

SYNOPSIS

- The Committee will recall that a Local Plan consultation exercise was carried out in February 2013, which set out how many homes needed to be built in the period up to 2029 based on the District's allocation as set out in the South East Plan, which was effectively the RSS. Since then, the RSS has been revoked and a new approach for calculating an objective assessment of housing need has been introduced called a Strategic Housing Market Assessment, referred to as SHMA.
- The SHMA adopts a county wide approach for Oxfordshire and covers a slightly longer period to 2031. The implications of this work, based on similar exercises across the country are that housing numbers are expected to be greater than those relied upon in RSS, which effectively renders the February 2013 consultation exercise obsolete and requiring further attention.
- In response to this the Council has been working on a new draft of the emerging Local Plan, which after the SHMA process has been formally completed, will set out how many homes need to be built in the plan period extended to 2031, and in particular, will set out our proposals for where these should be built.
- The draft Plan is ready to undergo additional consultation subject to confirmation of the final housing requirement. The consultation document will mainly focus on the housing target and sites. We have examined a range of potential development sites that could meet both short and long term needs, and in particular, allow us to meet our 5 year land supply target and be more effective in the planning process.
- The Plan will also set out the intention to produce an Area Action Plan jointly with South Oxfordshire Council, to drive forward the effective delivery of the Science Vale Oxford area. The local plan sub-area strategy for South East Vale will be updated to help ensure sustainable growth with jobs, housing and infrastructure proposals fully integrated.
- The Plan will also, in identifying where proposed new development sites are to be located, will explain how the Green Belt and special landscape

designations such as the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will be handled and how sustainable development will be delivered and how the balance between conservation and growth will be achieved.

- The report to Scrutiny will including setting out how the duty to cooperate requirement has been addressed.
- Finally, the report will make clear how the community are to be involved in the Plan making process. A new local development scheme (the work program for all planning documents) will be published setting out all of the key milestones for plan making right up to final adoption of the plan