

BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL



MEETING OF BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL

Ref: BTC02/2021

**Tuesday 1st September 2020
at
7.00pm**

**BY ZOOM
(PLEASE SEE AGENDA FOR LOGIN DETAILS)**

Circulation:

Town Mayor: Councillor Jason Slaymaker

Members

**Cllr Nick Cotter
Cllr Dan Hallett
Cllr Harry Knight
Cllr Nick Mawer
Cllr Zoe McLernon
Cllr James Metcalf
Cllr Richard Mould
Cllr Robert Nixon
Cllr Lynn Pratt
Cllr Dan Sames
Cllr Les Sibley
Cllr Jason Slaymaker
Cllr Alex Thrupp
Cllr Fraser Webster**

Other Circulation

**Cllr Lawrie Stratford – OCC
Cllr Michael Waine – OCC
Cllr Tom Wallis – CDC
Cllr Lucinda Wing – CDC**

**Bicester Advertiser
Bicester Review
Oxford Mail
Bicester Library
BTC Copy**



BTC04/2021

Council Offices,
The Garth,
Launton Road,
Bicester
Oxon, OX26 6PS

Telephone: 01869 252915
Email: enquiries@bicester.gov.uk

Monday 24th August 2020

Sir/Madam

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting a meeting of the Council by **Zoom** on **Tuesday 1st September 2020** to commence at **7.00pm** for the transaction of the following business.

In line with the Coronavirus Act 2020 and subsequent regulations governing local authorities' meetings, the Council will be holding this meeting via the online video conference facility, Zoom.

To join the Zoom meeting follow this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84924209545>

Meeting ID: 849 2420 9545

Password: (to ensure online security it is recommended that meeting passwords are not publicised and are given directly to those intending to attend the meeting. Please therefore email enquiries@bicester.gov.uk for the password at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting date)

Telephone number to join by audio only: 0203 051 2874 (you will be prompted to enter the meeting ID and password before joining the meeting)

Samantha Shippen
Chief Officer

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960

Copy Attached	Agenda item No	AGENDA
	1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
	2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Councillors are reminded to declare any interests on any item on this agenda in accordance with Bicester Town Council's Code of Conduct.
	3	PUBLIC SESSION In accordance with Standing Orders 1 d-f, members of the public may make representations, ask questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. Time allocated shall not exceed 10 minutes. No member of the public shall speak for more than 2 minutes.

Copy Attached	Agenda item No	AGENDA
✓	4	MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING To confirm the minutes and RESOLUTIONS contained in the minutes of the following Town Council meeting: BTC03/2021 – 22nd June 2020
✓	5	MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING To confirm the minutes and RESOLUTIONS contained in the minutes of the following Environment Committee meeting: ENV02/2021 – 21st July 2020
✓	6	MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING To confirm the minutes and RESOLUTIONS contained in the minutes of the following Finance Committee meeting: FIN02/2021 – 27th July 2020
✓	7	MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS To confirm the minutes and RESOLUTIONS contained in the minutes of the following Planning Committee meetings: PL03/2021 – 13th July 2020 PL04/2021 – 10th August 2020
✓	8	QUESTIONS ON WORKING PARTIES & OTHER GROUPS Members are asked to raise any questions they may have regarding the minutes of Working Parties and Other Groups contained in the Minute Book.
✓	9	REPORT FROM OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY/ CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS A report may be delivered to Bicester Town Council from Oxfordshire County and Cherwell District Councillors.
	10	REPORT OF THE TOWN MAYOR Council is requested to note the following matters from the Mayor: • 1st August – Grand opening of 96 Sheep Street
✓	11	CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL – LOCAL PLAN REVIEW CONSULTATION Committee is requested to consider the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040 Community Involvement Paper for comment.

Copy Attached	Agenda item No	AGENDA
✓	12	FREEDOM OF ENTRY Committee is requested to consider the attached report.
✓	13	INVESTMENTS UPDATE Committee is requested to consider the attached report.
✓	14	BANKING ARRANGEMENTS Committee is requested to consider the attached report.
✓	15	CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CONTRACT Committee is requested to consider the attached report.
✓	16	DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 23rd November 2020 – 7pm CLOSE OF MEETING:

BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL

Tuesday 1 September 2020

CHERWELL LOCAL PLAN 2040

Mayor: Councillor Jason Slaymaker
Jason.slaymaker@bicester.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Samantha Shippen – Chief Officer
01869 252915 samantha.shippen@bicester.gov.uk

Ward Affected: All

1. Background

- 1.1 The Planning Committee at the meeting held on 10 August 2020, considered Cherwell District Council Local Plan Review 2040 – Planning for Cherwell to 2040: A Community Involvement Paper.
<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsultation>
- 1.2 In conclusion, the Committee resolved that Councillors feed comments directly to the Chief Officer to enable a discussion at Council on 1st September (Minute 072/2021).
- 1.3 The Chief Officer circulated a summary to councillors on 11 August. At the time of writing comments have been received from one councillor and are included in the revised summary at Appendix 1.
- 1.4 Council is requested to review and comment on the Local Plan documents to enable a response to be made during the consultation period which runs to Monday 14th September 2020.

2. Recommendation

The Council is recommended to comment the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040.

Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040
Planning for Cherwell to 2040 - A Community Involvement Paper

Cherwell District Council has prepared the *Planning for Cherwell to 2040: A Community Involvement Paper* as the first stage of consultation to inform a new district wide Local Plan. The relevant documents can be found online at <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsultation> This paper has been prepared as a summary to help focus thoughts on the consultation. It is not a replacement for the document itself.

They are engaging with local communities, partners and stakeholders to ensure that a wide cross-section of views are obtained to identify, understand and examine the main social, environmental and economic needs that they will have to consider when planning for Cherwell's future development needs. The Paper does not contain any proposals or policy options, but highlights needs and issues to stimulate discussion and debate.

They are also making a 'call for sites' and inviting comments on a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

It is most important to comment at the various stages of Local Plan development as this is the process which sets the policies going forward. It could be argued that this is much more important than commenting on individual planning applications as the outcome relies on the local policies.

Local plan policies must be considered when determining planning applications. The main strategic policies are currently found in the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 adopted in 2015. It is that plan that identified the development sites that can be seen today at the edges of Banbury and Bicester and at Heyford Park. It also sets the policies for the distribution of new housing in rural areas. You will no doubt have an opinion on these new developments. We are also nearing the end of a process that undertook a 'Partial Review' of that Plan to help meet Oxford's Unmet Housing Needs, something which the Council committed to back in 2015. Finally, they have some policies dating back to a Local Plan adopted by the Council in 1996.

Bicester has 24% of the district population of approx. 150,000 (i.e 36,000 residents)

COVID-19 IMPACT (pg 4-5)

Potential effect on

- Employment
- Businesses esp small local companies
- Tourism, retail & hospitality sectors
- town centres
- internal & external home space
- green spaces
- health & well-being esp mental health
- public transport
- improvement of cycling & walking
- development of strong resilient communities
- ways of working

Question 1: Purpose of this Document – What planning policies might we need to help us if COVID-19 persists? What lessons can we learn to help us plan for the future?

IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES & NEEDS (pg 10 – 38)

National, regional and local strategies.

National – three overarching interdependent objectives

- Economic
- Social
- Environmental

New Planning White Paper.

Regional –

OxLEP Strategic Economic Plan – encouraging investment in the “Knowledge Spine” including Bicester;

OxLEP Local Industrial Strategy to deliver transformative economic growth.

Oxfordshire Growth Board - oversees the Oxfordshire Housing & Growth Deal up to £215m to support infrastructure provision and delivery of 100,000 homes by 2031. Oxford – Cambridge Arc.

Oxfordshire Plan 2050

Oxfordshire Strategic Infrastructure Strategy

OCC Local Transport & Connectivity Plan

Local –

Cherwell Housing Strategy –

- Increase the supply and diversity of affordable housing to ensure the right types of housing are available in the right places
- Improve the quality and sustainability of our homes and build thriving, healthy communities.
- Enhance opportunities for people to access suitable homes and have housing choices;

Cherwell Industrial Strategy (in production)

- contain a long-term economic vision
- set out the Council’s economic ambitions for the next 10 years
- establish an economic framework for priorities such as business retention and growth, infrastructure for business, the development of skills, generating enterprise, inward investment and the visitor experience.

Identified areas for new information & evidence

- climate change,
- green infrastructure (including biodiversity, natural capital, ecosystems, open space and playing fields),
- transport,
- health and well-being challenges,
- town centres and retail,
- economic development,
- infrastructure provision,
- land availability, site suitability and deliverability.

Question 2: Identification of Issues and Needs – What evidence do you think the Council needs to prepare the Cherwell Local Plan Review?

- The affordability and availability of suitable homes to meet the needs of our residents is a major issue;
- In September 2019, the average property price in Cherwell (£315,000) was 31% higher than across England (£240,000).
- The mean affordability ratios are now 10.43 times workplace-based earnings in Cherwell, compared with 10.12 in South East England and 7.83 times in England.
- the affordability of both market and rented housing, particularly social rent tenure, remains a key issue.

Housing	
Key issues	How the Cherwell Local Plan Review might address these key issues
To support the Government's objective of significantly boosting the supply of homes, it is important that a sufficient amount and variety of land can come forward where it is needed, that the needs of groups with specific housing requirements are addressed and that land with permission is developed without unnecessary delay. The need to ensure that location, dwelling size, tenure, provision of affordable housing, specialist housing (including supported living for older people and community-led housing) meets the needs of Cherwell.	By having a strategy to meet the assessed housing requirements of the district and identifying enough housing sites to meet those requirements.
Affordable housing for key workers.	By setting out the mix of homes to be achieved on sites around the district having regard to identified needs in the local area. Undertaking a review of affordable housing requirements, taking into account viability. Secure mixed tenure, mixed size developments to enable the provision of balanced new neighbourhoods. Supporting developments that include supported living accommodation for the elderly and those with physical or learning disabilities. Promoting the development of a range of property types and sizes that include accessible and adaptable, and wheelchair accessible homes. Securing homes with flexible living space and adequate outdoor amenity space to allow for increased home working. Undertaking a review of affordable housing requirements, taking into account viability and exploring opportunities for employers to provide accommodation for key workers.
Do we need to support modern and future building techniques, including modular and off-site construction whilst promoting good design? The need to recognise the contribution of specialist housing models, including but not limited to self-build, custom-build and community-led housing projects. Sites of less than 11 homes do not currently make any affordable housing provision. The district's rapidly ageing population creates a pressing need for housing to meet the needs of older people in particular. New homes often do not meet the nationally prescribed space standards. The requirement to meet the needs of travelling communities, including travelling show people and boat dwellers.	Recognising and promoting new modern construction techniques whilst ensuring good design quality and protection of heritage assets. Promoting self-build, custom-build and community-led housing schemes. Reviewing existing policy on affordable housing thresholds. Supporting developments that include supported living accommodation for the elderly and those with physical or learning disabilities. Setting out space standards for new developments. Identifying suitable sites for travelling communities.

ECONOMY (pg 14)

- Cherwell provides 34% of the total of 6.5 million square metres commercial floorspace in Oxfordshire.
- Over the last 10 years the District has had an economic activity rate of 80%,
- Unemployment has continued to fall in line with national trends
- slightly smaller scientific, technical and education sector
- wage levels remain lower than surrounding areas.
- work-based earnings are comparable to Oxfordshire
- earnings have risen in the last 5 years.
- Evidence for the previous Local Plan highlighted the need for a range of employment B use classes to be provided in the District, including for B1 and B8 use classes.
- Tourism spending in Cherwell continues to increase
- Opportunity to expand tourism sector
- growing evidence that the provision of community gardens, and allotment provision to enable people and communities to produce their own food contributes to improvements in health and well-being.

Economy	
Key issues	How the Cherwell Local Plan Review might address these key issues
The need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development.	Including positive policies for economic growth and productivity building on our strengths, countering any weaknesses and addressing the challenges of the future, including the direct and indirect implications of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Lower average wages than the rest of Oxfordshire and pockets of deprivation and lower educational attainment.	Encouraging and facilitating higher skilled/higher wage jobs and encourage skills and training.
Meeting the needs of different sectors and companies in the District.	Recognising the locational requirements of different sectors of the local economy.
The need to rejuvenate and improve the District's older employment areas and District centres.	Facilitating the regeneration of the District's older employment areas and centres.
The need to support the District's tourism industry in recognition of its importance to the local economy.	Including policies which understand the needs of a diverse tourism industry and supports sustainable growth, where appropriate.
The need to support local agriculture and food production, particularly in the context of changing subsidies and regulations; and recognise the importance of farm diversification to the long-term viability of this sector.	Including policies that support agriculture and food production, and sustainable farm diversification.

TOWN CENTRES & RETAIL (PG 15-16)

- Retail is one of the top employment sectors in Cherwell
- retail premises make up 18% of Cherwell's total business floorspace
- 36% increase in 20 years
- Town Centres under pressure
- Should we be encouraging leisure, residential, community and business space in our town centres?
- public spaces and appearance of our town centres is also important to their success.
- making our streets and public spaces as attractive as possible to pedestrians and wheelchair users will help our quality of life
- We may see more demand for retailing activities and from food and drink establishments to operate outside in some of these spaces.

Town centres and Retail	
Key issues	How the Cherwell Local Plan Review might address these key issues
The need for improvements to the provision, appearance and maintenance of our public realm.	Focusing on design principles which help secure effective interventions in our public spaces. Responding to the changing functions of our town centres. Helping to create a local identity and sense of place.
Preservation and enhancement of heritage in town centres.	Supporting town centre specific solutions. Matters to consider include: • parking, transport and movement • preservation and enhancement of local distinctiveness of our town and local centres with locally specific solutions. For example, urban fabric, street patterns, shop fronts and signage.
Improve the vibrancy of the daytime and evening economy.	Supporting the use of town and local centres as places for entertainment and social interaction.
Provision and development of accessibility to help improve the overall vitality and character of Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington town and village centres.	Supporting easy access to our local centres by all, including active travel and car parking infrastructure. Location and design as well as function to be locally specific to each centre.
Cherwell alongside Oxford has the highest concentration of fast food establishments in Oxfordshire.	Facilitating the creation of healthier food environments, including discouraging clustering of fast food outlets.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES, OUTDOOR SPORT, INDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE (pg 16-17)

- access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for our health and well-being.
- good quality and accessible community buildings where neighbours can meet, and where social networks and support can be fostered are also important.
- work has been carried out to assess open space, sport and recreation and community provision in Cherwell and identify deficiencies.
- Further work will be needed to take into account best practice advice on the benefits of multi-functional, flexible green space, centralised sports hubs and facilities.
- Need to look whether fewer, larger all-age areas of play are more beneficial than more numerous but smaller, separate areas of play for younger children
- whether more centralised sports provision should be sought.
- opportunity for communities to identify green areas of particular importance to them. If these spaces meet certain criteria set by Government, they can be protected by being designated as a Local Green Space (LGS)

Community Facilities, Outdoor Sport, Indoor Recreation and Open Space	
Key issues	How the Cherwell Local Plan Review might address these key issues
Need to ensure adequate provision of the right type of community facilities.	Including standards that ensure that new developments provide sufficient community facilities of the right type (including during the early phases of development) and community support workers. Providing land for new community facilities provision where justified. Protecting local village services and indicate that listed 'Assets of Community Value' status will be a material consideration in planning applications.
Need to secure adequate formal sports provision and consider whether outdoor sports provision should continue to be secured on site on larger strategic developments or more centralised sports provision sought.	Seeking to secure centralised outdoor sports facilities at the three main settlements with contributions from all development, in lieu of on-site provision for outdoor sports on strategic sites. Providing more informal kickabout areas as part of general amenity open space provision for everyday use by residents.
Need to increase community use of school sports facilities to help meet deficiencies in provision.	Seeking community use of new school facilities where proposed.
Need to ensure that all new developments provide high quality, appropriately located areas of amenity space and that children's play areas meet the needs of the communities they serve.	Encouraging fewer, larger all age areas of play in preference to smaller separate local areas of play for young children.
The importance of quality outdoor spaces has been highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic.	Seeking high quality general green spaces within housing developments for casual recreation and amenity value
The need to consider whether Local Green Spaces (which are green spaces of particular importance to local communities) are identified.	Designating areas of green space nominated by members of the local community for Local Green Space designation which meet the criteria set by Government policy.
The need to protect and enhance Public Rights of Way and access.	Protecting and enhancing public rights of way, and ensuring that where they cross proposed development sites, they are incorporated in situ wherever possible, rather than being diverted. Taking opportunities to strengthen the network by ensuring new links are secured through development schemes.

TRANSPORT (pg 18)

- need to consider how local plan policies can complement Local Transport & Connectivity Plan
- need to place climate action, healthy place-shaping and addressing air quality at the heart of our thinking.

Transport	
Key issues	How the Cherwell Local Plan Review might address these key issues
The need to promote sustainable transport.	Encouraging a mix of land uses which minimise the need for motorised travel, particularly by private petrol/ diesel fuelled car. Improve walking and cycling accessibility of existing and new development and particularly accessibility to our local centres and key employment areas. Ensure greater integration of transport and Green Infrastructure. Identify and address barriers to improved walking and cycling at a local level.
Traffic congestion.	Aiming for a greater shift to sustainable modes of transport and where necessary facilitate highway improvements to improve movement and accessibility.
Poor air quality caused by vehicle emissions.	Maximising the opportunity for travel without reliance on fossil fuel powered vehicles.
Less than optimum accessibility to rail stations.	Looking for opportunities to maximise the use of rail particularly for longer distance journeys including for freight.
Commercial bus services and routes need to be protected and improved.	Providing opportunities and requirements for bus infrastructure improvements.
Need for new and improved routes for walking, cycling, and wheelchair users.	Ensuring walking, cycling and wheelchair access is central and prioritised in planning for new development.
Noise, vibration and safety issues caused by HGVs.	Working with the County Council in identifying unsuitable routes in planning for new development.

BIODIVERSITY AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (pg 19-20)

- Maintaining and enhancing a healthy and stable natural environment contributes to the District's attractiveness
- The natural environment provides crucial services of value including fertile soils, clean water, flood prevention and flood storage and access to nature can contribute to people's health and well-being
- Wild Oxfordshire's 'State of Nature in Oxfordshire 2017' report highlighted the need for investment in nature and wildlife and conservation action to help recover species and habitats in the County
- We will need to consider what new policies are needed to secure biodiversity gain and protect and enhance the natural environment in Cherwell.

Biodiversity and the Natural Environment	
Key issues	How the Cherwell Local Plan Review might address these key issues
Need to ensure that an ecosystems approach is taken to development.	Use Natural Capital Mapping to inform the review of the Plan and include a policy requirement for an ecosystems approach be taken in the consideration of planning applications to ensure that the wider benefits of natural capital are taken fully into account.
The need to promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species, and the identification and pursuance of opportunities for securing net measurable biodiversity gain.	Measures for biodiversity enhancement could include: • requiring net gain percentages to be achieved by development • establishing a method for measuring net gain • the specification of a mitigation hierarchy • biodiversity offsetting • a requirement for developers to use the Building for Nature tool • supporting the provision of Green Infrastructure networks
The need to identify where development would be inappropriate. For example, identification of 'valued landscapes', areas of environmental or historic significance, and areas of tranquillity.	Protecting areas where development is inappropriate.
Impact of light pollution on the environment.	Including a policy on light pollution.
Soil protection and enhancement including land contamination and land instability.	Requiring developments to have soil management plans, appropriate surveys and mitigation measures.

HERITAGE (pg 21)

Heritage	
Key issues	How the Cherwell Local Plan Review might address these key issues
The need to protect, preserve or enhance designated and non-designated heritage assets.	Provide a local framework for the assessment of development proposals that impact heritage assets. Identify locations for development that enable us to protect or enhance our assets. Examine the potential to assist the appreciation of our heritage assets, for example by supporting the development of Green Infrastructure networks and active travel routes.

Question 3: District Wide Planning Issues – Do you have any observations on the district-wide issues we have identified? Are there any others you would like to raise?

Councillor Comments

Think on housing that the focus on affordable housing for key workers is not incorrect but the provision of affordable housing should not be exclusive to that group. There will be many people that are not considered key workers in a pandemic that also need access to affordable housing moving forward. As a Cherwell resident you should be able to access affordable housing regardless what your job is.

The location of new homes must be carefully considered so as to preserve access to green spaces that we already knew are valued by residents but the value of access to green space, particularly in terms of benefits to physical and mental health have been further highlighted by the pandemic.

Really pleased to see a point about meeting the needs of travelling communities. I think it's important to add to this that policies that aim to meet the needs of these communities are developed in conversation with those communities as I believe we don't want to be imposing solutions on them but rather working in collaboration with them for the benefit of both their communities and everyone else in Cherwell. We need to bring travelling communities with us in the development of any policies that are made for them.

Agree with the need for a range of employment B use classes and think that the employment development must be in keeping with the area as much as possible. Over development is a concern here. Agree very much with policies to encourage and facilitate higher skilled/higher wage jobs and in particular the access to training workers need to be able to access those careers.

Should we be encouraging leisure, residential, community and business space in our town centres? On this question I think to an extent this is already happening but I think that policies in the local plan should aim to ensure a range of offerings in the town centre. In particular it's important that community space is available, so that community groups can meet together which will help to tackle loneliness in our community. Also leisure offerings particularly those that help to meet the aims of health place shaping.

There should be a focus on reducing the number of cars that need to come into the town centre as this will help to make the town centre a more attractive place for pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchair users. This should include policies that reduce the need for space in the town centre to be taken with parking. However consideration should be given to people for whom other ways of accessing the town centre are not accessible and provision should be made for those people, for example, disabled car parking.

In general I think the move to larger all age play is probably a positive one but I would like to see the views of children and young people sought on this.

BANBURY (pg 22-25) **(I have not summarised this or the key issues)**

Question 4: Banbury Planning Issues – Do you have any observations on the Banbury issues we have identified? Are there any others?

BICESTER (pg26-29)

- last local plan allocated land for over 10,000 new homes, of which over 2,400 have already been constructed.
- The Oxfordshire Industrial Strategy identifies Bicester as an Eco Zone & Corporate HQ Hub providing an opportunity for 'living labs' - user-centred facilities where research and innovation is concurrently integrated with the active operational/ economic use of the building often as part of a public-private partnership. They can help develop real-world solutions to users' problems.
- significant employment growth identified in existing Local Plan
- Becoming an important self- sustaining economic centre as a location for higher technology and knowledge-based industries
- Encouraging higher value distribution companies
- Development of a low carbon economy
- Improvement of existing employment areas
- Maximising its location and transport links including rail opportunities
- Expanding the town centre
- Promoting Bicester through methods such as the Bicester Marketing Board
- Include flexible policies that strongly support the town centre and achieve improvements to the public realm.

Key issues**How the Cherwell Local Plan Review might address these key issues**

The need to continue to support the vitality and viability of the town centre and improvements to the public realm.

Include flexible policies that strongly support the town centre and achieve improvements to the public realm.

Improve daytime, evening and night-time use of the town centre.

Include policies that provide a positive framework for the growth, management and adaptation of the town centre.

Encourage new businesses to occupy vacant shops and introduce initiatives to expand vacant shops use.

Include flexible policies to encourage the reuse of vacant shops and buildings within town centres.

Continuing out commuting from the town.

Assess whether there is a need to identify new employment land in the town to meet the needs of the local population and provide appropriate sites and policies.

The need to attract more high-tech knowledge-based industries building on the location of Bicester within the Oxford Knowledge Spine.

Provide sufficient employment land to meet the locational requirements of these sectors.

The supply of sufficient employment land.

Assess whether there is a need for further employment land and provide appropriate sites and policies.

Need to address identified deficiencies in open space, sport and recreation provision through enhancement of existing facilities or securing new provision.

Include policies that:

- protect existing provision
- secure appropriate contributions from all development to enhancement of existing provision
- include positive planning policies towards new open space, sport and recreation provision
- secure appropriate new on-site provision as part of larger strategic developments
- allocate sites for open space, sport and recreation provision

High levels of isolation and loneliness in Bicester Town.

Include policies that recognise the importance of mechanisms to facilitate social interaction, such as the provision of well managed community facilities.

Need to continue to improve green infrastructure, including those components that are valuable for wildlife, in the town.

Review current policy to include the key component parts of, and approach to green infrastructure in the town.

Requirement for the Eastern Peripheral Road.

Continue to require existing and proposed development sites to financially contribute to this critical scheme in accordance with the CIL Regulations.

Need to discourage unnecessary car trips within the town centre.

Include policies that encourage park and ride, park and cycle/walk and other means of active travel.

London Road level crossing.

Provide a policy context to ensure delivery of a solution to the major severance of the town centre for residents in south-east Bicester caused by the level crossing.

Ensure continued delivery and implementation to meet existing objectives.

Develop new policies that complement and do not undermine existing commitments.

Question 5: Bicester Planning Issues – Do you have any observations on the Bicester issues we have identified? Are there any others you would like to raise?

Councillor Comments

As you have identified, what is the Bicester Marketing Board?

KIDLINGTON (pg 30-32) (I have not summarised this or the key issues)

Question 6: Kidlington Planning Issues – Do you have any observations on the Kidlington issues we have identified? Are there any others you would like to raise?

HEYFORD PARK (pg 33-34) (I have not summarised this or the key issues)

Question 7: Heyford Park Planning Issues – Do you have any observations on the Heyford Park issues we have identified? Are there any others you would like to raise?

RURAL AREAS (pg 35-38) (I have not summarised this or the key issues)

Question 8: Rural Area Planning Issues – Do you have any observations on the rural issues we have identified? Are there any others you would like to raise?

KEY THEMES (pg 39-47)

Three central themes

1. maintaining and developing a sustainable local economy;
2. meeting the challenge of climate change;
3. healthy place-shaping;

Question 9: Key Themes – Do you agree with the Key Themes identified? Are there other Key Themes the Plan should address?

Councillor Comments

Broadly agree with the central themes identified.

I believe there needs to be a focus on support for the arts and cultural industries. This sector has been hit particularly hard by the pandemic and even pre-pandemic I believe there was a need to do more to support the arts in Bicester. This should be another theme of the local plan.

Theme 1 - Maintaining And Developing A Sustainable Local Economy (pg39-41)

Key Issues	How the Cherwell Local Plan Review might address these key issues
Meeting the challenges and opportunities posed by COVID-19, climate change, 'Brexit' and globalisation for the local economy, local resilience, supply chains, agriculture, jobs and trends.	Formulating policy which understands the challenges to the local economy, including agriculture, and provides a spatial context to support sustainable, inclusive economic growth, resilience and flexibility.
Understanding the importance of the Oxfordshire and Cherwell economy within the national context, linking the National Industrial Strategy with Oxfordshire and emerging Cherwell Industrial Strategies.	Include policies which support and enhance the strengths in the local economy identified by the local industrial strategies.
Implementation of Central government and the Local Enterprise Partnership's (LEP) policies and initiatives encouraging sustainable economic growth and the raising of the value of the economy.	Take account of policies and initiatives including their location in formulating a strategy to secure sustainable economic growth including high tech knowledge-based and low carbon sectors.
Ensuring the character and beauty of the countryside and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services are recognised.	Ensure the economic benefit of agricultural land, trees, woodland and other features are recognised by following an ecosystem services approach.
Ensuring that the importance of preserving and enhancing the historic environment to the local economy is recognised.	Ensure natural capital mapping is used to inform preparation of the plan including the distribution of uses within a development site.
Inclusive growth and prosperity.	Ensure that policies recognise the importance of preserving and enhancing the District's historic environment to the local economy.
	Considering policy approaches that will enhance the opportunities for economic self-sufficiency by fostering education, training and skills development and local business growth.

Question 10: Maintaining and Developing a Sustainable Local Economy – Do you have any observations on the issues we have identified for this theme? Are there any others you would like to raise?

Councillor Comments

Given the need to meet the challenge of climate change and the aim to reduce carbon emissions to net zero, any economic growth should be low/zero carbon sectors. This seems to be partially covered by the third paragraph in the right hand column but should be made more explicitly clear I think. Fostering local business growth is mentioned and it should be clear that fostering local business growth in a high carbon industry would be incompatible with the aim of meeting the challenge of climate change. Support of local businesses is a correct thing to do but the district must be part of a just transition to an economy working towards climate change targets rather than against.

Key issues	How the Cherwell Local Plan Review might address these key issues
Risk of flooding in parts of the district and increase in flash flooding frequency and severity due to climate change.	Ensure the latest allowances for climate change are taken in to account in considering development proposals. Seek to re-establish and enhance natural river corridors, including natural flood management. Safeguard land required, or likely to be required for current or future flood management. Encourage the reuse of 'grey water' by capturing rainwater for purposes other than drinking.
Flooding from sewers in parts of the District.	Ensure foul and surface water drainage systems are kept separate and that Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are used wherever possible.
Water supply/demand deficit in the District from 2022/23.	Ensure policies help to achieve a water neutral position by requiring reduced water use/high water efficiency measures in new development.
Need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport.	Ensure policies reduce the need to travel/encourage active and healthy travel. Ensure provision of new EV infrastructure in new developments.
Need to minimise essential energy demand in new developments and increase renewable generation to meet demand.	Include policies that require sustainable construction techniques and promote the use of renewable energy including local energy systems.
In 2019 the UK government adopted a legally binding target for the nation to achieve 'net zero' greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and the Council has committed to be carbon neutral by 2030.	Include policies that require climate change mitigation and adaption, including working towards the goal of zero carbon developments.
Existing sports/ community centres and other non - residential buildings perform relatively poorly in terms of energy efficiency.	Include policies to ensure new /refurbished buildings are constructed to high energy efficiency standards.
Need to protect and enhance the green infrastructure network to help address the impacts of climate change.	Include policies to protect and enhance existing sites and features forming part of the green infrastructure network. Secure new provision to improve sustainable connectivity between sites and reduce the effects of development on the microclimate
Need to protect and enhance strategic ecological networks and seek the enhancement of natural capital.	Require developments to include ecological corridors as a component of green infrastructure provision to ensure habitat connectivity. Include a policy on the Nature Recovery Network including specifying what types of development are likely to be acceptable within it. Ensure developments secure biodiversity/environmental net gain.
Need to ensure that new developments are designed to avoid overheating.	Include appropriate design, orientation and landscaping policies.
Need to recognise the benefits to climate change of re-using existing buildings and the use of finite resources sustainably and responsibly.	Include policies to seek reuse of existing buildings and ensure that finite resources are used sustainably
Need to preserve and enhance heritage assets when considering new development and adaptations to climate change. For example, retrofitting renewable technologies.	Include climate change policies that recognise the need to preserve and enhance heritage assets.

Question 11: Meeting the Challenge of climate change – Do you have any observations on the issues we have identified for this theme? Are there any others you would like to raise?

Councillor Comments

I would like to see an explicit mention of the fact that new major road building projects should be considered in the context of theme two, meeting the challenge of climate change. That is to say that local plan policies should not support the building of major roads that take us further away from meeting climate change targets and should instead back more environmentally sustainable forms of transport such as electrified rail travel.

Key issues	How the Cherwell Local Plan Review might address these key issues
Cherwell has an increasingly ageing population.	Include policies which plan positively for the ageing population, including a wider housing choice for the over 65s, and the design of the public realm that recognises the needs of the elderly and infirm.
Cherwell has a higher number of deaths from cancer, respiratory diseases and circulatory disease in under 75s than the rest of Oxfordshire.	Include district-wide policies that encourage physical activity and healthier lifestyles more generally across all ages. For example, by improving existing cycling and pedestrian infrastructure; improving the food environment for both consumption and production of healthier food options.
Cherwell has the highest number of serious injuries from road accidents in Oxfordshire.	Include policies that address air pollution.
63.2% of adults in Cherwell are classified as overweight or obese (2017/18). This is the worst in Oxfordshire and higher than the figures for the South East and England.	Include policies that prioritise active travel in new development and the infrastructure that supports it.
Adult and child physical activity is the lowest in Oxfordshire.	Include policies that promote good quality street design standards
The proportion of adults who participate in active travel in Cherwell is lower than in Oxfordshire and England.	Include policies to support and expand local jobs and the economy, ensure the provision of good quality, affordable housing, and provide training and learning opportunities accessible to all.
23% of children in Cherwell are living in poverty (2017/18).	Ensure the provision of healthcare facilities to meet the demand from an increasing population.
Data from 2003-2018 suggests that 27% of deaths in Cherwell were due to socio-economic inequality.	Include quality standards for public space.
Achieving safe and accessible high-quality public space which encourages active and continual use of public areas.	Ensure green infrastructure is considered and provided as an integral part of new developments and seek to enhance existing areas of public space.

Need to enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs.

Include policies to secure safe and accessible green infrastructure, access to nature and, provision for sport and recreation facilities including allotments.

Ensure new developments include measures to encourage walking and cycling and include walking and running routes as part of provision in new parks and areas of open space.

Secure wayfinding to support connectivity between new and existing developments.

Embed green infrastructure network considerations into the planning of new development.

Provide an overall strategy for GI provision, including:

- protecting existing sites and features forming part of the GI network
- securing new GI provision through development,
- allocating new sites/footpath cycle routes
- standards for GI provision including for natural accessible green space

Lack of large areas of natural accessible green space in the district.

Include policies that seek provision as part of new strategic developments and allocate sites for natural accessible green space.

Affordability, quality, quantity, and safety of homes for all and specifically for those most vulnerable.

Include policies to deliver housing to meet identified local need including supported housing, wheelchair accessible and adaptable dwellings.

Include policies supporting provision of social housing in general and to reduce the use of temporary accommodation.

Include policies supporting safe, high quality and affordable homes.

Include policies to protect and improve housing quality and space standards across all housing types.

Include policies to support housing to meet the needs of the local economy and key workers.

Include policies to guide permitted development and conversions to residential use which protect quality and space standards.

Include policies to encourage the reuse and renovation of historic buildings for housing.

Question 12: Healthy Place-shaping – Do you have any observations on the issues we have identified for this theme? Are there any others you would like to raise?

Councillor Comments

I note on Healthy Place-shaping mental health is not specifically mentioned. Early indications suggest that the pandemic has had a big impact on the mental health of the country, which I fear is/is going to cause further strain on existing mental health services. It is often said that mental health needs to be given the same importance as physical health and the local plan should reflect this, with policies to ensure that adequate support is available for everyone in our community that needs it. This should be there anyway, but I believe the pandemic has increased the urgency here.

I welcome the inclusion of policies that prioritise active travel. It's vital that these measures in new developments join up with existing infrastructure.

ESTABLISHING A VISION AND OBJECTIVES (pg 48)

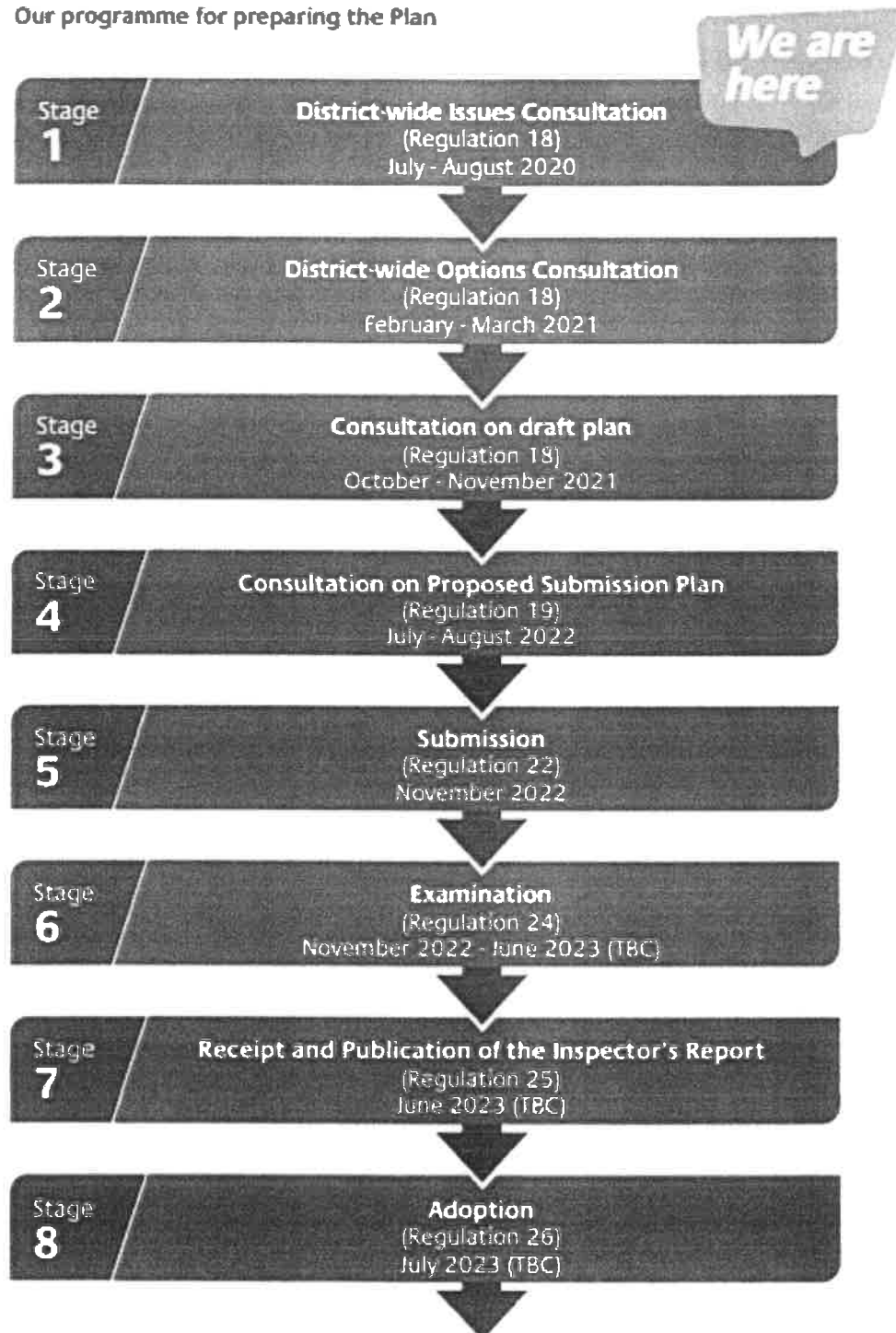
Question 13: Establishing a Vision and Objectives – Do we need a new vision for the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040? What should be its key priorities?

CALL FOR SITES (pg 49)

Question 14: Call for Sites – Do you wish to propose any sites for the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040?
Please provide us with a location plan and details of your proposals. We have prepared a site submission form to help you.

PREPARING THE PLAN (pg 50 -51)

Our programme for preparing the Plan



The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

can be found <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsultation> and informs the process. It should be read alongside the Community Involvement Paper.

The report is structured as follows:

- Section 2: sets out the Council's proposed approach to the SA.

- Section 3: identifies key relevant plans, programmes and policies influencing the Local Plan Review and SA
- Section 4: presents the baseline information for Cherwell District.
- Section 5: identifies the key social, environmental and economic issues in Cherwell of relevance to the Local Plan Review and considers the likely evolution of those issues without its implementation.
- Section 6: presents the SA Framework that will be used for the appraisal of the Local Plan Review and the proposed method for carrying out the SA.
- Section 7: describes the next steps to be undertaken in the SA of the Local Plan Review.

The SEA Regulations state that SEA must assess the likely significant effects of the plan or programme on the following:

- Biodiversity
- Population
- Human health
- Fauna
- Flora
- Soil
- Water
- Air
- Climatic factors
- Material assets
- Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage
- Landscape
- The inter-relationship between the above

Sustainable development has been identified as having five key principles.

- Living within environmental limits;
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
- Achieving a sustainable Economy;
- Promoting good governance;
- Using sound science responsibly.

Question 15: Preparing the Plan – Do you have any comments specifically on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report that accompanies this consultation paper?

METHODS OF ENGAGEMENT (pg 52)

Question 16: Methods of engagement – Are there any specific methods of engagement you would like us to consider in preparing the Local Plan and updating our Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)?

Councillor Comments

I would like to see a consideration of the use of citizens assemblies as a way to engage with the community.

BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL

Tuesday 1 September 2020

Freedom of Entry

Mayor: Councillor Jason Slaymaker
07512 902386 Jason.slaymaker@bicester.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Samantha Shippen – Chief Officer
01869 252915 samantha.shippen@bicester.gov.uk

War d Affected: All

1. Background

- 1.1 The tradition of Freedom of Entry or Military Privilege can be traced back to ancient Rome. In the UK it has history from medieval times when soldiers were forced to camp outside of city walls as weapons were not allowed within.
- 1.2 Today, martial freedom is an entirely ceremonial honour usually bestowed upon a unit with ties to the area as a token of appreciation for their dedicated service. It entitles them to parade “with drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed”.
- 1.3 Until 2010, town councils did not have the power to award such honours which was changed following amendments to the Local Government Act 1972 introduced through the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.
- 1.4 Previously the Council has bestowed the honour of Liberty upon 23 Pioneer Regiment which is now disbanded and the 2507 (Bicester) Air Training Corps. In 2018, the Council awarded Freedom of Entry to 1 Regiment RLC and in 2019 to DEMS Training Regiment.
- 1.5 The Royal Ordnance Corps (RAOC) Central Ordnance Depot (COD) in Bicester was started in 1941 and opened in 1942. Bicester Garrison HQ now occupies what remains of the site as a coordinator for the various regiments who are based at the site. Given that 2021 will see the start of the 80th anniversary of the Bicester Garrison, it is suggested that the Council considers the award of Freedom of Entry to the Bicester Garrison HQ.
- 1.6 A vote on “Freedom” requires 2/3 majority of votes rather than the usual simple majority of those present and voting.
- 1.7 It is usual to acknowledge such an honour with a church service, although weapons will need to be kept outside of the church, and a parade. However, due to the make up of the Bicester Garrison HQ being a mixture of military and civilian roles and a small number of personnel, it is suggested that on this occasion a parade not be part of the ceremony. It is also usual to mark the occasion with an illustrated scroll and sometimes a gift to the Regiment. Council is requested to consider an appropriate item.
- 1.8 If approved, the date suggested is summer of 2021.

2. Recommendation

The Council is recommended to

- 1. Approve the Freedom of Entry be bestowed upon Bicester Garrison HQ;**
- 2. Agree the date for such be discussed with the Garrison and church;**
- 3. Agree that a church service and reception be arranged to mark the occasion where a commemorative scroll and appropriate gift will be exchanged.**

BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL

Tuesday 1 September 2020

INVESTMENTS

Mayor: Councillor Jason Slaymaker
Jason.slaymaker@bicester.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Samantha Shippen – Chief Officer
01869 252915 samantha.shippen@bicester.gov.uk

Ward Affected: All

1. Background

- 1.1 The Finance Committee at the meeting held on 27 July 2020, considered the Council's current investments and an update on associated interest rates.
- 1.2 In conclusion, the Committee resolved that the Chief Officer to investigate the possibility of transferring funds into a lower yielding account and report back to the next Full Council meeting taking place on Tuesday 1st September 2020 (Minute 064/2021).
- 1.3 A suggestion of NS&I had been made, which was investigated. The Chief Officer has established that such investment is not eligible for the Council.
- 1.4 Other options will continue to be investigated and reported. At this time with the Bank of England rate so low, investment rates are not particularly favourable.
- 1.5 Council is requested to note the update.

2. Recommendation

The Council is recommended to **NOTE** the update.

BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL

Tuesday 1 September 2020

Banking Arrangements

Mayor: Councillor Jason Slaymaker
Jason.slaymaker@bicester.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Samantha Shippen – Chief Officer
01869 252915 samantha.shippen@bicester.gov.uk

Ward Affected: All

1. Background

- 1.1 Financial Regulation 5.1 allows the Chief Officer to make the Council's banking arrangements, including bank mandate to be approved by Council.
- 1.2 The Council through a recommendation of the Finance Committee had considered investment in the CCLA's Public Sector Deposit Fund of up to £2m.
- 1.3 An account was opened in June 2020 with the Chief Officer, Councillor Richard Mould and Councillor Lynn Pratt as signatories.
- 1.4 The account has been set up so that "dividends" are paid each month to the Council's current account and the investment balance remains static.
- 1.5 Council is requested to note the update.

2. Recommendation

The Council is recommended to **NOTE** the update on investment account with the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund.

BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL

Tuesday 1 September 2020

Christmas Lights Contract

Mayor: Councillor Jason Slaymaker
Jason.slaymaker@bicester.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Samantha Shippen – Chief Officer
01869 252915 samantha.shippen@bicester.gov.uk

Ward Affected: All

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council has to date paid Cherwell District Council 50% of the costs of Christmas Lights provision for the town under a shared cost arrangement.
- 1.2 Earlier this year, CDC announced their withdrawal of their funding across Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington.
- 1.3 Although Officers had done some initial investigations of replacement arrangements, this work has not been concluded due to other work pressures during the past few months.
- 1.4 CDC are extending the existing contract for a further year for both Banbury & Kidlington. Bicester Town Council is invited to join the extension at a cost of £26,007.04.
- 1.5 Officers have been assured that any repairs needed to the lights above and beyond the costs identified in the quotation sent would be undertaken at CDC's cost.
- 1.6 The intention would then be to establish a tender for a new scheme in 2021. Due to the value, the tender would be subject to public procurement regulations.
- 1.7 Council is requested to approve the extension of contract with CDC.

2. Recommendation

The Council is recommended to **APPROVE** the extension of Christmas Lights Contract with Cherwell District Council at a cost of £26,007.04 for 2020.