item 9.

Naomi Richardson made a statement and presented a petition on Abbey Meadows (although she noted that the petition was outdated as a result of the district council's decision to replace the swimming pool).

She stated that members on the Abbey Meadow Consultation Discussion Group and those that have signed the two petitions she had initiated were delighted that the outdoor pool was going to be replaced. She noted that the press release stated that: the district council will continue to engage with the wider community and special interest groups on the detail of both the Abbey Meadow project and the new plans to replace the swimming pool. She hoped that this would be the case and provided some suggestions for the new facility including:

- A beach area with a handrail to allow toddlers to use it and to allow access for those with reduced mobility;
- At least the same size as the current pool;
- The deep end should be at least as deep as the current pool;
- Lane swimming should still be available;
- The pool should have suitable areas for lessons, for little kids and older kids;
- The lining should be durable, easily cleaned and not cut kids' feet;
- The lining should differentiate between floor, sides and edges to help those with impaired vision;
- The heating system should be economic and sustainable;
- The surround should be a low maintenance surface, not tiles which break all the time.

The chairman thanked Naomi Richardson for her address and undertook to pass her petition to the Cabinet member for leisure.

Julie Mabberley, Campaign Manager of Wantage and Grove Campaign Group, and Ms Annie Thomas, Secretary of SPADE, on behalf of Need not Greed Oxfordshire made statements on the draft Strategic Economic Plan covering the following points:

- The Wantage and Grove Campaign Group (with over 900 members) are concerned about the growth of the population of the area.
- Whilst not against any development these should be proportionate and sustainable, protect the rural environment and the infrastructure should enhance and improve quality of life for its residents.
- In response to a question at the February Council meeting Councillor Barber confirmed that there would be wider consultation in May before the Local Enterprise Partnership Board ratification in June yet the Refresh of the Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan was not on the agenda of any meeting between February and now and is now simply to "note the response".
- Would expect Council to have noted the "Report on responses to the Refresh" which was informed by three public workshops and bilateral discussions with the local authorities and other key stakeholders yet no record of any bilateral discussions with the Vale of White Horse District Council were reported to this meeting.
- only two members of the business community had submitted written responses.
- Of the 262 responses received, the vast majority believe that "the LEP is:
 - an unaccountable non-elected body
 - aggressively driving growth
 - responsible for unrealistic and unachievable housing and jobs
 - figures contained in the SHMA

- heavily influencing the Local Plan process which will result in new development that will destroy Oxfordshire’s environment and communities.”
- 73 per cent of respondents were concerned about the level of growth proposed but no review of the level of growth is being considered as part of the refresh.
- The consultation had failed to address the concerns raised.
- Sought an assurance that the final draft of the document would be the subject of a comprehensive review by the council and take into account the views and concerns of the communities it represents.

The chairman thanked the speakers for their statements and informed them that their points would be considered at agenda item 11.

Co.22 Petitions under standing order 13

None.

Co.23 Questions under standing order 12

A. Question from Councillor Emily Smith to Councillor Matthew Barber, Leader of the Council.

The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) strap line says "OxLEP - driving economic growth". Which bodies are responsible for the social and environmental aspects of sustainability?

Councillor Matthew Barber responded as follows:

OxLep’s Strategic Economic Plan makes it clear that their approach to growth “ is focussed on the Knowledge Spine and underpinned by our high quality natural capital which delivers quality of life and supports our rural and visitor economy”. Their Strategic Economic Plan also confirms that it is the LEP’s intention to “Grow Oxfordshire’s Green Economy and Natural Capital through the development of a Strategic Environmental Economic Plan”

The plan also refers to the fact that “Oxfordshire is renowned for its innovative thinking and nowhere is this more in evidence than at the Earth Trust... which is all about new ways of working, encouraging enterprise, enhancing skills and engaging people as we strive to look after the environment” and to the fact that the SEP aims to “provide opportunities for residents throughout the county to participate in our high skills, high quality labour market, including measures specifically targeted on our rural areas”.

Growing Oxfordshire’s world-class technology clusters, achieving a more balanced economy, capitalising on the global reputation of Oxfordshire’s knowledge base and fulfilling our potential as an internationally renowned business, academic and research centre can only be achieved if efforts to achieve these objectives are matched by an equal effort to improve social and environmental sustainability.

That’s why OxLep’s plan also refers to the need to “Build on the strong base of skills, knowledge and experience of existing Oxfordshire VCFS (voluntary, community and faith sector) to support the development of social and environmentally-orientated enterprises targeted on social and employment issues such as ageing, worklessness and the number of people not in education, employment or training”.

Finally, the plan also refers to intended investment in much needed transport infrastructure improvements (including cycle and walkways) and increased high speed broadband connectivity – all of which is a major contributor to our future social sustainability.

The LEP's main partners include Oxfordshire's Local Authorities and the County Council, the Government and the private sector. The responsibility for delivering social and environmental aspects of sustainability at the same time as economic growth therefore falls to all partners that contributed to the development and support the delivery of OxLeps's Strategic Economic Plan. Both Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire Council's therefore bear some responsibility to make sure the LEP delivers on the social and environmental sustainability elements of their economic plan.

In response to a supplementary question as to whether the council could influence LEP to improve their consultation processes Councillor Matthew Barber stated that no consultation is perfect but that he would seek to influence the LEP.

B. Question from Councillor Catherine Webber to Councillor Roger Cox, Cabinet member for Planning.

Vale planners are reluctant to require a Construction Management Plan to manage the construction traffic on a development site (or any other highways needs) where Oxfordshire County Council Highways, who are the statutory consultees, have raised no objections. Most recently, in response to one planning committee member requesting a Construction Management Plan on a sensitive site, planning officers told members that no Construction Management Plan was possible because county had raised no objections. The Oxfordshire County Council officers don't appear to consider comments from other respondents. In light of this, should the public and members direct our parking and roads concerns directly to the Oxfordshire County Council officer instead of the Vale officer?

Councillor Roger Cox responded as follows:

The County Highways Authority seeks to be proportionate in the use of construction traffic management plans and tends to direct their use at larger major application sites, where the scale of traffic-related issues warrants their use.

County officers do consider local comments, which are often drawn to their attention by Vale planning officers and local comments are also available online for all parties involved in the application to read and to review. Moreover, in our role as ward councillors, we are free to draw county officer's attention to the specific local issues.

In response to a supplementary question Councillor Roger Cox confirmed that the County Highways Authority is aware of parking concerns raised in respect of individual planning applications.

Co.24 Review of the council's constitution

Council considered the report of the head of legal and democratic services on proposed changes to the council's constitution.

A number of councillors addressed the points raised by the speakers. Whilst acknowledging that, under the proposals, the automatic referral of planning

applications to committee would stop they pointed out that a number of safeguards, thresholds and triggers would ensure major applications and controversial applications could be referred to the committee for determination at the request of parish councils. The proposals were not intended to curtail the role of parish councils but to improve their engagement in the planning process.

RESOLVED: to

1. note the further work done by the Joint Constitution Review Group and the intention to bring forward further revisions of the council's constitution for consideration by Council;
2. note the ongoing overall approach of the review group to develop "mirror" constitutions with Vale of White Horse District Council and commonality of wording where possible;
3. approve the revised contracts procedure rules attached as appendix one to the report of the head of legal and democratic services to the Council meeting on 20 July 2016 for inclusion in the constitution with effect from 1 August 2016;
4. approve the revised scheme of delegation to officers attached as appendix three to the report of the head of legal and democratic services to the Council meeting on 20 July 2016 for inclusion in the constitution with effect from 1 August 2016;
5. authorise the head of legal and democratic services to update the proper officer and authorised officer appointments section of the constitution to reflect the revised scheme of delegation;
6. approve the councillors' planning code of practice attached as appendix four to the report of the head of legal and democratic services to the Council meeting on 20 July 2016 for inclusion in the constitution with effect from 1 August 2016;
7. approve the revised petition scheme attached as appendix five to the report of the head of legal and democratic services to the Council meeting on 20 July 2016 for inclusion in the constitution with effect from 1 August 2016;
8. authorise the head of legal and democratic services to make any minor or consequential amendments to the constitution for consistency and to reflect the councils' style guide.

Co.25 Appointment of electoral registration officer and returning officer

Council considered the report of the head of legal and democratic services on the appointments of the council's electoral registration officer and returning officer with effect from 1 September 2016.

RESOLVED:

1. that in terms of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and all related legislation, with effect from 1 September 2016, to appoint David Hill as electoral registration officer and to reappoint Margaret Reed as deputy electoral registration officer;
2. that in terms of section 41 of the Local Government Act 1972 and all related legislation, with effect from 1 September 2016, to appoint David Hill as returning officer, with authority to act in that capacity for elections to the councils and all or any parish and town councils within the councils' areas;
3. to authorise the councils' electoral registration officer to act in respect of all related electoral, poll or referendum duties, including in relation to county

council elections, elections to the European Parliament and national, regional and local polls or referendums;

4. that in relation to the duties of returning officer or any other electoral, referendum or polling duties arising from such appointment, to remunerate the returning officer for local elections, polls or referendums in accordance with the scale of fees approved from time to time by the councils and to note that the returning officer will be entitled to the relevant scale of fees prescribed by a fees order in respect of national, regional or European Parliament elections, polls or referendums;
5. that in all cases where it is a legal requirement or normal practice to do so, the fees paid to the returning officer shall be superannuable and that South Oxfordshire District Council as the employing authority shall pay the appropriate employer's contribution to the superannuation fund, recovering such employer's contributions from central government or other local authorities or agencies where this can be done;
6. that in relation to the conduct of local authority elections and polls, and elections to the United Kingdom Parliament, and all other electoral duties where the councils are entitled by law to do so, the councils shall take out and maintain in force insurance indemnifying the councils and the returning officer against legal expenses reasonably incurred in connection with the defence of any proceedings brought against the councils or the returning officer and/or the cost of holding another election in the event of the original election being declared invalid (provided that such proceedings or invalidation are the result of the accidental contravention of the Representation of the People Acts or other legislation governing the electoral process, or accidental breach of any ministerial or other duty by the returning officer or any other person employed by or officially acting for him in connection with the election or poll);
7. that in the event of such insurance carrying an 'excess' clause by which an initial portion of risk is not insured, the councils will indemnify the returning officer up to the value of such excess.

Co.26 Vale of White Horse District Council comments on draft Strategic Economic Plan

Council considered the response from the council to the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Strategic Economic Plan (SEP).

A number of councillors welcomed the content of the council's response in drawing attention to the Oxford centric nature of the SEP and requesting greater recognition and comment on issues in the Vale and Oxfordshire as a whole. They acknowledged the perceived lack of accountability of the LEP and the lack of public engagement referred to by the public speakers. Whilst sympathetic to the public comments some councillors noted the need for additional housing to support economic growth and provide affordable housing for nurses, teachers etc in Oxfordshire.

Councillor Debby Hallett, Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, confirmed that the committee would review the SEP going forward.

Co.27 Application for voluntary redundancy

Council considered the confidential report of the chief executive on a request for voluntary redundancy. The report and recommendation of the Joint Staff Committee were circulated to all councillors on 12 July 2016.

Vale of White Horse District Council – Council minutes

Councillor Roger Cox, a member of the Joint Staff Committee, advised that in light of plans to implement a slimmer and flatter management structure and in the expectation that the role of strategic director is highly unlikely to remain in the revised structure, Steve Bishop had asked that he be made redundant as of 31 December. As required by the council's officer employment procedure rules, all Cabinet members had been consulted about the recommendation. No objection was received.

At the request of the chairman Council formally put on record its thanks to Steve Bishop for his hard work for the council and wished him well for the future. Over the last two years he had been instrumental in driving forward the five councils partnership with all the benefits that this is due to deliver shortly.

RESOLVED:

To agree to the voluntary redundancy of Steve Bishop effective from 31 December 2016.

Co.28 Report of the leader of the council

The Leader of the council provided the following updates:

- Unitary status – the Oxfordshire authorities had issued a joint statement marking a pause in plans for consultation on unitary status proposals in light of national developments (new prime minister, new secretary of state and Brexit). Publication of the reports had been postponed. The Oxfordshire councils had agreed to discuss areas of common ground, assess potential options and seek to agree a way forward building on the work done to date.
- Abbey Meadows – he welcomed the improvements to the wider area, the availability of contingency funds to replace the pool and the opportunity to work with community groups. Although resources were limited the planned works would significantly improve the existing facility.
- Cabinet portfolio changes – he announced the departure of councillors Mohinder Kainth and Sandy Lovatt from the Cabinet and the appointment of Councillor Robert Sharp to the Cabinet. He placed on record his thanks to councillors Mohinder Kainth and Sandy Lovatt for their hard work and looked forward to their continued service – Councillor Lovatt as a member of the Planning Committee and Councillor Kainth continuing to lead on the IT strategy.

The revised portfolio responsibilities are set out below:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Matthew Barber | Leader; Devolution; Corporate Strategy |
| Roger Cox | Deputy Leader; Planning (Policy & Development Management) |
| Robert Sharp | Finance; Corporate Services Contracts |
| Mike Murray | Regeneration; Economic Development; Property |
| Elaine Ware | Housing; Environmental Health |
| Charlotte Dickson | Leisure; Parks & Grounds Maintenance; Waste |
| Eric Batts | Legal and democratic; community safety; HR; IT & technical services |
- Committee places – he informed Council that he had given notice to the head of legal and democratic services that Councillors Monica Lovatt and Ben Mabbett would become members of the Planning Committee replacing councillors Roger Cox and Robert Sharp.

He thanked David Buckle, Chief Executive, and Steve Bishop, Strategic Director, for their hard work for the council and wished them well for the future.

Co.29 Urgent business

The chairman agreed to take this item as an item of urgent business to allow for the appointment of a councillor to the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel on the grounds that the next meeting of the Panel was scheduled for 9 September, prior to the next scheduled Council meeting.

As part of the changes set out in the previous item Council was invited to appoint Councillor Chris McCarthy as the council's representative on the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel.

RESOLVED: to appoint Chris McCarthy as the council's representative on the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel.

Co.30 Notices of motion under standing order 11

(1) Motion moved by Councillor Mike Badcock, Chairman, and seconded by Councillor Matthew Barber:

"We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. We believe that hate crimes have no place in our country, whether they are based on race, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability or gender identity. Vale of White Horse District Council condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.

We reassure all people living in the Vale that they are valued members of our community".

A number of councillors expressed the view that they could not support the motion without reference to a commitment to support groups involved in the fight against and prevention of racism and xenophobia.

The chairman called for a recorded vote on the motion which was carried with the votes recorded as follows:

For	Against	Abstentions
Councillors	Councillors	Councillors
Alice Badcock		Margaret Crick
Mike Badcock		Debby Hallett
Matthew Barber		Jenny Hannaby
Eric Batts		Dudley Hoddinott
Yvonne Constance		Bob Johnston
Roger Cox		Helen Pighills
Stuart Davenport		Judy Roberts
Charlotte Dickson		Emily Smith
St John Dickson		Catherine Webber
Katie Finch		
Robert Hall		
Simon Howell		
Vicky Jenkins		
Mohinder Kainth		
Sandy Lovatt		

For	Against	Abstentions
Ben Mabbett		
Chris McCarthy		
Chris Palmer		
Julia Reynolds		
Robert Sharp		
Henry Spencer		
Reg Waite		
Elaine Ware		
Total: 23	Total: 0	Total: 9

RESOLVED:

We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. We believe that hate crimes have no place in our country, whether they are based on race, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability or gender identity. Vale of White Horse District Council condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.

We reassure all people living in the Vale that they are valued members of our community.

(2) Motion moved by Councillor Eric Batts and seconded by Councillor Sandy Lovatt:

Council welcomes the interim findings of the Local Plan Inspector which allows the process to move on to modifications stage ahead of final adoption. Council thanks the officers and councillors involved in directing the Local Plan process for their hard work, professionalism and perseverance and looks forward to the successful adoption of the Local Plan Part 1 in due course.

Councillor Emily Smith moved and Councillor Debby Hallett seconded an amendment as set out below with words deleted shown with a strikethrough and additional words shown in bold, to highlight the involvement of the wider community in the Local Plan process, was accepted by the mover and seconder of the original motion.

"Council welcomes the interim findings of the Local Plan Inspector which allows the process to move on to modifications stage ahead of final adoption. Council thanks the officers, ~~and councillors,~~ **parish councils, residents and community groups** involved in ~~directing~~ the Local Plan process for their hard work, professionalism and perseverance and looks forward to the successful adoption of the Local Plan Part 1 in due course."

The mover and seconder accepted the amendment.

RESOLVED:

To welcome the interim findings of the Local Plan Inspector which allows the process to move on to modifications stage ahead of final adoption. Council thanks the officers, parish councils, residents and community groups involved in the Local Plan process for their hard work, professionalism and perseverance and looks forward to the successful adoption of the Local Plan Part 1 in due course.

- (3) Motion moved by Councillor Ben Mabbett and seconded by Councillor Alice Badcock:

“Council welcomes the success of the grants scheme set up to honour HM The Queen's 90th birthday. In total more than 40 parishes benefited from grants helping to support a wide range of successful celebrations across the district”.

In supporting the motion a number of councillors expressed the view that without the funding a number of events would not have progressed.

RESOLVED: That Council welcomes the success of the grants scheme set up to honour HM The Queen's 90th birthday. In total more than 40 parishes benefited from grants helping to support a wide range of successful celebrations across the district.

- (4) Motion moved by Councillor Judy Roberts and seconded by Councillor Margaret Crick

“During the process of the approval of planning applications, the public sometimes has a mistaken concept of the protection afforded by the conditions attached to planning permission. This council will only attach such conditions as are deemed enforceable”.

In support of the motion a number of councillors gave examples of the effectiveness of planning conditions which had not been implemented or not implemented in accordance with the requirements or timescales specified with the planning permission. However, other councillors expressed the view that officers and councillors already took great care to ensure conditions were enforceable and that each application was different. Officers from the planning and legal services were currently undertaking a review to ensure conditions are enforceable in accordance with national guidelines and the council's own enforcement policy.

Councillor Roger Cox moved and Councillor Robert Sharp seconded an amendment as set out below with words deleted shown with a strikethrough and additional words shown in bold.

During the process of the approval of planning applications, the public sometimes has a mistaken concept of the protection afforded by the conditions attached to planning permission. ~~This council will only attach such conditions as are deemed enforceable.~~ **Officers and members already make great efforts to ensure that conditions are only imposed where they are deemed to be enforceable. This Council will continue to impose such conditions only when enforceable in accordance with national guidelines and our own enforcement policy.**

The chairman called for a recorded vote on the amendment which was carried with the votes recorded as follows:

For	Against	Abstentions
Councillors	Councillors	Councillors
Alice Badcock		Yvonne Constance
Mike Badcock		Katie Finch
Matthew Barber		Robert Hall
Eric Batts		Simon Howell
Roger Cox		Mohinder Kainth
Margaret Crick		Sandy Lovatt
Stuart Davenport		Chris McCarthy
Charlotte Dickson		Julia Reynolds

For	Against	Abstentions
St John Dickson		Emily Smith
Debby Hallett		
Jenny Hannaby		
Dudley Hoddinott		
Vicky Jenkins		
Bob Johnston		
Ben Mabbett		
Chris Palmer		
Helen Pighills		
Judy Roberts		
Robert Sharp		
Henry Spencer		
Reg Waite		
Elaine Ware		
Catherine Webber		
Total: 23	Total: 0	Total: 9

RESOLVED:

That during the process of the approval of planning applications, the public sometimes has a mistaken concept of the protection afforded by the conditions attached to planning permission. Officers and members already make great efforts to ensure that conditions are only imposed where they are deemed to be enforceable. This Council will continue to impose such conditions only when enforceable in accordance with national guidelines and our own enforcement policy.

- (5) Motion moved by Councillor Bob Johnston and seconded by Councillor Debby Hallett:

This council resolves to manage our public consultations with openness and transparency, using industry best practice. Our public consultations will use open-ended questions that encourage a range of responses, and officers will produce consultation reports that highlight all major concerns raised and the actions to be taken in response. Where we have control of the consultation, we will ensure openness and transparency. Where we are part of a governing body managing the consultation, we will openly encourage openness and transparency.

RESOLVED:

To manage our public consultations with openness and transparency, using industry best practice. Our public consultations will use open-ended questions that encourage a range of responses, and officers will produce consultation reports that highlight all major concerns raised and the actions to be taken in response. Where we have control of the consultation, we will ensure openness and transparency. Where we are part of a governing body managing the consultation, we will openly encourage openness and transparency.

In accordance with Council Standing Order 27(5) Council agreed to complete the business on the agenda within the next half an hour.

- (6) Motion moved by Councillor Debby Hallett and seconded by Councillor Emily Smith

Council notes that the planning permission for West Way development in Botley, which includes 140+ new houses, will not include any provision of affordable housing. Council also notes that the developers have contributed £2,000,000 to affordable

Vale of White Horse District Council – Council minutes

housing elsewhere. This council believes in fair play, and that communities who accept new housing developments should benefit from developer contributions; therefore the council asks officers to take the necessary steps to ring fence this donation, and any future overage, for affordable housing in Botley, and to explore options for providing such affordable housing in Botley.

The following amendment moved by Councillor Roger Cox and seconded by Councillor Elaine Ware, with words deleted shown with a strikethrough and additional words shown in bold, was accepted by the mover and seconder of the original motion.

Council notes that the planning permission for West Way development in Botley, which includes 140+ new houses, will not include any provision of affordable housing. Council also notes that the developers have contributed £2,000,000 to affordable housing elsewhere. ~~This council believes in fair play, and that communities who accept new housing developments should benefit from developer contributions; therefore the council asks officers to take the necessary steps to ring fence this donation, and any future overage, for affordable housing in Botley, and to explore options for providing such affordable housing in Botley.~~

Council will ring fence the contribution in lieu of affordable housing and any overage payments in the affordable housing earmarked reserve fund as has been the case with similar contributions. Priority will be given to funding schemes in the North Hinksey/Cumnor area and Council asks officers to work with North Hinksey and Cumnor parish councils and local members to identify suitable schemes.

In supporting the motion councillors expressed the view that the North Hinksey/Cumnor area should benefit from the West Way development with the provision of affordable housing locally for key workers (nurse and teachers etc) to support community cohesion.

RESOLVED:

That Council notes that the planning permission for West Way development in Botley, which includes 140+ new houses, will not include any provision of affordable housing. Council also notes that the developers have contributed £2,000,000 to affordable housing.

Council will ring fence the contribution in lieu of affordable housing and any overage payments in the affordable housing earmarked reserve fund as has been the case with similar contributions. Priority will be given to funding schemes in the North Hinksey/Cumnor area and Council asks officers to work with North Hinksey and Cumnor parish councils and local members to identify suitable schemes.

(7) The following motion was not moved at the meeting and therefore treated as withdrawn.

We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country. Our council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable. We will work to ensure that local bodies and programmes have the support and resources they need to fight and prevent racism and xenophobia. We reassure all people living in this area that they are valued members of our community.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Chairman

Joint Audit and Governance Committee, Cabinet, Council



Report of Head of Finance

Author: Rhona Bellis, Principal Accountant

Telephone: 01235 422497

Textphone: 18001 01235 422497

E-mail: rhona.bellis@southandvale.gov.uk

SODC cabinet member responsible: Councillor Jane Murphy

Telephone: **07970 932054**

E-mail: jane.murphy@southoxon.gov.uk

VWHDC cabinet member responsible: Councillor Matthew Barber

Telephone: **07816 481452**

E-mail: matthew.barber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

To: Joint Audit and Governance Committee

DATE: 4 July 2016 by Joint Audit and Governance Committee

6 Oct 16(S) / 12 Aug 16 (V) by Cabinet

13 Oct 16 (S) / 12 Oct 16 (V) by Council

Treasury Outturn 2015-16

That Joint Audit and Governance Committee:

1. notes the treasury management outturn report 2015/16,
2. is satisfied that the treasury activities are carried out in accordance with the treasury management strategy and policy, and
3. make any comments and recommendations to Cabinets as necessary.

That Cabinet:

Considers any comments from Joint Audit and Governance Committee and recommends Council to:

1. approve the treasury management outturn report for 2015/16;
2. approve the actual 2015/16 prudential indicators within the report.

Purpose of report

1. This report fulfils the legislative requirements to ensure the adequate monitoring and reporting of the treasury management activities and that the councils' prudential indicators are reported to the councils at the end of the year. The report provides details of the treasury activities for the financial year 2015/16.
2. This complies with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA's) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised) 2009.

Strategic objectives

3. Effective treasury management is required in order to meet our strategic objective of managing our business effectively. Managing the finances of the authorities in accordance with the treasury management strategy will help to ensure resources are available to deliver our services and meet the councils' other strategic objectives.

Background

4. The councils' treasury activities are strictly regulated by legislation. The CIPFA Prudential Code and CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice require a report to be provided to the councils at the end of the financial year.
5. This report provides details on the treasury activity and performance for 2015/16 against prudential indicators and benchmarks set for the year in the 2015/16 treasury management strategy (TMS), approved by each council in February 2015. Each council is required to approve this report.
6. Capita Asset Services are the councils' retained treasury advisors.
7. There are three types of investment the performance of which is covered in this report
 - a. True Treasury investments – these investments are primarily for generating interest for the councils. Examples of these are loans to banks or other local authorities. It also includes investments in property funds.
 - b. Non-treasury loans – these are loans to third parties, which earn a return, but they do not fall under the strict definition of a treasury investment.
 - c. Property investments - both councils have investment properties let on commercial bases. The primary purpose of holding these assets is for investment purposes and they are not part of regeneration schemes.
8. The councils continue to invest with regard for security, liquidity and yield, in that order.

Economic conditions and factors effecting investment returns during 2015/16

9. UK bank base rates have remained at an historic low of 0.5 per cent since 2009. Capita Asset Services provide a regular forecast of interest rates and the latest forecast is reproduced in **appendix A**. This forecast shows that base rates are expected to continue at low levels for the near future. There are a number of reasons for this assumption, including the spare capacity in the UK economy suppressing inflationary forces and uncertainty over the heavily geared Chinese economy.

10. The TMS makes clear that investment priority is given to the security of principal in the first instance. As a result, investments have only been made with counterparties of high credit quality and low risk. Since the global banking crisis and the downgrading of the credit ratings of many banks, it has become increasingly difficult to place money as institutions with high credit ratings have been offering lower rates.
11. Average treasury investment balances were higher for both councils than expected in the year. This arose from a combination of accumulated revenue and capital surpluses/slippage and unbudgeted grant receipts. More cash to invest has been a factor in the surplus of treasury investment income over budget in the year.
12. Investments that have helped to keep yields up for both councils include longer term investments taken out when rates were higher, the CCLA property fund at both councils, and the Unit Trusts at South.
13. Outlook for 2016/17 – as discussed above, interest rates are expected to remain low for the near future. In order to reduce risk efforts are being made to rebalance the treasury portfolio to reduce the value held by building societies. Other counterparties being considered are high rated foreign banks, other councils and treasury bills.

Summary of investment activities during 2015/16

14. Prudential limits (security). During the year none of the prudential code limits set each year in the TMS were exceeded. Both councils are required by the Prudential Code to report on the limits set each year in the TMS. The purpose of these limits is to ensure that the activity of the treasury function remains within certain parameters, thereby mitigating risk and reducing the impact of an adverse movement in interest rates. However, if these limits are set to be too restrictive they may impair the opportunities to reduce costs/improve performance. These limits are shown in **appendix B**.
15. The benchmark for liquidity is the Weighted Average Life (WAL) of treasury investments in days, which sets an indicator for how long investments should be made. Both councils exceeded the benchmark for WAL but were well within the acceptable ranges as set out in the TMS for 2015/16. The benchmarks for liquidity are set to ensure that sufficient funds can be accessed at short notice. These are set as targets and not definitive limits.
16. Yield - the performance of the two councils is summarised in the tables below.

South		Treasury investments £000	Non treasury loan £000	Sub Total £000	Property investment £000	Overall total £000
1	Average investment balance ¹	117,525	15,000	132,525	8,950	141,475
2	Budgeted investment income ²	1,465	623	2,088		
3	Gross investment income	1,826	624	2,450	774	3,224
4	surplus/(deficit) (3) - (2)	361	1	362		
5	Rate of return (3) ÷ (1)	1.55%	4.16%	1.85%	8.65%	2.28%

¹ For property the balance shown is the fair value of investment properties at 31st March 2016

² The budget for investment properties is not separately identified in ELP's budget

Vale		Treasury investments £000	Property investment £000	Overall total £000
1	Average investment balance ¹	42,804	8,210	51,014
2	Budgeted investment income ²	411		
3	Gross investment income	542	542	1,084
4	surplus/(deficit) (3) - (2)	131		
5	Rate of return (3) ÷ (1)	1.27%	6.6%	2.12%

17. Both councils have exceeded their treasury budgeted investment income this year in terms of both actual income against budget and rates of return against benchmark. As benchmarks are quite detailed, they are not included above, but are included in the appendices that follow this report.
18. Detailed reports on the treasury activities for each council and performance for 2015/16 against prudential indicators and benchmarks set for the year in the 2015/16 are contained in **appendix C** – South Oxfordshire DC and **appendix D** – Vale of White Horse DC.
19. A detailed list of both councils' treasury investments as at 31 March 2016 is shown at **appendix E**.

Debt activity during 2015/16

20. During 2015/16, there has not been a need for either council to borrow and both councils continue to take a prudent approach to their debt strategy. The prudential indicators and limits set out in **appendix B** provide the scope and flexibility for the Council to borrow in the short-term if such a need arose for cash flow purposes to support the council(s) in the achievement of their service objectives.

Financial implications

21. The treasury investments made in 2015/16 ensured that both councils exceeded their budgeted targets for treasury investment income. Income earned from investments is used to support the councils' medium term financial plans and contributes to the councils' balances, or supports the in-year expenditure programmes.
22. Looking forward, income is anticipated to remain stable with any increase due to rises in market rates offset by a general reduction in the balances available to invest. This will be reflected in the councils' 2017/18 budgets and medium term financial plans.

Legal implications

23. There are no significant legal implications. Compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services and the DCLG Local Government Investment Guidance provides assurance that the councils' investments are, and will continue to be, within their legal powers.

Conclusion

24. Despite a difficult operating environment, both councils continued to make investments during 2015/16 that maintained security and liquidity whilst providing a return that exceeded market benchmarks.

Background papers

- Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting (CIPFA) code of practice for treasury management in the public sector.
- DCLG Local Government Investment Guidance
- CIPFA treasury management in the public services code of practice and cross sectoral guidance notes
- Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16 – Councils in February 2015.

Appendices

- A. Interest rate forecasts
- B. Prudential limits
- C. SODC – Treasury activities 2015-2016
- D. VWHDC – Treasury activities 2015-2016
- E. Treasury investments as at 31 March 2016
- F. Glossary of terms

Interest rate forecast as at March 2016

The table below shows Capita Asset Services' forecast of the expected movement in medium term interest rates:

	NOW	Jun-16	Sep-16	Dec-16	Mar-17	Jun-17
BANK RATE	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75
3 month LIBID	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.60	0.80	0.80
6 month LIBID	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.00
12 month LIBID	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.30
5 yr PWLB	1.75	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30
10 yr PWLB	2.45	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80
25 yr PWLB	3.21	3.20	3.30	3.30	3.50	3.50
50 yr PWLB	3.00	3.00	3.10	3.10	3.30	3.30
	Sep-17	Dec-17	Mar-18	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18
BANK RATE	1.00	1.00	1.25	1.25	1.50	1.50
3 month LIBID	1.00	1.10	1.30	1.30	1.60	1.80
6 month LIBID	1.20	1.40	1.60	1.70	1.80	2.00
12 month LIBID	1.50	1.70	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.30
5 yr PWLB	2.40	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00
10 yr PWLB	2.90	3.00	3.10	3.30	3.40	3.50
25 yr PWLB	3.60	3.60	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.80
50 yr PWLB	3.40	3.40	3.50	3.60	3.60	3.70

Prudential limits (indicators) as at March 2016

	Vale		South	
	Original estimate £m	Actual position £m	Original estimate £m	Actual position £m
Authorised limit for external debt				
Borrowing	30	0	5	0
Other long term liabilities	5	0	5	0
	35	0	10	0
Operational boundary for external debt				
Borrowing	25	0	2	0
Other long term liabilities	0	0	3	0
	25	0	5	0
Investments				
Interest rate exposures				
Limits on fixed interest rates	60	23	100	87
Limits on variable interest rates	30	4	30	18
Maximum principal sums invested > 364 days				
Upper limit for principal sums invested > 364 days	30	6	70	62
Limit to be placed on investments to maturity				
1 - 2 years	0	0	70	7
2 - 5 years	0	0	50	9
5 years +	0	0	50	0
Investment portfolio spread				
Supranational bonds	10	0	15	0
Gilts	n/a	0	15	0
Equities*	3	0	10	13
Corporate bonds	5	0	10	0
Money market funds	20	1	20	5
Pooled bond fund	0	0	5	0
Property - direct investments	n/a	0	30	16
Property related pooled funds	3	2	20	5
Cash and certificates of deposit			85%	78%
Debt management account deposit facility	100%	0%	100%	0%

*Limit at time of purchase - Equities include accumulated dividends

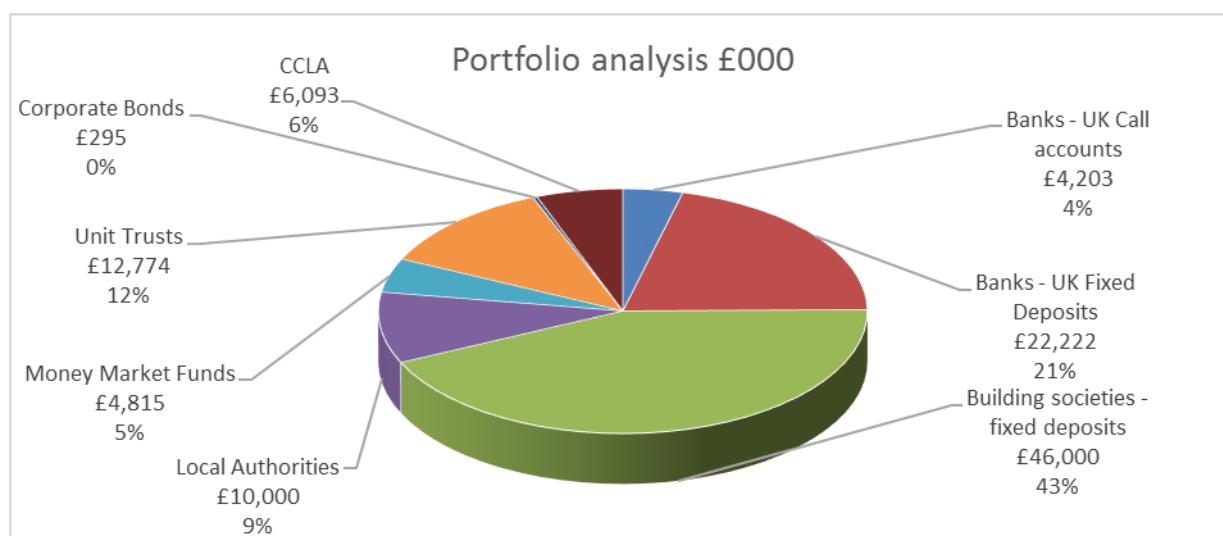
SODC treasury activities in 2015/16

Council treasury investments as at 31 March 2016

- The council's treasury investments, analysed by age as at 31 March 2016 were as follows:

Table 1: maturity structure of investments at 31 March 2016:		
	£000	% holding
Call	4,203	4%
Money market fund	4,815	5%
Cash available within 1 week	9,018	9%
Up to 4 months	37,500	35%
5-6 months	6,000	6%
6 months to 1 year	18,500	17%
Over 1 year	16,000	15%
Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander	222	0%
Total cash deposits	87,240	82%
CCLA Property Fund	6,093	6%
Equities (Unit trusts)	12,774	12%
Corporate Bonds	295	0%
Total investments	106,402	100%

- The majority of the funds invested are held in the form of fixed interest rate and term cash deposits. These provide some certainty over the investment return.
- The investment profile is organised in order to ensure sufficient liquidity for revenue and capital activities, security of investments and to manage risks within all treasury management activities.
- The chart below shows in percentage terms how the portfolio above is spread across the investment types:



Treasury investment income

5. The total income earned on investments during 2015/16 was £1.9 million, compared to the original budget of £1.5 million, as shown in table 2 below:

Investment type	Interest earned		
	Annual Budget	Actual	Variation
	£000	£000	£000
Call accounts	75	34	(41)
Cash deposits < 1yr	404	590	186
Cash deposits > 1yr	264	333	69
MMF	37	48	11
Corporate Bonds	75	65	(10)
Equities	360	456	96
CCLA property fund	250	300	50
	1,465	1,826	361

6. The actual return achieved was £361,000 or 24.6 per cent higher than the original budget. This was due to:

- The call accounts earned less interest than forecast because of rates reducing on our accounts.
- Interest earned on cash deposits was £255,000 higher than forecast due to an increase in interest rates achieved during the first part of the financial year.
- Dividend received on equities was £96,000 higher than forecast due to the overall increase in the value during the year. As our capital investment increases, the dividend earned goes up.
- Dividend earned on CCLA was £50,000 higher due to fluctuations in the price of units held. As our capital investment increases, the dividend earned goes up.

7. The actual average rate of return on treasury investments for the year was 1.55 per cent.

Performance measurement

8. A list of treasury investments as at 31 March 2016 is shown in **appendix E**. All investments were with approved counterparties. The average level of investments held was £117 million. Table 3 below shows in summary the performance of the council's treasury investments against the benchmarks set out in the TMS. These benchmarks are used to assess and monitor the council's treasury investment performance for each type of investment.

Table 3: Treasury investment returns achieved against benchmark				
	Benchmark Return	Actual Return	Growth (Below)/above Benchmark	Benchmarks
Bank & Building Society deposits - internally managed	0.46%	1.06%	0.60%	3 Month LIBID
Equities	(7.33%)	(7.79%)	(0.46%)	FTSE All Shares Index
Property related investments	11.00%	11.30%	0.30%	IPD balanced property unit trust index
Corporate Bonds	0.50%	11.50%	11.00%	BoE base rate

*source CCLA Local Authorities Property Fund Report March 2016

Note: the benchmark return for unit trusts and CCLA includes the movement in capital value. All other benchmarks reflect earnings of treasury investment income.

9. Returns on Bank and building society deposits (Call accounts, money market funds and fixed term deposits) are benchmarked against the three-month LIBID rate, which was an average of 0.46 per cent for 2015/16. The performance for the year of 1.06 per cent exceeded the benchmark by 0.60 per cent.
10. It remained difficult to place investments because of continued financial uncertainty. Some good rates were achieved which contributed to the increase in investment income during the year.
11. The CCLA property fund principal investment of £5 million (March 2013) increased in value during 2015/16 to £6.5 million. Dividends were received in the year totalling £300,000. Both the capital appreciation and the interest earned are included in the performance of 11.3% achieved above. The capital gain is however not realised and so for comparison purposes, the actual rate of return is interest as a factor of market value of holding being 4.6 per cent.

Equities

12. The council's holdings with the Legal & General (L&G) UK 100 Index Trust were purchased in 2000/01 at an initial cost of £10 million. This is an authorised unit trust incorporated in the United Kingdom and regulated by the FSA. The trust's objective is to track the capital performance of the UK equity market as represented by the FTSE 100 index which represents 98-99 per cent of the UK market capitalisation

Appendix C

13. The index shows the performance of all eligible companies listed on the London Stock Exchange main market and today covers 630 constituents with a combined value of nearly £1.8 trillion. It is recognised as the main benchmark for unit trusts.
14. Table 4 below shows the movement in capital value during the year of the holding of unit trusts as at 31 March 2015 so the decrease in value of this holding only, can be compared to the movement in the stock market as a whole for the year to 31 March 2016.

Table 4: Unit Trusts - Movement in capital		
	£	£
Market Value as at 31.3.16		12,774,260
Less:		
Dividends received in year	275,761	
Accrued dividends	180,000	
		(455,761)
Market value of Unit trusts which were held at 1.4.15 as at 31.3.16		12,318,499
Market value as at 1.4.15		13,359,340
Decrease in Market Value in year		(1,040,841)

15. The decrease above is compared to the performance of the stock market as a whole using the benchmarking in table 5 below. The funds underperformance of 0.46 per cent equates to £61,601 in real terms.

Table 5: Unit Trust performance 1.4.15 - 31.3.16	
Decrease in FTSE all share was	(7.33%)
Decrease in Market Value	(7.79%)
Under-performance	(0.46%)
	£
Market Value 1.4.15	13,359,340
Less 7.33% FTSE decrease	(979,240)
Benchmark Market Value at 31.3.16	12,380,100
Market Value (amended at 31.3.16)	12,318,499
Under performance 1.4.15 to 31.3.16	(61,601)

16. The performance of the fund over the past few years is summarised in table 5.1 below.

Table 5.1 Unit Trust past performance	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
----------------------------------------------	----------------	----------------	----------------

Performance against FTSE all share % (Under)/Over	(0.92%)	(0.22%)	0.49%
Performance against FTSE all share £0 (Under)/Over	(122,746)	(30,492)	61,163

The justification for holding this investment is regularly reviewed.

17. Dividends received of £0.46 million were reinvested to acquire additional fund units.

Corporate Bonds

18. The Council's corporate bonds are also accounted for in the financial statements at fair value. The opening carrying value for 1 April 2015 was £1.9 million. The closing carrying value at 31 March 2016 was £0.3 million as the RBS corporate bond matured and was disposed of during the year. The carrying values and market values for the corporate bonds are shown in table 6 below:

Table 6: Corporate bond values					
	Original cost	Nominal Value	Carrying Value as at 1.4.15	Carrying Value as at 1.4.16	Market value at 1.4.16
Bonds	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Santander 11.50%	422	270	299	287	287
RBS 9.625%	1,973	1,500	1,549	0	0
	2,395	1,770	1,848	287	287

19. The weighted average return on the Council's corporate bonds for 2015/16 was 11.50 per cent, this significantly exceeded the benchmark return of 0.5 per cent (Bank of England base rate).

20. The remaining corporate bond matures in 2017. Annual interest earned remains the same for the whole period a bond is held. Table 7 below shows the redemption yield of the bonds if held until the redemption date.

Table 7: corporate bond redemption yields if held to maturity								
Bank	Interest rate %	Original cost £000	Nominal value £000	Interest to date £000	Interest due £000	Redemption value £000	Redemption date	Redemption yield
Santander	11.50%	422	270	334	93	697	04/01/2017	5.59%

Icelandic bank default – Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander

21. The Council invested £2.5 million in July 2007 with the failed Icelandic bank Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Ltd (KSF). The Council has received

£2,203,691 to date in respect of the claim for £2.6 million (£2.5 million investment plus interest).

22. As a wholesale depositor, the Council is treated as an unsecured creditor in the administration process and ranks equally with all other unsecured creditors. The administrators intend to make further payments at regular intervals. The latest creditors' report now indicates that the estimated total amount to be recovered should be in the range of 84p to 86.5p in the pound. In total terms, this would mean receiving between £2,209,901 and £2,275,671.

Non-treasury investment loan

23. During 2013/14, the council entered into a secured loan agreement with SOHA to enable them to finance affordable housing schemes. The Council lent £15 million over 20 years at a fixed rate of 4.15%. Interest is paid quarterly and during 2015/16, the council received £624,205.

Land and property

24. The Council holds a portfolio of investment properties, which includes land, depots, garages, and shops that are let on a commercial basis. These assets had a net book value of £8.95 million at 31 March 2016 (£9.88 million at 31 March 2015) and generated income of £0.77 million in 2015/16 (£0.75 million in 2014/15) giving a gross rate of return of 8.65 per cent.
25. Due to movement in property values and the exclusion of whole life costs, these rates of return should not be taken as a direct comparison with the treasury rates.
26. The Economy, Leisure and Property (ELP) team manages investment property, ensuring that rent is collected and rent reviews are implemented. The performance of the investment property is assessed annually by ELP to determine if assets should be retained or disposed of and agree any actions to improve or enhance the value of the investment property holdings.

Liquidity and yield

27. The council uses short-term investments to meet daily cash-flow requirements and aims to invest a proportion of the portfolio over longer dated cash deposits where possible.
28. The amount maintained for liquidity was £9 million, which is lower than the benchmark. The benchmark is to be reviewed as it may be set too high. Good rates were achieved on short dated investments and funds were placed on the market, rather than on call to increase yield.
29. The actual for the weighted average life of 307 days was within the range set of 0.5 years to 3 years but above the benchmark level of 182.5 days. The reason that the actual was above the benchmark is that during the year the council lent out some longer term investments to spread the investment portfolio and access better returns – like many others, the council is struggling to achieve suitable investment returns in the short to medium term investment market.
30. The year-end position against the original benchmarks approved in February 2015 is shown below:

Table 9: Risk-liquidity against benchmark		
	2015/16 Benchmark £m	2015/16 Actual £m
Bank overdraft*	0	0
Short term deposits - minimum available within 1 week	10	9
	2015/16 Benchmark	2015/16 Actual
Weighted average life (days)	182.5	307.0

*Since 1 April 2014, following the re-tender process for the bank contract, the council no longer has an agreed overdraft facility.

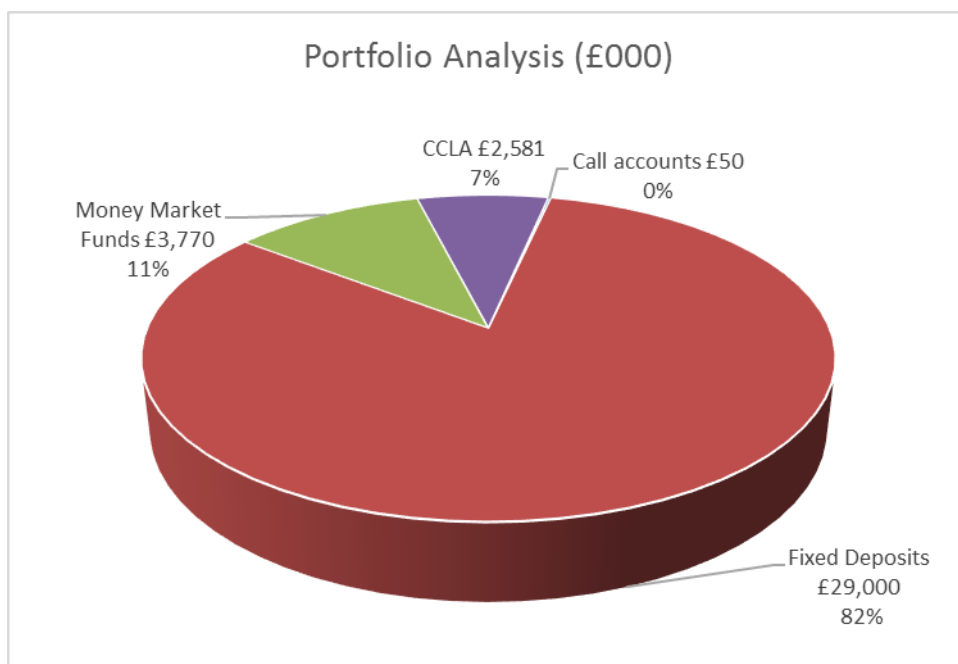
VWHDC detailed treasury performance in 2015/16

Council treasury investments as at 31 March 2016

1. The council’s treasury investments analysed by age as at 31 March 2016 were as follows:

Table 1: maturity structure of investments at 31 March 2016:		
	£000	% holding
Call	50	0%
Money market fund	3,770	11%
Cash available within 1 week	3,820	11%
Up to 4 months	0	0%
5-6 months	5,000	14%
6 months to 1 year	18,000	51%
Over 1 year	6,000	17%
Total cash deposits	32,820	93%
CCLA Property Fund	2,581	7%
Total investments	35,401	100%

2. The majority of the funds invested are held in the form of fixed interest rate and term cash deposits. These provide some certainty over the investment return.
3. The investment profile is organised in order to ensure sufficient liquidity for revenue and capital activities, security of investments and to manage risks within all treasury management activities.
4. The chart below shows in percentage terms how the portfolio above is spread across investment types:



Treasury investment income

5. The total interest earned on treasury investments during 2015/16 was £541,892 compared to the original budget estimate of £411,640 as shown in table 2 below:

Table 2: Investment interest earned by investment type			
Investment type	Annual Budget £000	Actual Interest £000	Variation £000
Call accounts	40	23	(17)
Cash deposits - less than 1 year	136	235	99
Cash deposits - greater than 1 year	104	116	12
MMFs	32	45	13
CCLA Property Fund	100	123	23
Total Interest	412	542	130

6. The actual return achieved was £130,000 or 31 per cent higher than the original budget. This was due to :
- The maturity period for investments was extended thereby attracting slightly higher rates.
 - Average balances throughout the year have remained higher than forecast.
7. The total actual average interest rate achieved for the year was 1.27 per cent.

Performance measurement

8. A list of treasury investments as at 31 March 2016 is shown in **appendix E**. All investments were with approved counterparties. The average level of investments held was £42.8 million. Table 3 below shows in summary the performance of the council's treasury investments against the benchmarks set out in the TMS. These benchmarks are used to assess and monitor the council's treasury investment performance for each type of investment.

Table 3: Treasury investment returns achieved against benchmark				
	Benchmark return	Actual return	Growth (below)/above Benchmark	Benchmarks
Internally managed - Bank & Building Society deposits	0.46%	0.99%	0.53%	3 month LIBID
Property related funds (CCLA)*	11.00%	11.67%	0.67%	IPD balanced property unit trust index

*Source: CCLA Local Authorities Property Fund Report March 2016

9. Returns on bank and building society deposits (internally managed cash deposits) are benchmarked against the 3-month LIBID rate, which was an average of 0.46 per cent for 2015/16. The performance for the year of 0.99 per cent exceeded the benchmark by 0.53 per cent.

10. It remained difficult to place investments because of continued financial uncertainty. Some good rates were achieved which contributed to the increase in investment income during the year.
11. The CCLA property fund principal investment of £2 million (April 2013) increased in value during 2015/16 to £2.6 million. Dividends were received in the year totalling £124,944. Both the capital appreciation and the interest earned are included in the performance of 11.67% achieved above. The capital gain is however not realised and so for comparison purposes, the actual rate of return is interest as a factor of market value of holding being 4.84 per cent.

Land and Property

12. The council holds a portfolio of investment properties, which includes land, offices and shops that are let on a commercial basis. These assets had a net book value of £8.21 million at 31 March 2016 (£20.6 million as at 31 March 2015) and generated income of £0.5 million (£1.3 million in 2014/15). This is equivalent to a gross return of 6.6 per cent.
13. Due to movement in property values and the exclusion of whole life costs, these rates of return should not be taken as a direct comparison with the treasury rates.
14. The reduction in the investment property holding between 31 March 2015 and 31 March 2016 includes one disposal (Emcor house) but also the re-classification of the property at Botley into other land and buildings due to the regenerative nature of the holding. This has had a significant impact on returns this year, as well as void periods for old abbey house.
15. The Economy, Leisure and Property (ELP) team manages investment property, ensuring that rent is collected and rent reviews are implemented. The performance of the investment property is assessed annually by ELP to determine if assets should be retained or disposed of and agree any actions to improve or enhance the value of the investment property holdings.

Liquidity and yield

16. The council uses short-term investments to meet daily cash-flow requirements and has also aims to invest a proportion of the portfolio over longer dated cash deposits where possible.
17. The amount maintained for liquidity was £3.8 million and was above the benchmark. This was due to the better rates of return on MMFs compared with other short-term deposits making it more attractive to hold funds short.
18. The actual for the weighted average life of 431 days was above the range set. The reason that the actual was above the benchmark is that the council has previously let some long term investments with another local authority in order to spread the investment portfolio and access better returns.
19. The year-end position against the original benchmarks approved in February 2015 is shown below:

Table 11: Risk-liquidity against benchmark		
	2015/16	2015/16

Appendix D

	Benchmark £m	Actual £m
Bank overdraft	0	0
Short term deposits - minimum available within 1 week	0.5	3.8
	2015/16 Benchmark	2015/16 Actual
Weighted average life (days)	360	431

Appendix E

South Oxfordshire District Council treasury investments as at 31 March
2016

Counterparty	Deposit Type	Maturity Date	Principal	Rate
Newcastle Building Society	Fixed	Apr-16	2,000,000	1.10%
National Counties Building Society	Fixed	Apr-16	2,000,000	0.96%
Newcastle Building Society	Fixed	May-16	2,000,000	1.10%
Skipton Building Society	Fixed	May-16	2,000,000	1.02%
Newcastle Building Society	Fixed	May-16	2,000,000	1.10%
Principality Building Society	Fixed	May-16	2,000,000	1.00%
Progressive Building Society	Fixed	Jun-16	2,000,000	1.00%
Progressive Building Society	Fixed	Jun-16	1,000,000	0.95%
West Bromwich Building Society	Fixed	Jun-16	3,000,000	1.01%
Skipton Building Society	Fixed	Jun-16	1,000,000	1.00%
Goldman Sachs International Bank	Fixed	Jun-16	2,000,000	1.00%
Skipton Building Society	Fixed	Jun-16	1,500,000	1.00%
West Bromwich Building Society	Fixed	Jul-16	4,000,000	1.05%
National Counties Building Society	Fixed	Jul-16	1,000,000	1.00%
Goldman Sachs International Bank	Fixed	Jul-16	2,000,000	1.00%
Progressive Building Society	Fixed	Jul-16	2,000,000	1.00%
West Bromwich Building Society	Fixed	Jul-16	1,000,000	1.00%
Goldman Sachs International Bank	Fixed	Jul-16	2,000,000	1.02%
Progressive Building Society	Fixed	Aug-16	2,000,000	0.98%
Newcastle Building Society	Fixed	Aug-16	2,000,000	1.10%
Newcastle Building Society	Fixed	Sep-16	2,000,000	1.10%
Close Brothers	Fixed	Dec-16	3,000,000	1.05%
National Counties Building Society	Fixed	Dec-16	1,500,000	0.95%
National Counties Building Society	Fixed	Dec-16	2,000,000	0.95%
Progressive Building Society	Fixed	Dec-16	1,000,000	0.90%
Progressive Building Society	Fixed	Jan-17	2,000,000	0.90%
Skipton Building Society	Fixed	Mar-17	3,000,000	1.02%
Principality Building Society	Fixed	Mar-17	2,000,000	1.05%
Close Brothers	Fixed	Mar-17	2,000,000	1.40%
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Fixed	Apr-16	3,000,000	1.38%
HSBC	Fixed	Feb-17	2,000,000	1.90%
Close Brothers	Fixed	Apr-17	2,000,000	1.41%
Close Brothers	Fixed	Nov-17	3,000,000	1.60%
Royal Bank of Scotland	Fixed	Jan-18	2,000,000	1.50%
Royal Bank of Scotland	Fixed	Feb-19	2,000,000	1.20%
Kingston upon Hull City Council	Fixed	Aug-20	3,500,000	2.70%
Kingston upon Hull City Council	Fixed	Aug-20	1,500,000	2.70%
Kingston upon Hull City Council	Fixed	Jan-21	2,000,000	2.50%
Santander	Call		4,105,465	0.40%
Royal Bank of Scotland	Call		2,335	0.25%
Royal Bank of Scotland	Call		95,643	0.25%
Goldman Sachs	MMF		2,310,000	Variable
Deutsche Bank	MMF		1,815,000	Variable
Blackrock	MMF		690,000	Variable
L&G Equities	Unit trust		12,774,260	Variable
Santander	Corporate bond		295,461	11.50%
CCLA - property fund	Property fund		5,000,000	4.85%
GRAND TOTAL			105,088,164	

Appendix E

Vale of White Horse District Council treasury investments as at 31 March 2016

Counterparty	Deposit Type	Maturity Date	Principal	Rate
Hull City Council	Fixed	Jan-21	2,000,000	2.50%
Hull City Council	Fixed	Aug-20	2,000,000	2.70%
Close Brothers Ltd	Fixed	Nov-17	2,000,000	1.60%
Lloyds Bank	Fixed	Mar-17	6,000,000	1.05%
West Bromwich Building Society	Fixed	Mar-17	2,000,000	1.05%
Principality Building Society	Fixed	Jan-17	2,000,000	1.05%
Principality Building Society	Fixed	Dec-16	2,000,000	0.93%
Newcastle Building Society	Fixed	Dec-16	1,000,000	1.02%
National counties Building Society	Fixed	Nov-16	1,000,000	0.90%
National Counties Building Society	Fixed	Nov-16	2,000,000	1.00%
Skipton Building Society	Fixed	Oct-16	2,000,000	1.02%
Close Brothers Ltd	Fixed	Sep-16	2,000,000	1.07%
West Bromwich Building Society	Fixed	Sep-16	2,000,000	1.05%
Saffron Building Society	Fixed	Aug-16	1,000,000	0.75%
Santander	Call		50,000	0.40%
Goldman Sachs	MMF		1,770,000	0.44%
LGIM	MMF		2,000,000	0.46%
CCLA	Property fund		2,000,000	4.65%
GRAND TOTAL			34,820,000	

Note – these do not reconcile to table 1 figures seen in appendix c and d as these are original investment levels whereas the values in table 1 are the fair values of investments held.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Basis point (BP)	1/100th of 1%, i.e. 0.01%
Base rate	Minimum lending rate of a bank or financial institution in the UK.
Benchmark	A measure against which the investment policy or performance of a fund manager can be compared.
Bill of Exchange	A non-interest-bearing written order used primarily in international trade that binds one party to pay a fixed sum of money to another party at a predetermined future date.
Callable Deposit	A deposit placed with a bank or building society at a set rate for a set amount of time. However, the borrower has the right to repay the funds on pre agreed dates, before maturity. This decision is based on how market rates have moved since the deal was agreed. If rates have fallen the likelihood of the deposit being repaid rises, as cheaper money can be found by the borrower.
[Cash] Fund Management	Fund management is the management of an investment portfolio of cash on behalf of a private client or an institution, the receipts and distribution of dividends and interest, and all other administrative work in connection with the portfolio.
Certificate of Deposit (CD)	Evidence of a deposit with a specified bank or building society repayable on a fixed date. They are negotiable instruments and have a secondary market; therefore the holder of a CD is able to sell it to a third party before the maturity of the CD.
Commercial Paper	Short-term obligations with maturities ranging from 2 to 270 days issued by banks, corporations and other borrowers. Such instruments are unsecured and usually discounted, although some may be interest bearing.
Corporate Bond	Strictly speaking, corporate bonds are those issued by companies. However, the term is used to cover all bonds other than those issued by governments in their own currencies and includes issues by companies, supranational organisations and government agencies.
Counterparty	Another (or the other) party to an agreement or other market contract (e.g. lender/borrower/writer of a swap/etc.)
Credit Default Swap (CDS)	A swap designed to transfer the credit exposure of fixed income products between parties. The buyer of a credit swap receives credit protection, whereas the seller of the swap guarantees the credit worthiness of the product. By doing this, the risk of default is transferred from the holder of the fixed income security to the seller of the swap.

Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	The amount the council has to borrow to fund its capital commitments.
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.
CLG	[Department for] Communities and Local Government.
Derivative	A contract whose value is based on the performance of an underlying financial asset, index or other investment, e.g. an option is a derivative because its value changes in relation to the performance of an underlying stock.
Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF)	Deposit Account offered by the Debt Management Office, guaranteed by the UK government
European Central Bank (ECB)	European Central Bank – sets the central interest rates in the EMU area. The ECB determines the targets itself for its interest rate setting policy; this is to keep inflation within a band of 0 to 2%. It does not accept that monetary policy is to be used to manage fluctuations in unemployment and growth caused by the business cycle.
European and Monetary Union (EMU)	The Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) is an umbrella term for the group of policies aimed at converging the economies of all member states of the European Union.
Equity	A share in a company with limited liability. It generally enables the holder to share in the profitability of the company through dividend payments and capital appreciation. Equity values can decrease as well as increase.
Forward Deal	The act of agreeing today to deposit funds with an institution for an agreed time limit, on an agreed future date, at an agreed rate.
Forward Deposits	Same as forward dealing (above).
Fiscal Policy	The government policy on taxation and welfare payments.
GDP	Gross Domestic Product.
[UK] Gilt	Registered UK government securities giving the investor an absolute commitment from the government to honour the debt that those securities represent.
LIBID	London inter-bank bid rate
LIBOR	London inter-bank offered rate.

Money Market Fund	A well rated, highly diversified pooled investment vehicle whose assets mainly comprise of short-term instruments. It is very similar to a unit trust, however in a MMF.
Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)	Government body that sets the bank rate (commonly referred to as being base rate). Their primary target is to keep inflation within plus or minus 1% of a central target of 2.5% in two years time from the date of the monthly meeting of the committee. Their secondary target is to support the government in maintaining high and stable levels of growth and employment.
Other Bond Funds	Pooled funds investing in a wide range of bonds.
PWLB	Public Works Loan Board.
QE	Quantitative Easing.
Retail Price Index	Measurement of the monthly change in the average level of prices at the retail level weighted by the average expenditure pattern of the average person.
Sovereign Issues (excl UK Gilts)	Bonds issued or guaranteed by nation states, but excluding UK government bonds.
Supranational Bonds	Bonds issued by supranational bodies, e.g. European Investment Bank. The bonds – also known as Multilateral Development Bank bonds – are generally AAA rated and behave similarly to gilts, but pay a higher yield (“spread”) given their relative illiquidity when compared with gilts.
Treasury Bill	Treasury bills are short-term debt instruments issued by the UK or other governments. They provide a return to the investor by virtue of being issued at a discount to their final redemption value.

Cabinet Report



Report of Head of Planning

Author: Ronan Leydon

Telephone: 07717 271942

E-mail: ronan.leydon@southandvale.gov.uk

Wards affected: Thames

Cabinet member responsible: Roger Cox

Tel: 01367 243360

E-mail: roger.cox@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

To: CABINET

Date: 7 October 2016

Making the Longworth Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan

Recommendation

The Council makes the Longworth Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan.

Purpose of Report

1. To consider whether the Longworth Neighbourhood Plan should be made part of the Development Plan for Vale of White Horse District Council following the positive outcome of the referendum held on 18 August 2016.

Corporate Objectives

2. Neighbourhood Plans help to support housing and economic growth at a local level. They also help to support communities and their aspirations for their town or village.

Background

3. Longworth Parish Council was identified as the qualifying body and the parish of Longworth was designated as a Neighbourhood Area on 7 June 2013, under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012), which came into force on 6 April 2012.
4. Longworth Parish Council developed a neighbourhood plan with its local community and submitted it to the district council. The submitted version of the plan was publicised and comments were invited from the public and stakeholders. The consultation period closed on 13 April 2016.

5. The district council appointed independent Examiner Mr McCreery, to review whether the plan met the basic conditions required by legislation and whether the plan should proceed to referendum.
6. The Examiner concluded that, subject to a single modification proposed in his report, the plan meets the 'basic conditions' including those set out in paragraph 8(1) and paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. He further concluded that subject to making the modification the Neighbourhood Plan as amended be submitted to a Referendum.
7. The modification was made and a referendum was held on 18 August 2016, where 79.4 per cent of those who voted (39.6 per cent turnout) were in favour of the plan.
8. Paragraph 38A (4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that the district council must make the neighbourhood plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan being used to help decide planning applications in the plan area. The district council are not subject to this duty if (and only if) the making of the plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

Options

9. The neighbourhood plan, including its preparation, does not breach, and would not otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998). There are therefore no options open to the Council other than to make the plan part of the Development Plan.

Financial Implications

10. There are no significant financial implications with this decision that cannot be accommodated within budget.

Legal Implications

11. The decision to make the Longworth Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan is a legal requirement in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The only circumstance where the district council should not make this decision is where the making of the plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998). There is a requirement that the district council will publish a formal decision statement as required under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Risks

12. In view of the considerations referred to elsewhere in this report, a decision not to make the Plan would place the Council at risk of a legal challenge.

Conclusion

13. The independent Examiner found that, subject to a modification proposed in his report, the plan meets the basic conditions and other requirements prescribed by the relevant legislation.

14. The referendum held on 18 August 2016 met the requirements of The Localism Act 2011 and The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012. Greater than 50 per cent of those who voted were in favour of the plan being used to help decide planning applications in the plan area.
15. Accordingly it is recommended that the Longworth Neighbourhood Plan is made part of the Development Plan. This is consistent with our recommendation.
16. The district council will publish a formal decision statement as required under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Background Papers

- Longworth Neighbourhood Plan 2015 - 2031

**LONGWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2015-2031
REFERENDUM VERSION**



Published by Longworth Parish Council under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and the Environmental Assessment of Plans & Programmes Regulations 2004.

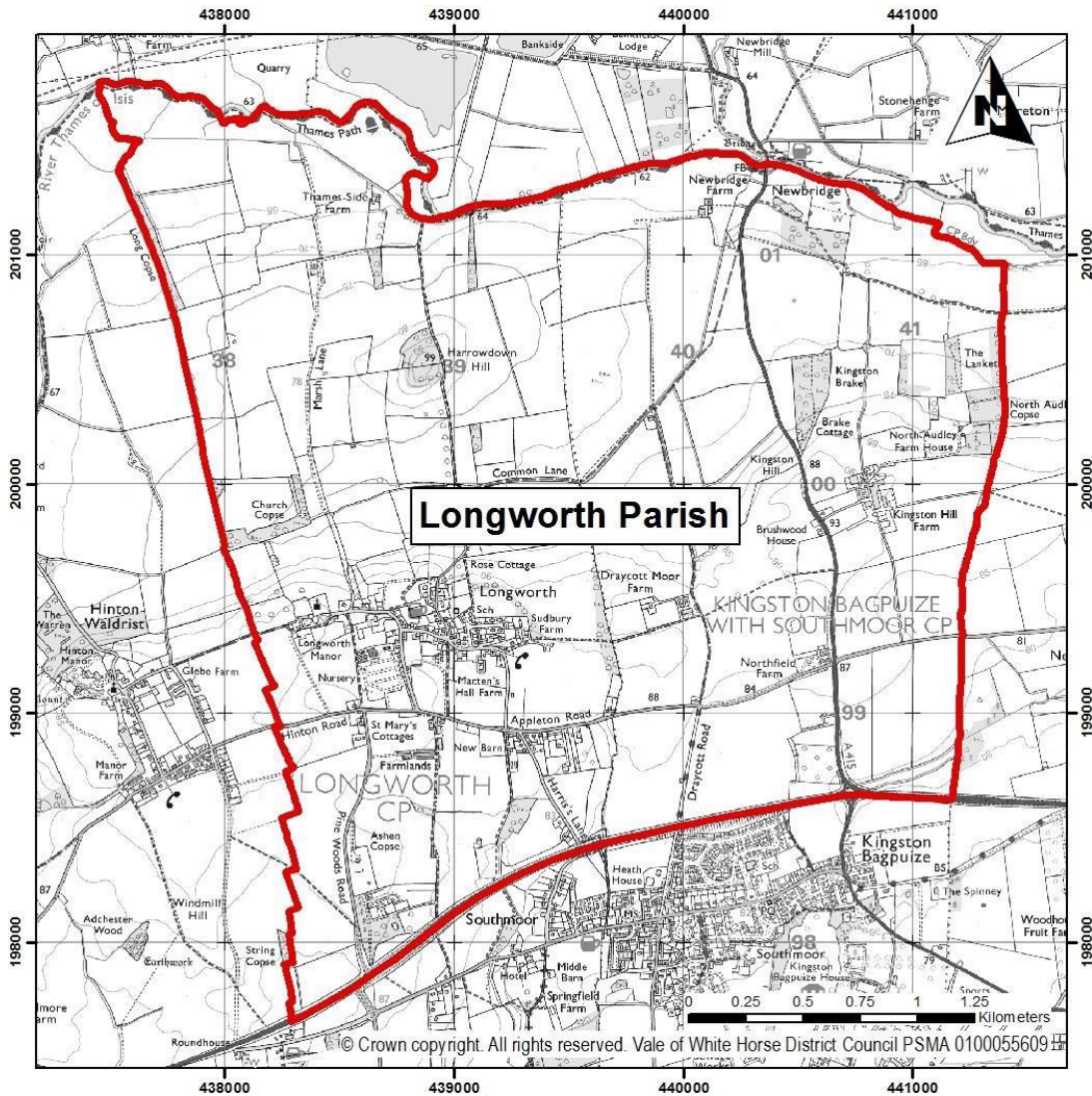
JUNE 2016

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1. INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

1.1 Longworth Parish Council (LPC) has prepared a Neighbourhood Plan for the area designated on 13 December 2013 by the local planning authority, Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC), under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 and of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The designated area is shown in Plan A below.



Plan A: Longworth Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area

1.2 The purpose of the Longworth Neighbourhood Plan (LNP) is to make planning policies that can be used to determine planning applications in the area. Its policies are primarily aimed at protecting the special rural character of the village and parish.

1.3 Neighbourhood Plans provide local communities with the chance to shape the future development of their areas. Once approved at a referendum, the Plan becomes a statutory part of the development plan for the area and will carry

significant weight in how planning applications are decided. Plans must therefore contain only land use planning policies that can be used for this purpose. This often means that there are important issues of interest to the local community that cannot be addressed in a Plan if they are not directly related to planning. The Parish Council will look to find other ways of addressing these in due course.

1.4 Although there is considerable scope for the local community to decide on its planning policies, Plans must meet four 'basic conditions'. These are:

- Is the Plan consistent with national planning policy?
- Is the Plan consistent with local planning policy?
- Does the Plan promote the principles of sustainable development?
- Has the process of making of the Plan met the requirements of European environmental standards?

1.5 In addition, the LPC must be able to show that it has properly consulted local people and other relevant organisations during the process of making the Plan and has followed the Regulations. It has therefore prepared a Consultation Statement that describes all that it has done, both formally and informally, throughout the project, to engage people in the making of the Plan.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.6 LPC requested a screening opinion from VWHDC in respect of the need for the LNP to have a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under EU Directive 42/2001 and the 2004 Environmental Assessment of Plans & Programmes Regulations.

On August 24th 2015, SEA screening opinion was delivered by the Vale of the White Horse District Council and stated:

“Vale of White Horse District Council has carried out a screening of the Longworth Neighbourhood Plan. The Council has determined under Section 9 of the Regulations, and in consultation with Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency, that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects and therefore that a full strategic environmental assessment is not required. A copy of the determination and screening statement is available at the district council offices, Vale of White Horse District Council, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, OX14 4SB or our website www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplans.”

For more details on the SEA opinion, please refer to “Longworth SEA Screening Report Final” and “Longworth SEA Notice” documents in the evidence base documents.

Longworth – the place

1.7 Longworth is a village and parish about 7 miles west of Abingdon and a similar distance east of Faringdon and south of Witney. It is 12 miles south west of Oxford. The village historically was located in the county of Berkshire, however, since 1974 it was located in the Vale of White Horse district of Oxfordshire.

1.8 As early as Saxon times a charter outlined the boundaries of Longworth (the long homestead) and described a narrow belt of land stretching from the Thames in the north to the Ock in the south. This allowed farming from the water meadows of the Thames flood plain to the drier richer soils along the Corallian limestone of the Golden Ridge. The boundary was subsequently changed in July 2008 to border the A420 to the south.

1.9 The Domesday survey of 1086 shows Longworth belonging to Abingdon Abbey by which time the village had its own church on the same site as the present Church of St Mary's built from the 13th century onwards.

1.10 In 1538 after the dissolution of the monasteries the village ownership passed from the Abbot of Abingdon to Henry VIII who gifted the village to the Lords of the Manor of Longworth and in 1618 was purchased by Henry Marten. The Marten family were active in the civil war, calling for the deposition of King Charles and after the restoration Henry Marten the younger was imprisoned in the Tower of London. All his Longworth property was forfeited.

1.11 The industrial revolution had its impact on Longworth despite the village remaining rural and agricultural. In the days when the cost of moving bulky goods such as coal, corn, timber or stone was very expensive, settlements near the Thames took advantage of cheap water transport provided by barges. In particular coal barges would arrive at a landing stage at the back of Harrowdown Hill where the coal would be transported up Tucks Lane by horse and cart and then on to the neighbouring settlements.

1.12 But the main “industry” of Longworth from the mid-19th century was rose growing with the arrival of a group of nurserymen families of which the best known were the Prince and Drew family. It was said that rose fields of Longworth could be smelt long before the village was seen.

2. THE PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

2.1 The parish lies within Vale of White Horse District in the County of Oxfordshire. VWHDC has planning policies and proposals that are helping to shape the strategy and policies of the LNP, which are summarised below.

2.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published by the Government in 2012 is also an important guide in the preparation of local plans and neighbourhood plans. The LNP must demonstrate that it is consistent with the provisions of the NPPF.

2.3 The LNP must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan as required by the 2012 Neighbourhood Plan Regulations. The development plan currently comprises the policies of the 2011 Vale of White Horse Local Plan (VWHLP). However, the strategic policies of this plan are being replaced by the Vale of White Horse District Local Plan Part 1 (VWHDLP1) to cover the period 2014 to 2031.

Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011

2.4 The VWHLP was adopted by VWHDC in 2006 and many of its policies have been saved for continuing development management purposes, if they are in conformity with the NPPF. Most of the saved policies are consistent with the NPPF apart from those relating to housing land supply.

2.5 The most relevant policies to the LNP are listed below:

- DC1 - design (to be replaced through the emerging VWHDLP)
- DC9 – Impact of development on neighbouring uses
- HE1 – preservation and enhancement of conservation areas (the Longworth Conservation Area is shown on the Proposals Map)
- HE4 – development within the setting of a listed building
- NE7 – North Vale Corallian Ridge (the whole of the parish falls within this policy area, as shown on the Proposals Map)
- H17 – affordable housing (to be replaced through the emerging VWHDLP)
- CF2 – community facilities

2.6 These policies indicate that the policies of the LNP will have to have regard to the Conservation Area and Listed Buildings and may refine more general development management issues to fit specifically to Longworth.

Vale of White Horse District Local Plan 2031 Part 1

2.7 The Pre Submission version of the VWHDLP1 was submitted for independent examination in March 2015. The LNP should have regard to its proposed strategic policies, its evidence and the plan's reasoning in general. Once adopted, VWHDC will bring forward the Local Plan 2031 Part 2 'Detailed Policies and

Local Sites' (LPP2) document to replace the remaining saved policies. The Part 2 document will sit alongside made neighbourhood plans in complementing the strategic policies of Part 1.

2.8 The Spatial Vision for the district where it relates to Longworth is as follows:

“The Vale’s villages will continue to provide thriving rural communities where appropriate growth has supported local services. New development will have respected the local character of the Vale, protecting its outstanding and distinctive natural and built environment and will continue to conserve and enhance its important heritage. High design and environmental standards will have been achieved through new development, which will be resilient to the likely impacts of climate change.”(p29)



Plan B: VWHDLDP1 Key Diagram: Abingdon Sub-Area

2.9 The spatial strategy shows Longworth being within the Abingdon & Oxford Sub Area of the district. By 2031, the strategy envisages the following for the rural part of the Sub-Area:

“The countryside and villages will have maintained their distinctive character and will be much enjoyed by those living, working and visiting the Vale. Growth within the larger villages will have helped to maintain or enhance their services and to provide for residents’ day-to-day needs. New residents in

the villages will be helping to sustain the services and social life of the rural communities.” (p51)

2.10 The Settlement Hierarchy in Core Policy 3 identifies Longworth as a one of the 12 smaller villages in the Sub Area and describes these as settlements which have a low level of services and facilities, where any development should be modest and proportionate in scale.

2.11 The housing targets for the District are set out in Core Policy 4 Housing Delivery and the sub area strategy in relation to Longworth can be found in Core Policy 8: Spatial Strategy for Abingdon & Oxford Sub-Area. Neither of these policies identifies Longworth as a location for housing growth. Rather, in defining Longworth as a ‘smaller village’, Policy 4 states:

At the Smaller Villages, limited infill development may be appropriate within the existing built areas of these settlements or if it is allocated within an adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan or future parts of the Local Plan 2031. Proposals for development will be supported where they are in keeping with local character and are proportionate in scale and meet local housing needs, and/ or provide local employment, services and facilities.

2.12 Of the other policies in VWHDL1, there are a number that are relevant for the LNP. Policy 24 on affordable housing proposes a requirement for 35% of homes though its minimum scheme thresholds will need to be amended in the light of more recent national planning guidance changes. The result will be that it will be unlikely that any housing schemes in the parish will be required to deliver a proportion of affordable homes.

2.13 Although it proposes no specific policy on the North Vale Corallian Ridge, its Policy 44 does provide for development proposals having to demonstrate they will protect, maintain and enhance local valued landscapes like the Ridge. Policy 37 sets out a series of key design principles for development in the District, which will be informed by the proposed Vale of White Horse Design Guide, which was adopted in March 2015.

2.14 Policy 39 recognises and supports the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment in the district such as conservation areas, listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments.

3. COMMUNITY VIEWS ON PLANNING ISSUES

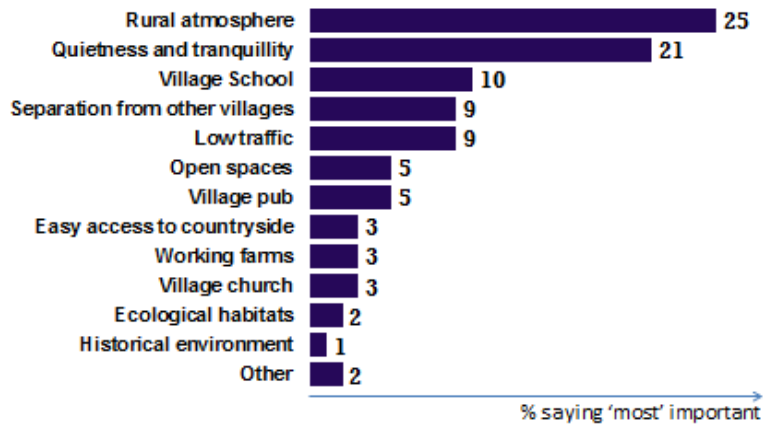
3.1 Following a lively and well-attended Parish Council meeting in early 2013, which registered concern at perceived threats of unwelcome housing applications, a Neighbourhood Plan Committee was formally established as an official sub-committee of the Parish Council (minutes 18/13, 16 August 2013). The Committee was composed of one elected councillor, the parish clerk and seven residents. It then set about establishing a wider village involvement in a Neighbourhood Plan by running three public events during the summer of 2013, at the village hall and the school; these described the aims and objectives of a Neighbourhood Plan and invited residents' written comments on local issues under eight headings – Housing, Schooling, Communications, Transport, Environment, Facilities & Amenities, Sports and Recreation and Community. Some 60 residents attended these events, and their written observations fill eight loose-leaf folders. The level of interest provoked confirmed the committee's view that a broadening of the remit was appropriate.

Following the three village events, the Committee prepared a Questionnaire for the entire village, based on the input from these. As a matter of courtesy, this was submitted in draft form to the Vale for comment. The Vale made a number of suggestions for amendment; these the Committee subsequently incorporated. However, this exercise had by then taken longer than expected, and was clearly straining the group's abilities and resources; it was decided to seek outside professional help to continue the project. After a survey of the few appropriate resources available and a visit by two of the Committee to their offices, rCOH Ltd. was selected as a suitable partner for the remainder of the exercise.

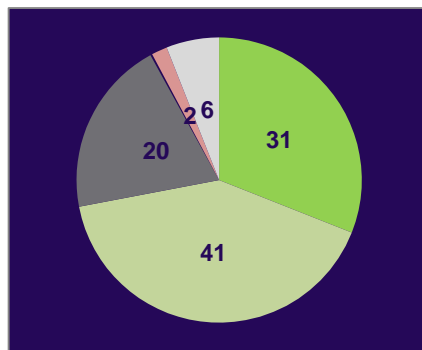
The Questionnaire was finalised with the guidance of rCOH, and copies, with reply-paid envelopes, were delivered by hand to all 221 households. Return boxes were also placed at two central sites. Over a period of three weeks 193 responses were received from the 466 residents – a 42% return.

3.2 Those who did participate in the survey clearly stated that the rural nature of the village and quietness and tranquillity are the key characteristics of the village that they wished to preserve. As the graph below demonstrates these two factors were by far the most likely to be chosen as important to the character of the village (52% said the rural atmosphere was in the top 4 factors; 49% quietness and tranquillity). The Village School, separation from other villages and low traffic forming a second tier of important attributes.

Most Important to the Character of Longworth



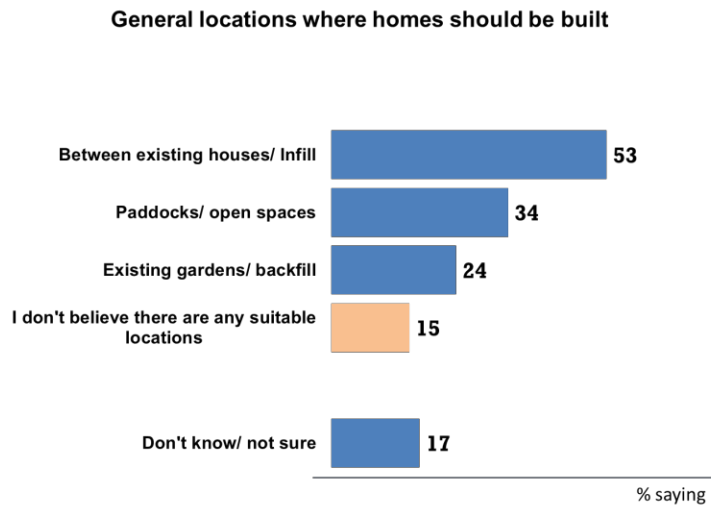
3.3 When asked about the importance of ensuring plenty of open space is retained when deciding on number and location of new homes, 72% of respondents deemed the retention of open space when deciding on the number or location of new homes to be either the most important or one of the most important factors to be considered.



- Most important
- One of the most important things
- It is quite important but other things are more important
- Not likely to be a concern
- Don't know

3.4 When asked where any potential development could take place the majority (53%) said that this should be infill between existing houses. This is in line with the Vale of White Horse’s plans for smaller villages – at the time of the survey the stated policy of the Vale was “At the smaller villages, limited development may be appropriate” (Local Plan 2031 Part 1 Core Policy 4). In the Vale Local Plan 2031 Part One, as submitted to the Secretary of State in March 2015, this statement

has been amended to “*At the smaller villages, limited **infill** development may be appropriate*”. The survey provides evidence that the majority of those responding to the survey would support this subtle but important change in terminology:



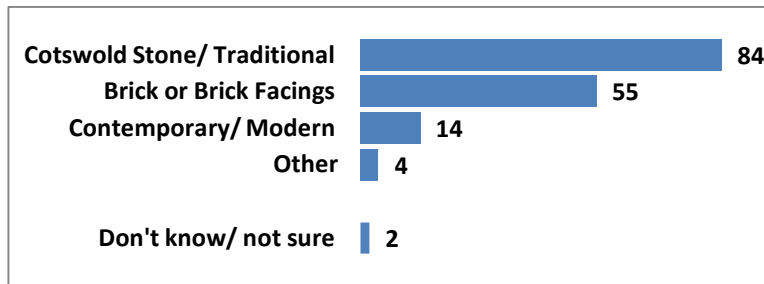
3.5 When asked to specify locations for any such development there was no consensus on a suitable location even amongst this minority of respondents (59% of respondents failing to specify any suitable location).

3.6 The LNP Committee decided against identifying or allocating potential sites for future development for the following reasons:

- there are more sustainable nearby locations for development than Longworth village
- there is no clear need for Longworth village to identify additional sites, especially bearing in mind recent large developments in the nearby larger village of Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor
- since the NPPF policy emerged, there has been and is likely to continue to be adequate development within the village through limited infill to meet local needs

3.7 When asked what types of materials should be used for the construction of new homes in the village, the majority of the respondents indicated that Cotswold stone/Traditional materials would be preferred so that any new housing would be in keeping with and maintain the style and character of the village.

Suitable styles of housing for the village



% saying style of housing was suitable for the village

3.8 The survey also strongly suggests that if new housing is needed, these should be smaller properties (either properties suitable for ‘downsizing’ for current residents on retirement or smaller family properties of up to four bedrooms).

3.9 The results from this survey were presented at a public village meeting in February 2015. Slides of the presentation were posted on the village website and an analysis of some figures was featured in the monthly parish magazine.

3.10 There has been some anecdotal evidence since the survey took place and since Local Plan 2031 Part 1 was released that the need for even limited infill development may not be as great as suggested within the survey. Whilst 16% of those responding to the survey outright rejected any new properties being built within the village, there has been some suggestion that respondents felt there was an inevitability about the village being forced to take some housing and were therefore nominating the least negative options when responding to the questionnaire. The size of developments in neighbouring Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor have also been much greater than was anticipated at the time of the survey and the view by many in the village is that this has more than removed the need for development within the smaller village of Longworth. Written feedback provided to the committee after the public village meeting gives some evidence to this view – the questionnaire was completed when government policy was such that it led to an *“inbuilt assumption that some development would be required and the responses reflected this presumption”* and that *“the nearby considerable developments in Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor surely will provide such [affordable/social] housing which is likely to more than meet the local need”*.

3.11 Whilst there will always be some diversity in opinion when it comes to issues of development, the committee believe there is a strong overriding will amongst the majority of those who have participated in the consultation to limit any development within Longworth to infill properties that are modest in size and in keeping in style to the older properties within the village. It does not support more substantial development as this would put at risk the rural nature of the village that is seen as the key to its character and indeed the impact on this most important attribute needs to be considered before even allowing any infill development.

Given the importance of the rural nature of the village, it is clear the Vale of White Horse’s categorisation of Longworth as a smaller village is accurate and

the residents of Longworth agree with this classification. It is important that any future development within the village is limited to ensure that it does not impact on this or threaten the protection provided by this classification.

4. VISION, OBJECTIVES & LAND USE POLICIES

Vision

4.1 The vision for Longworth is:

To protect the rural environment and retain the quietness and tranquillity of Longworth as a Small Village for this and future generations of village residents while retaining and developing those facilities that make the village an attractive place to live.

Objectives

4.2 In addition to providing a general development plan for the parishes, this vision translates into a framework of key objectives for the LNP that secure:

A Cherished Local Environment

- to define the term “built-up areas” for the Longworth Neighbourhood Plan to reflect the current extent of the village to guide acceptable limited infill development
- to retain the rural character of the parish
- to sustain the historic character of the Conservation Area
- to protect important green spaces from development

Valued Community Facilities

- to protect existing community facilities from unnecessary loss and to encourage their ongoing development and viability as valuable community assets

Land Use Planning Policies

4.3 The planning policy context and the community engagement work already undertaken have raised a number of issues for the Neighbourhood Plan to address:

- How can new infill housing in Longworth be contained in the village?
- What are the most important characteristics of the village that new housing should respect?
- What community facilities would be on the list of those to be protected from a change of use?
- Which spaces meet the criteria for designation as Local Green Spaces?

4.4 Land use policies are used to determine planning applications made for development proposals. They can establish the principles for retaining or changing the use of land in settlements and in the countryside. They can also set

out the conditions against which development proposals will be judged in terms of their design, access etc.

4.5 The Plan deliberately avoids repeating existing national or local planning policies. The proposed policies therefore focus on a relatively small number of key development issues in the area. For all other planning matters, the national and local policies of other planning documents – the National Planning Policy Framework and the saved and forthcoming policies of the Vale of White Horse Local Plan – will continue to be used.

4.6 Set out below are the proposed policies of the Plan. Each policy has a number and title and the policy itself is written in bold italics for ease of reference. There is also a short statement explaining the intention of the policy and any other relevant background information. At the end of this document is the Policies Map – where a policy refers to a specific site or area then it is shown on the Map.

Policy 1: A Spatial Plan for the Parish

Proposals for limited infill development inside the Village’s built-up areas will be supported, provided they:

- i. are in keeping with the character of the local dwellings and landscapes***
- ii. are proportionate in scale to existing buildings in the close vicinity***

Development proposals on land outside the Village’s built-up areas will be resisted unless they are in accordance with other development plan policies managing development in the countryside.

4.7 This policy defines the term “built-up areas” for the purpose of enabling limited infill development and resisting other development outside of the built-up areas. It therefore refines policies GS2, GS7 and GS8 of the VWHLPP for application in the village.

4.8 The built-up areas are defined as a group of existing non-agricultural buildings of a permanent nature and their immediate surroundings. They therefore do not include:

- i. individual buildings and groups of dispersed or intermittent buildings that are clearly detached from the continuous built-up areas of the settlement;***
- ii. gardens, paddocks and other undeveloped land in the curtilage of buildings on the edge of the settlement where they provide a transition between the surrounding countryside and the built-up areas of the settlement;***
- iii. agricultural buildings and associated land on the edge of the settlement;***
- iv. outdoor sports and recreation facilities and other formal open spaces on the edge of the settlement.***

4.9 It is also consistent with the status of Longworth as a 'Smaller Village' under Policy CP3 of the VVHDLDP1 in the district settlement hierarchy and with its Policy CP4 managing development in the smaller villages. Proposals for development beyond the built-up areas will need to conform to Policy CP44 on landscape.

Longworth has two separate and distinct built-up areas, namely:

- i. the main built-up area around the centre of Longworth village; and
- ii. the separate built-up area around the crossroads of Appleton Road and Harris's Lane, to the South of the centre of the village.

4.10 The policy defines "limited infill" as follows:

- developments to be allowed only within the built-up areas on available sites that fall between existing houses
- design must be in keeping with the majority of properties in the immediate area
- developments must retain appropriate road frontage to substantiate the proposed development and also with access direct from an existing adopted/adoptable road
- Provision for off road parking for at least two vehicles per property is desirable for all developments to avoid congestion
- Development must consist of no more than one of the following on any single site:
 - o 2 detached homes
 - o 1 pair of semi-detached home and 1 detached home
 - o 1 terrace of up to 3 homes

Policy 2: Design

Within the Village's built-up areas, the scale, density, massing, height, landscape design, layout and materials of all development proposals, including alterations to existing buildings, will be required to sustain and enhance the distinctive character of each part of Longworth village and its setting. For clarity, the character areas are described in the Longworth Character Areas Assessment in Appendix C.

Development proposals outside the village's built up areas that are considered acceptable in principle in land use terms by other national and development plan policies should have special regard to the setting, amenity and character of any nearby dwellings and, wherever possible, should contribute to local distinctiveness; should be of an appropriate scale and massing to reflect and enhance the surroundings; and should protect and enhance nature conservation, water courses, wildlife habitats, trees and landscape character.

4.11 This policy requires all development proposals to deliver high quality schemes that reflect the distinct character of the Conservation Area, within which most of the village lies. Those proposals elsewhere within the built-up areas must also have regard to its setting if they are located in such a way that their impact will have significance for the character of the Area. Proposals beyond its setting should reflect the wider landscape character of the parish.

4.12 Within the Conservation Area, and throughout the rest of the village, there are differences in character and a number of character areas have been identified to inform the application of this policy. Applicants will be expected to consider the description of each character area in the development, justification and presentation of their proposals. For clarity, the character areas are described in the Longworth Character Areas Assessment in Appendix C.

4.13 This policy complements the VWHDC policies CP37 Design & Local Distinctiveness and CP39 The Historic Environment as it requires all new development to respect the character, identity and context of the district's villages and countryside and helps to create places where people want to live, work and visit.

Policy 3: Community Facilities

Proposals that will result in the unnecessary loss of a community facility, as listed below, will be resisted unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the use of the building and ancillary land is no longer viable or that the use can be satisfactorily re-located for the ongoing benefit of the local community:

- i. Longworth Primary School and field***
- ii. Longworth Pre School***
- iii. Longworth Village Hall***
- iv. St Mary's Church***
- v. The Blue Boar Public House***

Proposals to improve the viability of an established community use of the buildings and ancillary land by way of its extension or partial redevelopment will be supported, provided the design of the scheme and the resulting increase in use are appropriate in design terms and will not harm the amenities of adjoining residential properties.

4.14 The policy firstly seeks to protect a specific number of community assets from unnecessary loss, in line with the VWHLPP policies CF1 and CF5 that support the retention of existing community facilities and public houses if their viability can be demonstrated. They comprise a range of buildings and associated land, all of which may be capable of being extended or redeveloped in ways that are suitable to a rural location

4.15 This policy supports development proposals intended to secure the long term benefit of a range of facilities that are important to the local community. In some cases, remaining viable will require investment in updating and/or increasing the size of the facility to support new uses. However, the policy requires that proposals avoid increasing the use of community facilities to the extent that they may harm the amenities of adjoining residential properties, for example through traffic movements, on-street car parking and noise or light pollution.

Policy 4: Local Green Spaces

The Neighbourhood Plan designates Local Green Spaces in the following locations, as shown in the LGS Evidence Base in Appendix D:

- i. The parish allotments***
- ii. Longworth Recreational Playing Field***

Proposals for development on the land that will undermine its essential character openness and permanence will be resisted unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated. Development which would enhance its use but remain ancillary to its function as LGS would be considered.

4.16 This policy proposes a number of important green spaces in the parish to be protected from development by the designation as Local Green Spaces in accordance with the NPPF.

4.17 In each case, the green spaces are an integral part of the village character and are therefore regarded as special to the local community. The LNP Local Green Spaces study (in the evidence base) sets out the case for each site to be designated. Once designated, the policy will resist all proposals for development unless it can be clearly demonstrated they are minor, they are required utilities development. Owners of both spaces (Longworth Parish Council and Vale of the White Horse District Council respectively) have been contacted and permission obtained to include these sites as protected local green spaces in the Longworth Neighbourhood Plan.

Non-Land Use Proposals

4.18 The Neighbourhood Plan can only contain land use policies that can be used by the VWHDC to determine planning applications. However, the Plan may identify proposals that relate to other planning matters that are not directly related to planning applications, for example infrastructure projects.

Appendix A

Evidence Base

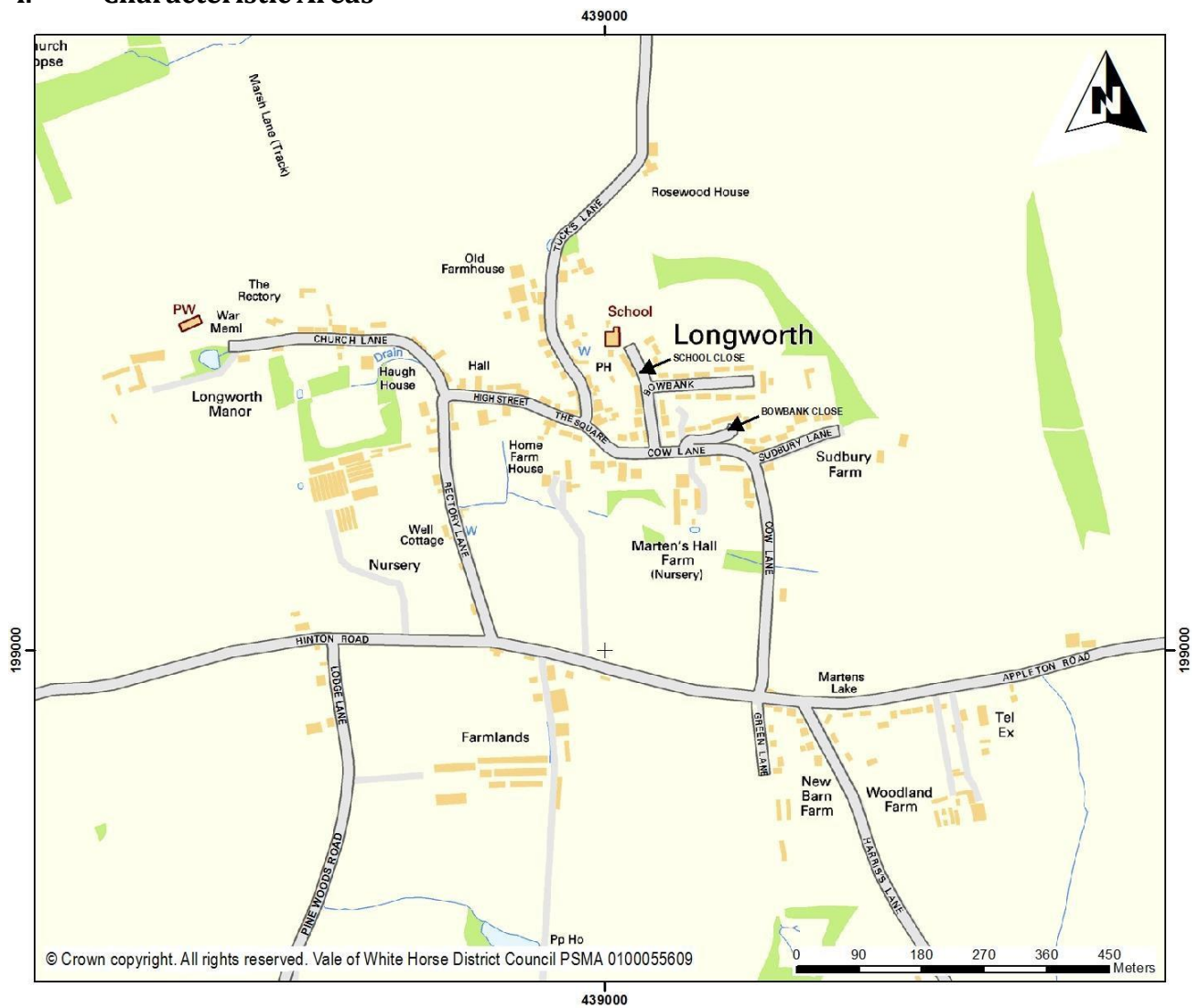
- Longworth Neighbourhood Plan Community Survey (2014) (to be replaced by the Longworth Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Report 2016)
- Vale of White Horse Local Plan (2011)
- Vale of White Horse Local Plan Part 1: Submission (2014)
- Vale of White Horse Design Guide (2015)
- Longworth Character Areas Appraisal – see Appendix C
- Local Green Space Evidence Base – see Appendix D
- Longworth SEA Screening Report – Final
- Longworth SEA Notice

Appendix B

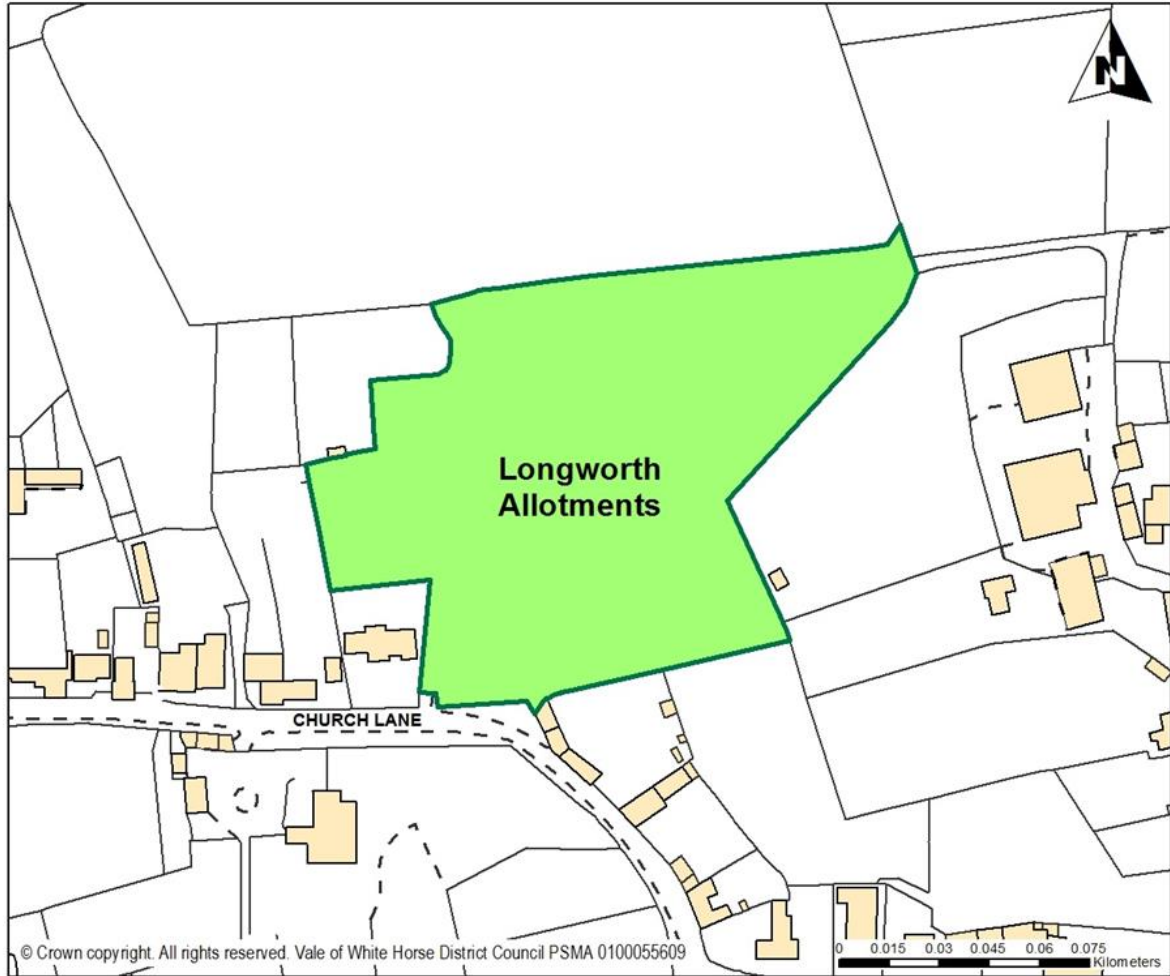
Neighbourhood Plan

Maps

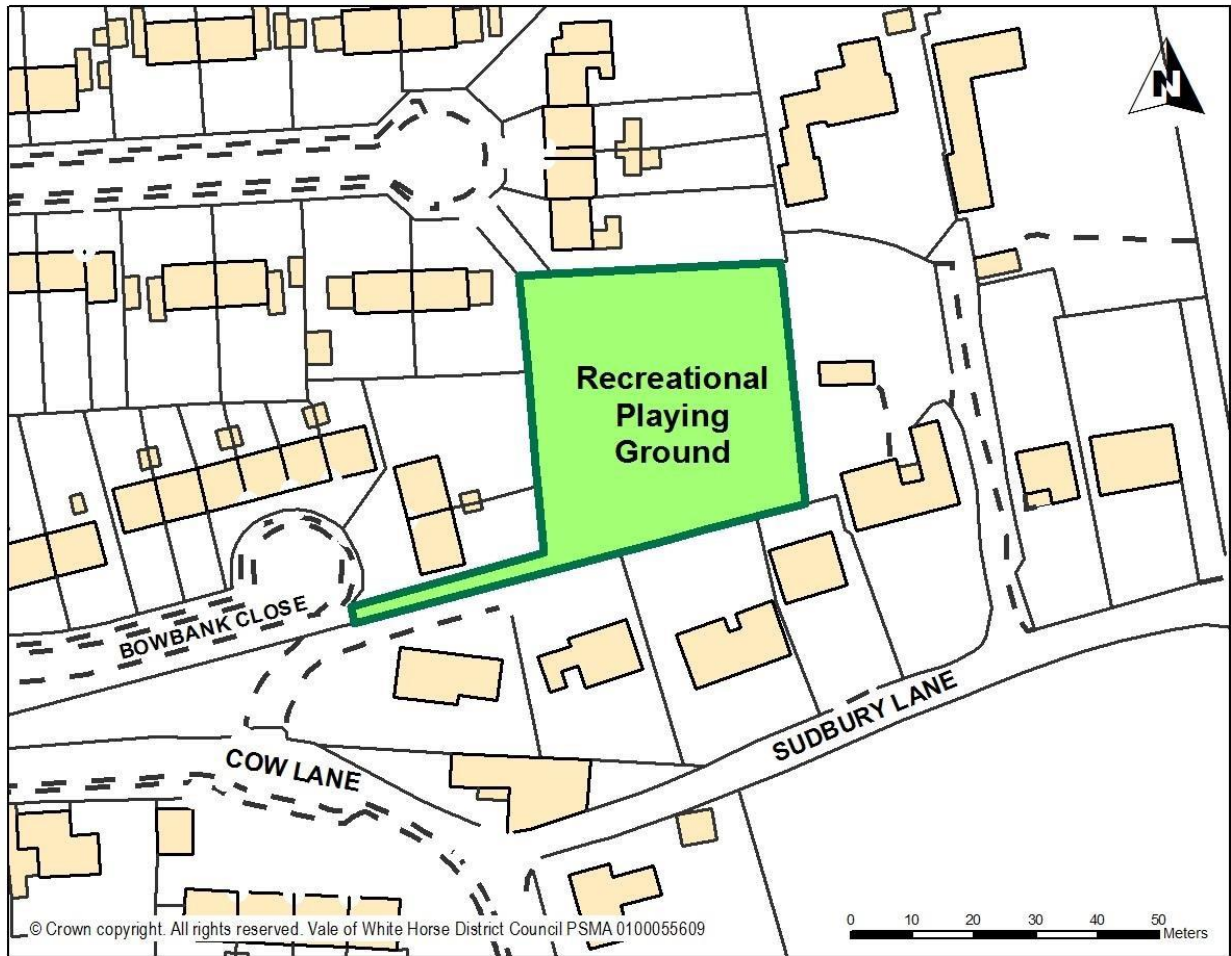
i. Characteristic Areas



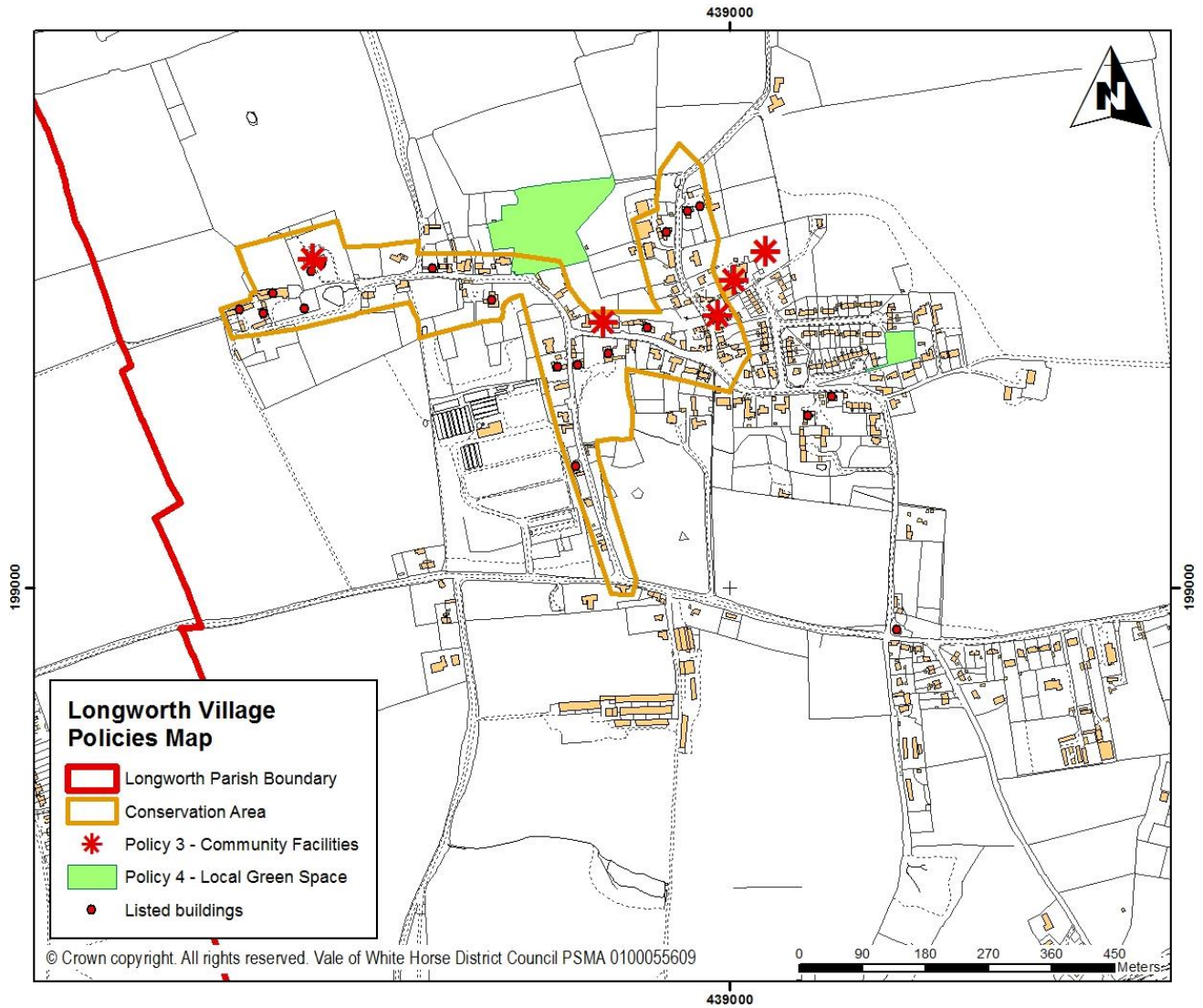
ii. Longworth Allotments



iii. Longworth Recreational Playing Field



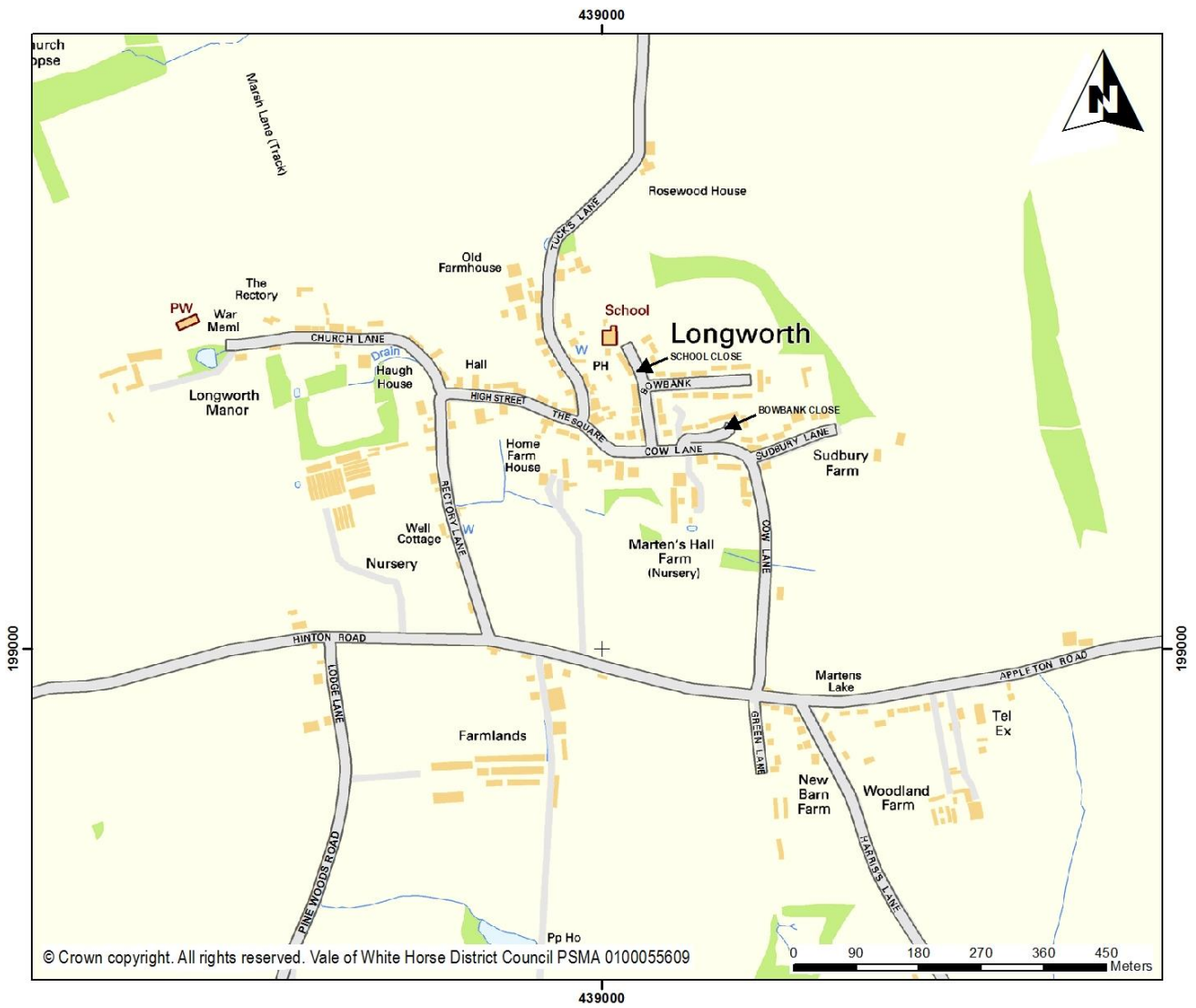
iv. Longworth Policies Map



Appendix C

Longworth Character Areas Appraisal

The map below contains all the character areas to be described in this assessment.



i. The Square and Tuck's Lane (south)

SPACES: GAPS BETWEEN BUILT ELEMENTS – STREETS, GARDENS, ETC.

The Square is a wide triangular junction of 3 main roads, one of which is Tuck's Lane (south), set hard to the roadside on the north-west and north-east sides of the junction. The most open space in the core of the village, roads are macadamed and the Square is used for extra parking for the Blue Boar public house on Tuck's Lane (south) and some village events (for example, the millennium celebrations and photo).

There are a few street lamps for night-time illumination.

BUILDINGS:

Most properties are detached and are on small plots and are set tightly together forming a distinct cluster extending up Tuck's Lane and including the Blue Boar. Most are constructed of traditional stone and brick. All front onto one of the 3 roads at the junction. The tall, rendered elevation of The Old Post Office and adjacent house is a dominant feature in the street scene and contrasts with most other buildings in the conservation area in its scale and rendered elevation.

VIEWS:

From the square there are excellent views of the High Street giving a good feel of the old character of the village centre. This includes a view of the attractive frontage of The Blue Boar.

GREENERY & LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

Most properties have trees and shrubs to the rear, only those to the south of the junction have trees to the front as the houses on those properties are positioned further away from the road than those to the north of the Square and on Tuck's Lane (south). There is an even balance of shade and light throughout the day.

NOISE & SMELL: MAN MADE OR NATURAL

Occasional odours from farming fertilisers can be detected. Occasional noise from the Blue Boar public house can be detected on evenings/afternoons.

SPIRIT OF PLACE:

The Square is the heart of the village, some events being held all along High Street and the Square throughout the year. There is a lot of activity surrounding the Blue Boar public house which is a highly patronised establishment welcoming customers from not only the village but surrounding towns and counties.

ii. High Street and Tuck's Lane

SPACES: GAPS BETWEEN BUILT ELEMENTS – STREETS, GARDENS, ETC.

High Street winds its way throughout the core of the village and includes some very large homes and the Village Hall. The High Street has a slightly greater width, a feeling enhanced by the fact that most properties are detached and set back from the street frontage with the exception of the tall stone and brick topped wall of The Old Rectory on the south/west side of High Street.

Plots are relatively large, with spaces in between and (with the exception of The Old Rectory) all properties front onto the street with space on most for off-street parking and garages. High Street is macadamed and is provided with street lighting.

Tuck's Lane is relatively narrow lane which leads from the Blue Boar public house down a substantial hill towards Harrowdown Hill and the Thames. Properties, mainly on the end of the road adjacent to the High Street, are also reasonably large, have more space between them than those on High Street. They also front onto the road with space for off-street parking.

BUILDINGS:

Most of the properties on both High Street and Tuck's Lane are traditionally built (stone, brick) with the exception of one very modern home on Tuck's Lane. Red brick is possibly more evident in the High Street character area than elsewhere in the village due to its use in The Red House, Betteshanger House and Moorlands between the two.

The Tuck's Lane character area is primarily stone-built housing. Former farmhouses with associated agricultural buildings make up the major building types that help define the particular character of this area together with medium sized houses in larger plots. They are all detached and are some of the best examples of extremely high quality properties in the village. Most have attached or detached garages and most have space for off-road parking.

Boundary walls are an important element of the street scene throughout the character area although hedges are also important along Tuck's Lane.

VIEWS:

Standing on the High Street, you are surrounded by large houses behind stone walls built from traditional materials, mainly stone and brick, with the rendered Old Post Office at the end on the square. Most gardens seem to have mature trees, there is a feeling of light and space around because the houses are quite well spaced out.

GREENERY & LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

All properties on both High Street and Tuck's Lane have trees and plants at the front of, beside and to the rear of the properties. Boundary walls and hedges are used to delineate boundaries between properties. High Street remains level throughout, whilst Tuck's Lane descends down a fairly steep incline towards Harrowdown Hill. There is an even balance of shade and light throughout the day, although more shade is available on their properties due to the larger

number of trees.

NOISE & SMELL: MAN MADE OR NATURAL

Occasional odours from farming fertilisers can be detected. Occasional noise from the Blue Boar public house can be detected on evenings/afternoons for those living closer to the pub. Occasional noise from the Village Hall can be heard on evenings/afternoons for those living closer to the hall.

SPIRIT OF PLACE:

High Street forms the core of the village and as such is used for many activities for the village on the street itself and at the Village Hall. As such, this can be one of the most active areas of the village. However, due to the size and structure of the properties, it is also one of the most attractive and holds some of the highest priced properties in the Village.

iii. Rectory Lane

SPACES: GAPS BETWEEN BUILT ELEMENTS – STREETS, GARDENS, ETC.

Rectory Lane is a straight road leading from High Street to Hinton Road, the lane is macadamed and forms the western border of the village. It runs parallel to Cow Lane which forms the eastern border. Multiple properties run down the west side of Rectory Lane from the High Street whilst The Old Rectory together with its garden and surrounding land continues on the east side of Rectory Lane all the way down to Hinton Road. Excepting the north end of Rectory Lane, where the High Street character area tends to overlap, the properties along the lane are set in narrow plots that lie with their greater length parallel to the street. Squirrel Cottage closes the view along the lane to the south (although this property is on Hinton Road, please see that section for more details).

The feeling of being outside of the core of the village is enhanced by the field to the east with its large roadside hedge, the spaces between houses and the use of hedging or shrubs to the boundaries of some of the gardens although these can be associated with low stone walls. The garden of The Old Rectory is bordered by medium height hedges along its eastern border.

There are few street lamps for night-time illumination.

BUILDINGS:

Many of the west side properties along Rectory Lane originated as relatively small cottages set within plots that appear to have been taken out of roadside waste. They are medium-to-large in size with plots smaller than those on High Street and with buildings, both houses and barns, predominantly set gable end on to the street, fronting the lane. All have spaces in between and have room for off-road parking to the front of the houses.

VIEWS:

Due to the set back nature of The Old Rectory on the east-side of Rectory Lane, the views along

the lane are a mix of housing to the west and hedges/grazing fields to the east.

GREENERY & LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

The properties on Rectory Lane have a variety of tree and plant levels. Those closer to the High Street and Hinton Road contain more trees and plants than those in between. The grounds of The Old Rectory to the east of the lane consists of a large amount of trees and shrubs, opening up to a substantial field on the south portion of the property (and north of Hinton Road) that is used for grazing.

There is an even balance of shade and light throughout the day, although more shade is available to the grounds and gardens of The Old Rectory due to the amount of trees within the boundaries.

NOISE & SMELL: MAN MADE OR NATURAL

The occasional odour of farming fertiliser can be detected.

SPIRIT OF PLACE:

Rectory Lane continues the built-up area of the core of the village by containing contiguous housing all along the lane down to Hinton Road although there is an increasing impression of being outside the core and feeling of open spaces and rural atmosphere due to the fields to the east

iv. Church Lane

SPACES: GAPS BETWEEN BUILT ELEMENTS – STREETS, GARDENS, ETC.

Church Lane is accessed from the western end of the High Street. Initially the lane, the surface of which is macadamed, progresses north turning west toward Longworth Manor and St Mary's Church after about 80 yards. Church Lane is a cul de sac and although two way, is not wide enough for pavements on either side.

Most of the houses to the northern side of the lane have been built very close to the lane itself and apart from frontages to the village allotments towards the eastern end of the lane and a field between St Mary's Church and The Rectory to the western end provide a continuous built environment.

To the south side of the lane there are three houses at the western end with the rest of the frontage being within the ownership of Haugh House, a substantial dwelling with a large stone walled garden. Also within the curtilage of Haugh House is a paddock with an approximate lane frontage of about 80 yards.

Street lighting is provided to the eastern end of the lane.

BUILDINGS:

There are a few semi-detached homes on Church Lane but most are detached and built of stone although there are also some of brick construction with a few rendered. The houses sit on plots of varying size and some of irregular shape. The majority of the houses were built during the 20th Century however some dwellings date back some 200 or more years. Church Cottage, one of the older buildings in the lane is thatched whilst the roofs of the others are tiled. St Marys Church dating back to the 13th Century, is stone built and largely rendered with exposed quoins and set within a reasonably sized churchyard.

VIEWS:

Views from the eastern end of the lane are over the village allotments and beyond to the north and from the western end, extensive views are provided also to the north toward the River Thames and beyond. Westward views capture St Mary's Church and Longworth Manor and part of the grounds thereof.

GREENERY & LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

All properties along Church Lane have trees and plants to the front and rear of the properties. There is an even balance of shade and light throughout the day.

NOISE & SMELL: MAN MADE OR NATURAL

The occasional odour of farming fertiliser can be detected.

SPIRIT OF PLACE:

With the allotments, which are regularly used by residents of both Longworth and neighbouring villages, and Longworth Manor together with St Mary's Church, the former hosting various annual village events, located at opposite ends of Church Lane, the area is probably the most traversed by differing members of the neighbourhood. The area does however remain tranquil and quiet as the lane is a cul de sac and as such is not part of the main vehicular thoroughfare through the village.

v. Bowbank, Bowbank Close and School Close

SPACES: GAPS BETWEEN BUILT ELEMENTS – STREETS, GARDENS, ETC.

Bowbank, Bowbank Close and School Close are some of the newer areas of housing within the village, with most properties being semi-detached, mid-20th century homogeneous style. This area also encompasses the Longworth Primary and Pre-Schools at the end of School Close and the Longworth playground is located on Bow Bank, at the end of a cul-de-sac.

Plots are generally regular in shape and are fairly large but quite closely positioned, not allowing for much space between properties.

Whilst the roads leading to/from the school/ pre-school are built to accommodate modern

vehicles, on-street parking causes some traffic issues with children being brought to or picked up during peak hours. The number of vehicles using these roads can regularly cause some congestion around school pick up/ drop off times.

The Longworth Playground is listed in the Longworth Neighbourhood Plan as a protected Local Green Space. It is used by many children within the village and from neighbouring communities. It contains many pieces of play equipment, is bordered by a fence and trees/shrubs on all sides.

All the roads within this area are macadamed and there are many street lamps for night-time illumination.

BUILDINGS:

Houses are predominantly red brick and tile facing the road, on relatively large plots of land providing rear gardens. Houses are set back slightly from the road, most with off road parking and front gardens. Red brick walls and tree lined streets are a feature of the development. Many properties in this area were originally Council housing but are now mainly privately owned.

VIEWS:

The area is fairly self-contained with most properties in this area backing on to other properties (however buildings to the north of Bow Bank benefit from rural views over paddocks and trees from their back gardens). The use of grass verges and trees throughout maintains a rural landscape within this area.

GREENERY & LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

The streets are tree-lined, but the properties themselves do not contain as many trees or shrubs as other areas of the village. All the properties are on mains water. There is an even balance of shade and light throughout the day.

NOISE & SMELL: MAN MADE OR NATURAL

The occasional odour of farming fertiliser can be detected.

SPIRIT OF PLACE:

With the close proximity of the schools and the playground, this area of the village is frequented and used by children of the village probably more than any other area. The number of families with younger children living in this area mean that the cul-de-sac on Bow Bank often has children playing in the street. The look and feel of the housing is more modern than most of the other areas of the village.

vi. Cow Lane

SPACES: GAPS BETWEEN BUILT ELEMENTS – STREETS, GARDENS, ETC.

Cow Lane forms the eastern border of the core of the village and runs parallel to Rectory Lane which forms the western border. It is a narrow, rural lane.

The number of houses decreases the farther south on the lane, with open spaces increasing as the number of houses decreases. Due to the lane being very narrow there are occasional issues with traffic, especially with farm or larger vehicles going in opposite directions at the same time.

The feeling of being outside the built-up areas of the village is enhanced by fields to the east and the west together with high roadside hedges on both sides of the lane and significant spaces between houses.

There are few street lamps for night-time illumination and the surface of the lane is macadamed.

BUILDINGS:

There is little consistency of the type, form and scale or positioning of houses/properties on the lane ranging from farmhouses to 1950s builds such as Orchard Cottage and its neighbours. Substantial gaps exist between properties, with open fields and paddocks on both sides.

VIEWS:

The view is narrow, and channelled by the high hedges. Glimpses of open farmland, paddocks and gardens complement the rural feel of the place.

GREENERY & LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

All the properties on the lane have a substantial amount of trees and plants. There is an even balance of shade and light throughout the day.

NOISE & SMELL: MAN MADE OR NATURAL

The occasional odour of farming fertiliser can be detected.

SPIRIT OF PLACE:

This area of the village is one of the least populated in the village and contains a very low number of properties. The sense of open spaces and rural atmosphere is particularly strong due to the low level of housing.

vii. Sudbury Lane

SPACES: GAPS BETWEEN BUILT ELEMENTS – STREETS, GARDENS, ETC.

Sudbury Lane is a single, narrow lane that leads to a rural farm track. Plots are quite large with both front and back gardens and space to the front for off-road parking which is necessary due to the extreme narrowness of the road. All houses are set back from the lane facing the views to the South, set behind low stone walls.

There are no street lamps which befits the rural nature of the place. The lane which is macadamed turns into a footpath to the East.

BUILDINGS:

Housing exists solely to the north of this lane, with the south side consisting of open farm land. There is a variety in form and scale of the housing, a mixture of farm houses and newer builds. Older farmhouses are built of stone and slate roofs. More recent developments are red brick or rendered with tile roofs.

VIEWS:

Wide rural views of the fields to the South are afforded at all points along the Lane. Short views of the footpath to the East are visible at the end of the lane.

GREENERY & LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

All the properties on Sudbury Lane have substantial trees and shrubs. There is an even balance of shade and light throughout the day.

NOISE & SMELL: MAN MADE OR NATURAL

The occasional odour of farming fertiliser can be detected.

SPIRIT OF PLACE:

This area is located outside the core of the village and due to its views of the expanse of farmlands to the south have the look and feel of open spaces and rural atmosphere.

viii. Harris Lane, Appleton Road and Green Lane

SPACES: GAPS BETWEEN BUILT ELEMENTS – STREETS, GARDENS, ETC.

This area which consists of ribbon development sits on the outskirts of the village, which stretches from Cow Lane to the west to the A415 to the east. However, due to the number of houses and properties, there is a sense of being within a built-up area, particularly on Harris Lane. Two of the three roads are macadamed, Appleton Road experiences some traffic issues with speed as it is a continuation of Hinton Road which runs fairly straight between Hinton Waldrist (the village to the west of Longworth) and the A415 to the east.

The junction of Appleton Road, Green Lane and Cow Lane (heading north) can cause traffic issues due to the closeness to the road of the houses on the corners and the narrowness of the roads.

There are occasional street lamps and speed restriction signs.

BUILDINGS:

There is a variety of types of housing in this area, mostly made up of detached and semi-detached houses, with one substantial farm to the south on Green Lane and another to the east on Appleton Road heading towards the A415. Houses are predominantly built of red brick and tile, set back from the road set behind hedges and have low stone walls with front and back garden areas. Most are modern builds.

VIEWS:

This character area contains a mixture of types of housing and is surrounded on all sides by farmlands and open fields.

GREENERY & LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

The properties on these roads have limited amounts of trees and shrubs on or near their properties as the surrounding area is mostly farm land. There is an even balance of shade and light throughout the day.

NOISE & SMELL: MAN MADE OR NATURAL

The occasional odour of farming fertiliser can be detected.

SPIRIT OF PLACE:

This area is the farthest away from the core of the village and being surrounded by farmlands is one of the areas which feels the open spaces and rural atmosphere the most.

ix. Hinton Road and Lodge Lane

SPACES: GAPS BETWEEN BUILT ELEMENTS – STREETS, GARDENS, ETC.

The area of Hinton Road and Lodge Lane encompasses the north section of the road that becomes Pinewoods Road as it continues south and the east-west running as Hinton Road up to Cow Lane/Green Lane. Both are macadamed. Hinton Road is a continuation of a fairly straight road running from Hinton Waldrist (village neighbouring to the west) and becomes Appleton Road (see that section for more information). The straightness of this road causes some traffic issues with speeding. The properties are well-placed with good amounts of space in between.

There are few street lamps and some speed restriction signs.

BUILDINGS:

There is a mixture of detached and semi-detached properties in this area which also encompasses a sizable nursery on the north side of Hinton Road. The type, size and positioning of the houses also varies, some close to the road, some set back from the road. All have off-street parking and some have garages. Materials mostly include traditional stone and brick edging. Some properties date back to the early 19th century whilst others are new builds designed and built in keeping with the character of the neighbouring properties.

VIEWS:

Located well outside the core of the village, all the properties in this area are surrounded by farmlands and have substantial views of the same.

GREENERY & LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

The properties in this area have substantial trees and plants throughout their properties. There is an even balance of shade and light throughout the day.

NOISE & SMELL: MAN MADE OR NATURAL

The occasional odour of farming fertiliser can be detected.

SPIRIT OF PLACE:

Being surrounded by extensive farmlands and open fields, this area is one where the sense of open spaces and rural atmosphere is most heavily experienced.

Appendix D

Local Green Spaces Evidence Base

The Neighbourhood Plan designates two Local Green Spaces:

- i. The Parish Allotments**
- ii. Longworth Recreational Playing Field**

We have shown their locations on the maps below and on the policies map elsewhere in this LNP.

We set out below justification as to why we believe these important spaces meet the criteria established in the NPPF for Local Green Spaces.

i. The Parish Allotments

NPPF Criteria 1: The designation should only be used where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves.

The site comprises 1.55 hectares (3.825 acres) and is centrally located in the village broadly to the northern periphery with views overlooking Harrowdown Hill (*see map*).

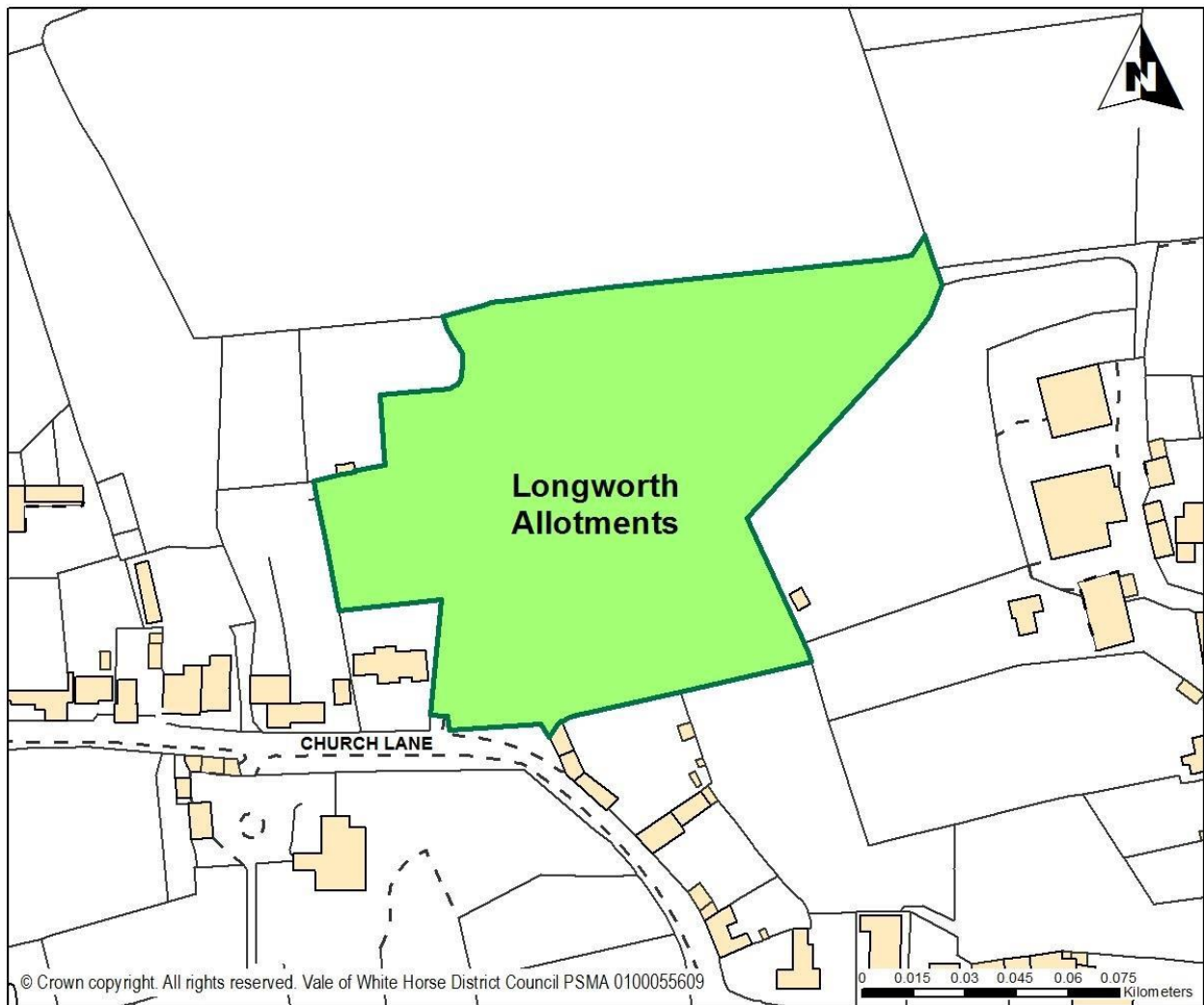
NPPF Criteria 2: The designation should only be used where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife.

The land is owned by the Parish Council and has been dedicated to the villagers' use of allotments for over 114 years. The majority of the allotment plots are farmed by Longworth villagers and a limited number have been made available and have been taken up by residents in adjoining villages.

The allotments allow and encourage a cross section of villagers to integrate and communicate which provides a huge benefit to and enhances the furtherance of "village community life". The allotments provide environmental and social benefits to the community. The area also provides considerable tranquility and promotes and encourages a rich form of wildlife.

NPPF Criteria 3: The designation should only be used where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

The allotments are most definitely local in character – a wide cross-section of the local community use the allotments. They have been in existence and farmed by the community for over 114 years which confirms its significant local character.



ii. Longworth Recreational Playing Field

NPPF Criteria 1: The designation should only be used where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves.

The Recreational Playing Field comprises a rectangular area of land computing to approximately 0.2 hectares (0.487 acres). The Playing Field is located to the eastern side of the village within the built up area and is surrounded on all sides by established housing. Longworth Primary School is within a few minutes' walk.

The surrounding houses typically accommodate a larger proportion of children than elsewhere in the village given firstly the close proximity of Longworth Primary School and secondly the area benefits from a large concentration of family homes.

NPPF Criteria 2: The designation should only be used where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for

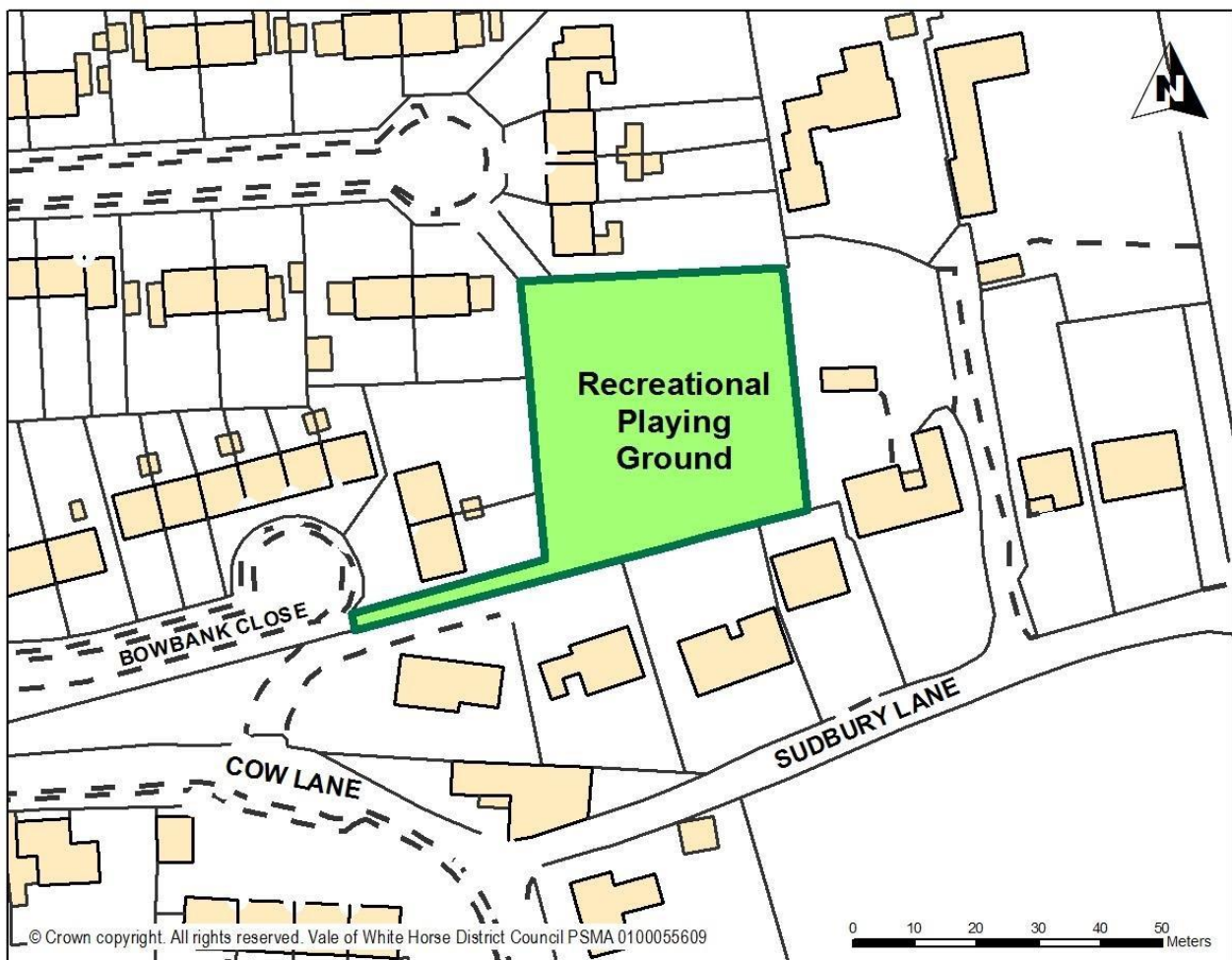
example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife.

The site was established as a recreational playing field some 13 years ago (30 – Sep- 2002) and has been recently substantially improved with the replacement of a number of play items and equipment. The total cost of the work amounted to approximately £32,000 and was funded in its entirety through local fundraising and successful grant applications. Needless to say the fundraising required to provide the capital needed would not have been successful unless the playing field was popular and well used.

NPPF Criteria 3: Where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

The Recreational Playing Field provides an important safe and secure environment within which children can exercise and play. Its popularity continues and it forms an integral part of village community life.

The site is bounded on all sides by existing residential development in the village and only measures approx. 0.2ha which is not considered to be extensive.



Cabinet Report



Report of Interim Head of Development, Regeneration and Housing

Author: Gerry Brough

Telephone: 01235 422470

Textphone: 18001 01235 422470

E-mail: gerry.brough@southandvale.com

Wards affected: All

Cabinet member responsible: Matthew Barber

Tel: 07816 481452

E-mail: matthew.barber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

To: CABINET

Date: 7 October 2016

Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)

Recommendation

That Cabinet either resolves or recommends Council to:

- a) Welcome some of the changes made to the SEP which seek to make it “shorter and clearer” and acknowledges that this has largely been achieved.
- b) Support the broad thrust of the SEP document; in terms of the stated vision, identified strengths weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and proposed actions.
- c) Believe the document would be more robust if it;
 - more fully addressed the issues highlighted in the body of this report, and
 - more clearly linked actions to identified issues, and confirmed where responsibility lies for implementing these various actions.

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Cabinet members with a brief summary of the Oxfordshire SEP; highlight some key points within the document; outline issues that have already been raised during the formal SEP public consultation period that have not been fully addressed in the final document; and recommend a possible response to the LEP’s request for Council endorsement of the document.

Corporate Objectives

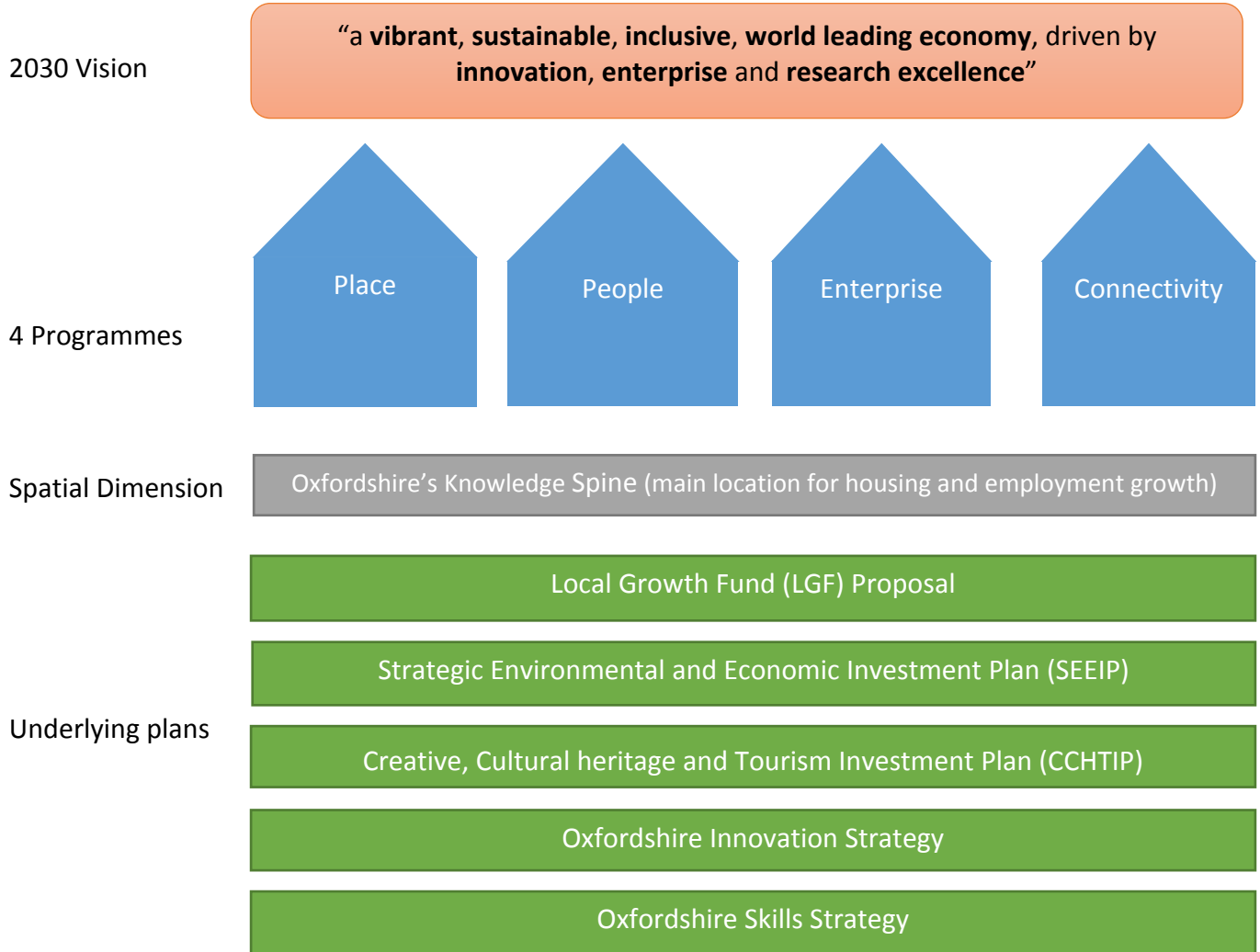
2. Accepting the recommendations in this paper will contribute to the following Corporate priorities:

Corporate Priority	Contributes to (Yes/No)
• Excellent delivery of key services	• No
• Effective management of resources	• No
• Meeting housing need	• Yes
• Building the local economy	• Yes
• Support for communities	• Yes

Background

3. Officers have previously briefed Cabinet members on the process for developing a refreshed Oxfordshire SEP.
4. As a result of feedback from members, officers were asked to ensure that:
 - a. Copies of the refreshed SEP be placed on the Council's website so visitors to the website could comment on the document, via a dedicated email address, if they so wished to do.
 - b. The refreshed document is discussed at Joint Scrutiny Committee, so cabinet could take their comments into account when determining whether/how to endorse the refreshed SEP
 - c. Cabinet be kept informed of developments with regard to the SEP
 - d. A subsequent paper be presented to October cabinet meetings, summarising key aspects of the refreshed SEP document and recommending how Council should respond to the LEP's request that the refreshed SEP be steered through Council's democratic process, with a view to endorsing the document.
5. The refreshed SEP was circulated, in electronic form, to all cabinet members and the document has subsequently been ratified by the LEP Board at their Board meeting on 5 September 2016.
6. The document was also placed in the Business Section of the Council's website with the following invitation:

The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) is currently refreshing the Strategic Economic Plan so it can align better with Oxfordshire's current economic environment. We have received a final draft version of the Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan. Oxfordshire Local Economic Partnership have asked our Cabinet to endorse its' content at their next meeting in October. The document can be accessed via [the Oxfordshire LEP website](#). The Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan document has already been subject to a full public consultation process. However if you would like to comment on this, in advance of our cabinet meeting, you can do so by emailing sepconsultation@whitehorsedc.gov.uk by Friday 30 September 2016
7. South and Vale's Joint Scrutiny committee subsequently discussed the refreshed SEP at their meeting on 22 September 2016.
8. The SEP proposes to achieve an agreed vision by addressing strengths weakness, opportunities and threats, and initiating actions, related to four main programme areas. The plan has a spatial dimension, in as much as it recognises that most new homes and employment growth will be located in Oxford's Knowledge Spine, and is underpinned by a series of other detailed plans and proposals. This is summarised in the following diagram.



9. Some key points worth noting are as follows:

- Many of the issues highlighted during the consultation period have been addressed
- **The SEP refresh document is based on growth forecasts within the District's adopted and emerging Local Plans**, involving an additional c. **88,000 jobs** between 2011 and 2031 and c. **100,000 new homes**
- To put this in context;
 - Between 1991 and 2011, total jobs in the county increased by 94,000, or 42%, compared to the forecast jobs growth of 23% between 2011 and 2031
 - South and Vale, alone, have already approved the construction of c 9,500 new homes, and are currently dealing with applications for a further c. 13,800.
- An Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy, including utilities, energy and flood alleviation action plans, is due to be produced for Spring 2017.
- The SEP refresh document "focuses on strategy rather than the details of delivery". However, The SEP refresh document would have been stronger if;
 - more detail had been provided to indicate how the strategy intends to build on strengths, address weaknesses, exploit opportunities and respond to threats,

- the proposed actions were more directly linked to the identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats,
- a clear indication was provided of where the main responsibility lies for implementing these proposed actions, and
- the spatial dimension was articulated in more detail to provide a more County-wide perspective, rather than the current Oxford-centric perspective.

10. During the course of the SEP consultation process, South and Vale officers raised a number of issues relating to the draft version of the SEP document. Some of these have been addressed completely, some partially and some have been ignored. Additionally a number of further issues were highlighted during the discussion at Joint Scrutiny Committee. As a result, the proposed final version of the SEP does not fully address the following issues;

- The need to produce a less Oxford-centric document and to see greater recognition of, and detail concerning, the R&D hubs of Culham, Harwell, Howbery Park.
- There are three identified hubs in Oxfordshire, Bicester, Oxford and Science Vale, however equal weight has not been given to these and the SEP fails to recognise that if employment growth were to be spread more around the county then the pressures on the roads, on Oxford itself and the green belt, would be greatly reduced.
- More emphasis should be placed on the potential contribution Oxfordshire's Enterprise Zones and Garden Towns can make to future economic growth.
- There is still little reference to how the LEP is going to improve the conversion of R&D into private sector business growth.
- In considering Oxfordshire's strengths the document should also look at sectors that are doing less well and indicate which companies are leaving the county and why.
- The Oxfordshire economy is dominated by companies of under 20 employees. This is more pronounced than other high tech economies. However, there is no aspiration to try and redress this balance by nurturing the growth of high potential companies and high value sectors.
- There is only a passing reference to self-employment, which is one of Oxfordshire's fastest growing employment forms. Trends towards self-employment and home working needs to be analysed and an assessment made of the types of support required.
- There is little reference to the high proportion of public sector jobs in Oxfordshire or any consideration of how this imbalance can be redressed.
- It would be useful if more detail were provided on forecast jobs growth in the core economic growth areas of the districts, such as in Science Vale for example, and the issues and constraints faced by businesses in these particular areas.
- There is insufficient reference to the importance of suitable business accommodation and available land for housing. The lack of suitable business space and suitable accommodation for key workers is often sighted by companies as a reason for chosen alternative locations elsewhere. The strategy should include actions to support the needs of growth companies.

- The strategy could better outline actions for encouraging the adoption of energy efficient approaches and other means of improving productivity. Our broadband roll-out, for example, is already well behind the performance required by business, yet this issues is given little prominence and objectives for this crucial area are weak.
- The SEP is too narrowly focussed, failing to take into account the impact of major developments close to but outside Oxfordshire e.g. Haddenham and Princes Risborough.
- The map detailing Oxfordshire’s growth corridors (Figure 10) was unhelpful since it covered most of the County apart from Thame & Chinnor.
- The continuing problems of broadband connectivity in both districts has not been addressed, and this is a potentially severe impediment to small business growth and an increased level of home working.
- The response rate from the business sector to the document has been extremely disappointing and, although separate additional consultation events were held involving businesses, the overall low level of business participation is disappointing.
- A risk register should be included as an appendix to the SEP.
- Future educational infrastructure requirements should have been addressed in more detail, especially in connection with how this infrastructure can support the job market and future skills agenda.
- The Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy, including utilities, energy and flood alleviation action plans, is not due to be produced until the spring of 2017, whereas members of our scrutiny committee questioned whether a robust SEP could be produced without such a critical underpinning strategy.
- The strategy should include proposals for;
 - converting R&D to technology readiness and manufacturing.
 - altering the balance between micro-businesses and medium/ large enterprises.
 - undertaking a review of funds and support for high growth businesses, in order to harness scarce resources as effectively as possible.
 - developing an Oxfordshire-wide strategy for schools and further education to better support the local economy
 - integrating skills and business development programmes to improve the coherence of the Oxfordshire offer to business.

11. Finally, it should be noted that during the course of discussing the SEP, the Joint Scrutiny Committee noted that, although this paper was due to be submitted to both South Oxfordshire’s and Vale of White Horse’s Cabinets, it was the committee’s view that both Cabinets should defer approving any recommendations or forming any response pending consideration of the SEP by both Council meetings.

Options

Not applicable

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Legal Implications

Not applicable

Risks

12. Key risks are as follows;

- That the SEP is adopted and published by the LEP without taking full account of the issues concerning South Oxfordshire DC
- That the SEP does not provide the LEP with a sufficiently robust basis for determining future priorities and actions
- That strengths and opportunities are not fully exploited and weaknesses and threats not fully addressed.
- That the plan may fail to address significant issues facing local communities because it is not necessarily relevant to, or inclusive of, the whole County.

Other implications

13. None

Conclusion

14. That the SEP does not fully address many of the issues raised by South and Vale officers and members. South and Vale's Joint Scrutiny Committee has also asked both cabinets to consider deferring any formal response, pending consideration of the SEP at both South Oxfordshire's and Vale of White Horse's next Council meetings.