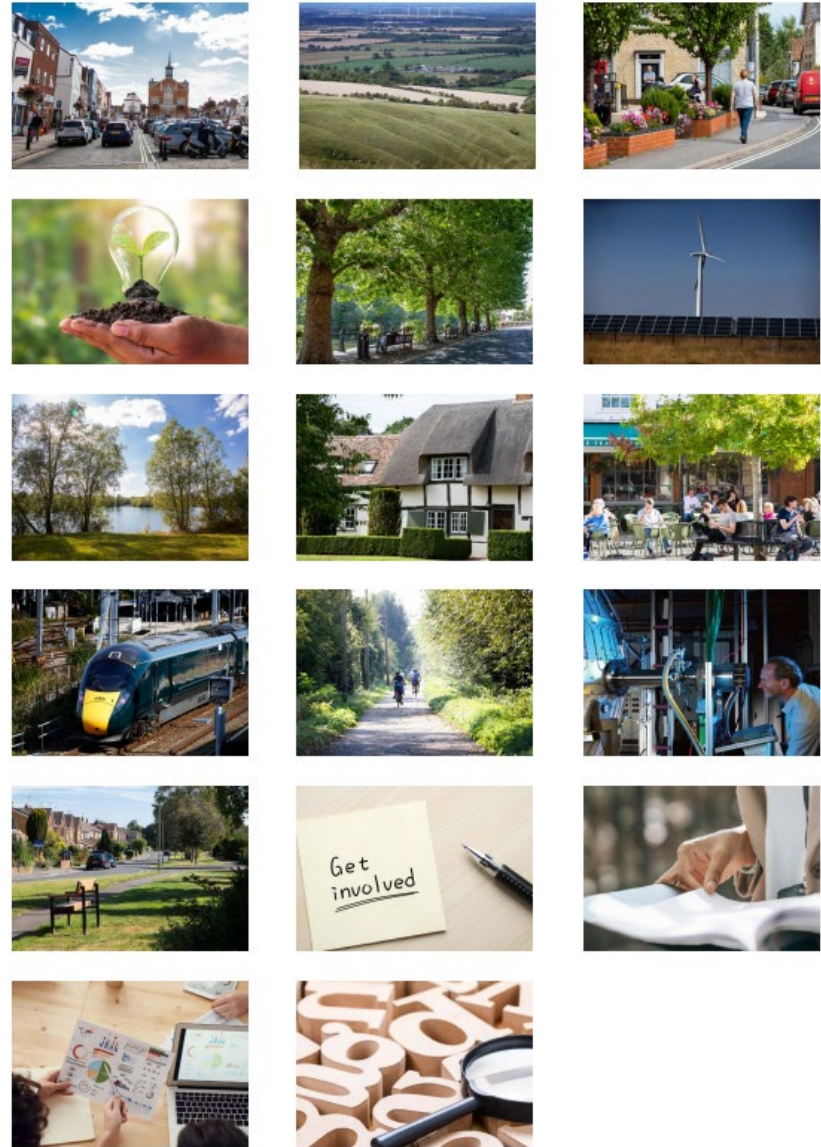


Joint Local Plan Issues Consultation Results

February 2023



South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse
Joint Local Plan 2041
EXAMINATION LIBRARY DOCUMENT

LPP14

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Chapter 1

Introduction



Introduction

We carried out a public consultation asking for your thoughts on the main issues facing our districts and how we could use the Joint Local Plan to address them. Our Joint Local Plan Issues Consultation was open from 12 May until 23 June 2022.

We launched an innovative new interactive website for this consultation, with interactive maps, a video and images. We used ArcGIS Storymaps software for this. We set out to try to engage new audiences, so we made the consultation work easily on a tablet, computer or mobile phone, although for those who preferred a more traditional document, there was also a PDF version of the Joint Local Plan Issues Consultation. We put hard copies at libraries and other locations throughout the districts.

Your views from the Issues consultation are helping to shape the draft of the Joint Local Plan for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. In Summer 2023, we expect to publish a Joint Local Plan 'Preferred Options' consultation document that will set out proposed policies and any proposed sites for

development. We'll then ask you for your views again on these 'Preferred Options'.

Regulations require us to produce a statement which includes the following details of the Joint Local Plan Issues

Consultation:

- Who has been consulted?
- How they were consulted
- Summary of main issues
- How will the comments be addressed?

We are keen to prepare our Joint Local Plan in an open and transparent way. We want to hear your views at each stage of preparation and share what you've told us. We are pleased to share this Consultation Statement with you. Each section of this statement relates to a chapter of the Joint Local Plan Issues Consultation document and provides a question-by-question summary of the results of the consultation, whilst also addressing the regulatory requirements listed above. You can click on the buttons at the top of each page to navigate to the chapters which you are interested in reading more about.



Engagement Methods

Who did we consult and how did we consult?

This consultation was carried out in accordance with the councils' [statement of community involvement](#).



The Consultation period ran from Thursday 12 May to Thursday 23 June 2022.



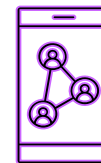
We sent 6,178 email notifications to:

- Statutory bodies including businesses/ organisations, neighbouring councils, voluntary bodies, different racial, ethnic or national groups and bodies which represent the interests of disabled persons
- Individuals, organisations and groups who've asked to be on the councils' consultation database
- Town/Parish Councils
- District Councillors



We also sent an email notification to the councils' Equalities Officer, Economic Development Officer and Community Safety Officer who forwarded the notification to groups that may have had an interest in the consultation.

We sent letters to 349 consultees registered on the councils' consultation database.



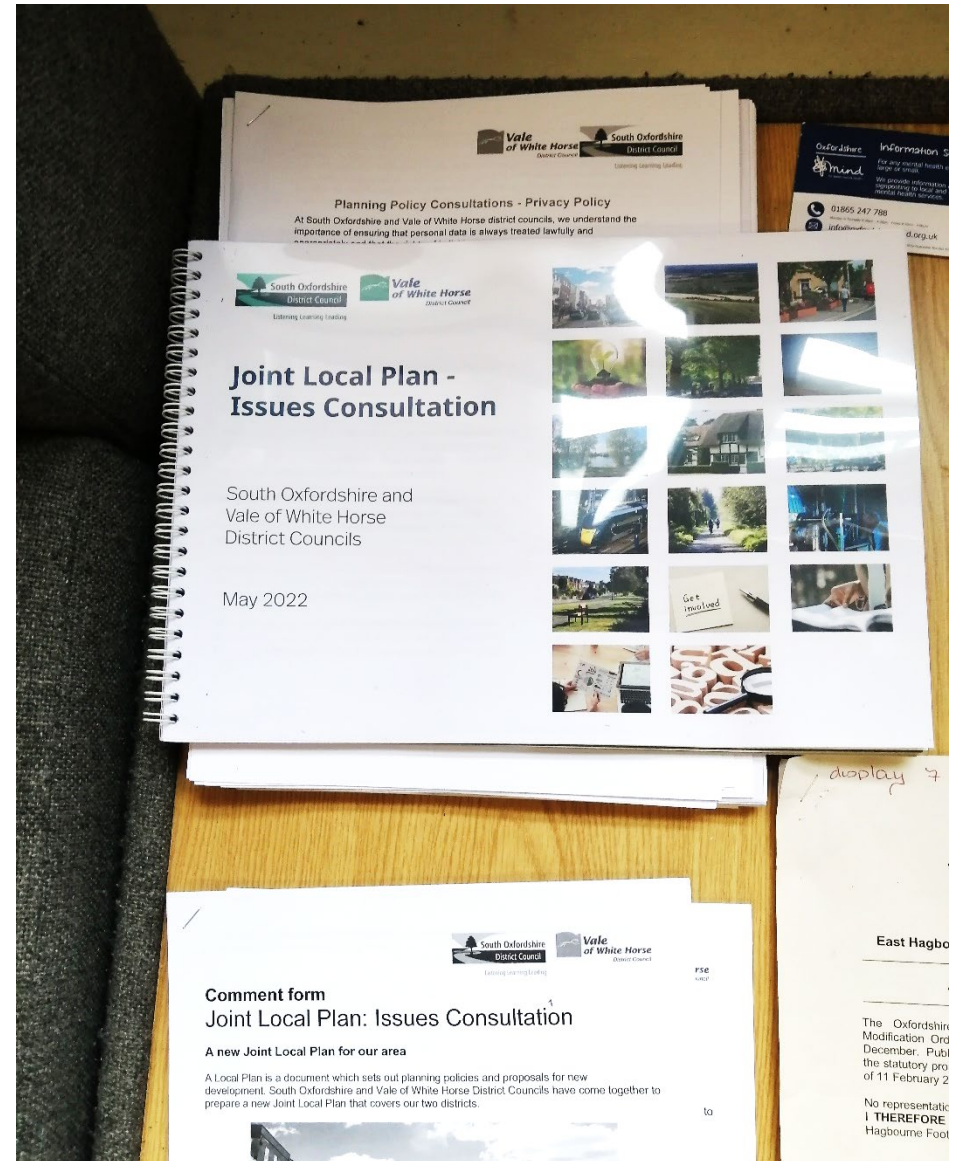
We issued a press release and posted social media messages (Facebook and Twitter) during the engagement period to further publicise and encourage participation from the public (samples of these messages are shown in Appendix 1).

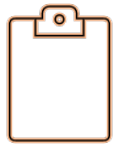
We sent posters (shown in Appendix 2) via email to all Town and Parish Councils and paper

copies of posters to all the deposit locations listed in the table below.

Hard copies of documents at these locations

- Abingdon Library
- Sonning Common Library
- Benson Library
- Thame Library
- Berinsfield Library
- Wallingford Library
- Botley Library
- Wantage Library
- Chinnor Library
- Watlington Library
- Didcot Library
- Wheatley Library
- Faringdon Library
- Woodcote Library
- Goring Library
- The Beacon, Wantage
- Grove Library
- Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot
- Henley Library
- District Neighbourhood Community Centre, Didcot
- Kennington Library
- South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils Offices



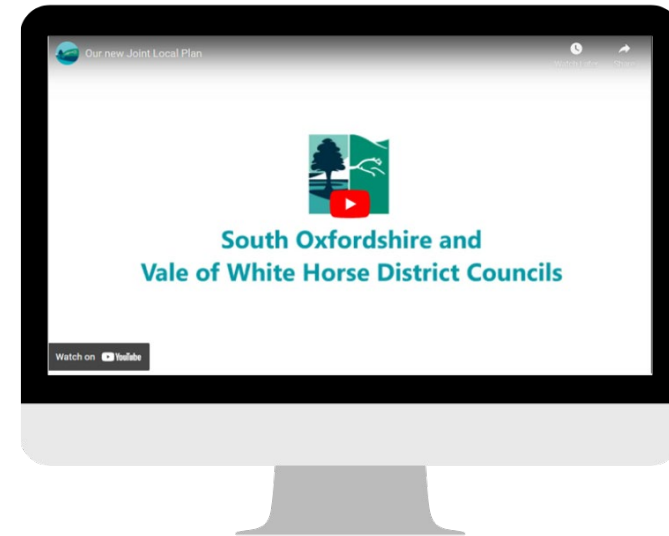


The consultation asked for comments on the following sections:

- About the districts
- Our vision
- Reducing carbon emissions
- Nature recovery and landscape
- Protecting and enhancing local heritage
- Thriving inclusive communities
- Transport and facilities
- Healthy lifestyles and safe communities
- Jobs and opportunities for innovation
- Any other thoughts

Respondents could also comment on the four accompanying technical documents if they wished:

1. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Screening and Scoping Report
2. Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Scoping Report
3. Draft Settlement Assessment Methodology
4. Duty to Cooperate Scoping Document



We launched the consultation on an interactive consultation website. We designed it to be rich in infographics and images about the plan and the districts. At the end of each section, we asked questions so that respondents had the chance to respond about what they had just read. People could choose to answer as many or as few questions as they liked. For the first time, we allowed anonymous responses so that people could easily click to give answers via their phones or tablets, instead of being routed to a traditional full survey where you have to log in and give contact details (which we offered as

well). We have referred to responses received via these two options as:

- ‘Named respondents/responses’ – where responses came in through the more traditional full survey route and respondents were asked to provide contact details.
- ‘Anonymous respondents/responses’ – where responses were received from the interactive platform. These respondents were not asked to provide any personal details.

How did we process and report your responses?

- We received a total of 314 completed named responses to the full survey, which includes those who responded via email. Officers added all the email and postal responses manually to the consultation once the survey closed. We added an ‘upload documents’ option to the survey to allow us to attach all supporting documents received via email.
- 4 stakeholders requested an extension of time to submit comments which we granted. 6 late responses were received and are included in the total.

- From those answering via clicking answers on the interactive website (the anonymous route) we received a total of 2,564 responses (adding all their answers to all questions together). We made it clear that responding this way would be anonymous, but if people wanted to register to receive updates they could do so at the end.
- The full survey and interactive website asked the same questions, that way people could respond using the approach that suited them. We were clear that we wanted to hear from a range of people, including those who’d not previously commented on Local Plans.
- The survey also asked questions on the additional technical documents.
- We are including a summary of the responses to the survey and interactive website in this report. Any personal information supplied to us within the responses that could identify anyone has not been shared or published in this report.
- For transparency we are intending to release full copies of the responses we received. We will ‘redact’ these,

which means we will remove all personal information like addresses and contact details, although we will give the respondent's name. Further information on data protection is available in our [Planning Policy Consultations - Privacy Policy](#) on our website.

- For readability, in this Consultation Statement we have corrected some spelling, grammatical and punctual errors that were in the original responses we received.
- Some percentages have been rounded up or down to the nearest whole number in this report.
- Where comments received fall within the scope of what the Joint Local Plan can address, we have included 'actions based on your feedback' to explain what we intend to do next. We will also share comments with other teams in the council where the suggestions would fall within their remit.

Communication

A copy of the email notification sent to the councils' consultation database is in Appendix 3. The text was adapted

for the letter sent to those who opted to receive postal notifications.

We sent an additional letter to specific consultees in line with the council's legal duties. This letter specifically invited comments on the Duty to Cooperate Scoping Document, the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Screening and Scoping Report and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Scoping Report.

Survey

A copy of the survey is provided in Appendix 4.



Who responded?

Category of respondents

When someone answered by clicking on the questions embedded within our interactive website, we did not ask for their personal details. Therefore, we only have results on who responded from those named respondents who filled out the full survey. Some responses were assigned manually where the responses were received via email or letter and the category of respondent was clear.

In the full survey, we received 312 responses to the question “Are you responding as:...”. The number of respondents in each category is shown in Figure 1.

Individuals/members of the public and agents, developers and landowners made up a significant proportion of the responses to the survey as shown in Figure 1. 38% were an agent, developer or landowner, and 31% of respondents were an individual/member of the public. The next most common category of respondent was a town/parish council at 10%, followed by a district, county or town/ parish councillor. The

remaining 7 categories of respondent made up the other 15% of responses.

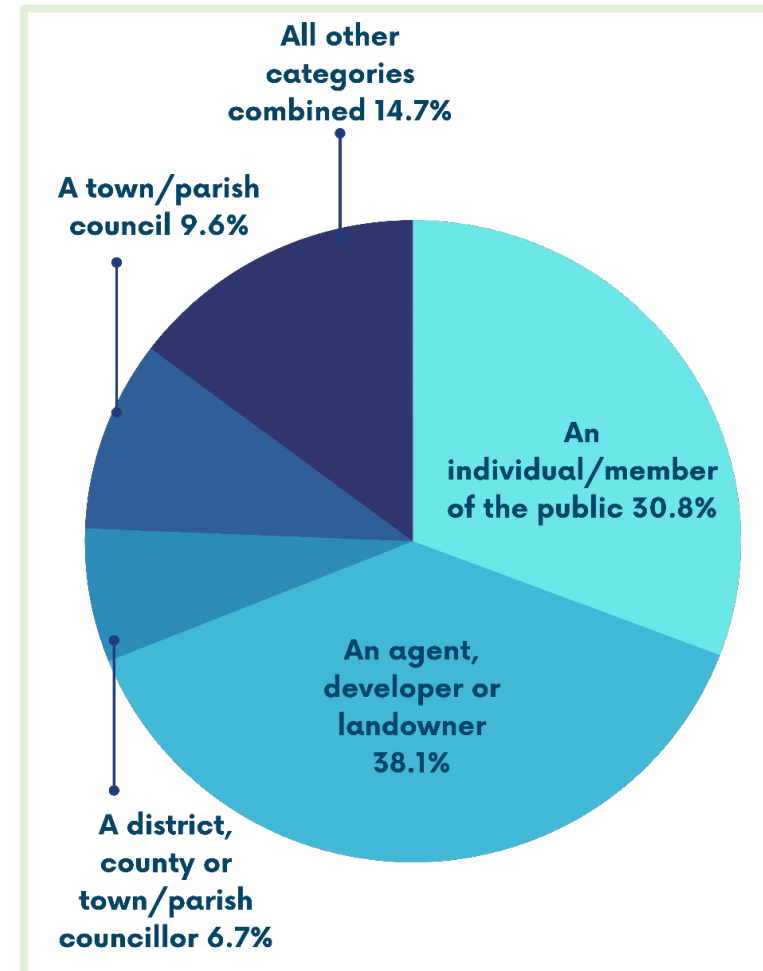


Figure 1 – Categories of respondents who answered “Are you responding as...”

We received a total of 97 responses which were promoting in their response a particular site for development within the Joint Local Plan. The Councils ran a ‘Call for land and buildings’ exercise in 2021, for those wishing to promote land for potential allocation, so a number of these sites are already known to the Councils. You can view the sites promoted to us in 2021 on an interactive map on the South and Vale [websites](#).

The Councils are preparing a Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment and will consider any newly promoted sites which were included in the 97 responses as part of that assessment.

Age of respondents

166 respondents from the named responses answered the question “How old are you?”. The number of respondents in each age range are shown in Figure 2.

22 respondents answered that they would prefer not to say their age.

A steady increase in numbers of respondents can be seen as

the age group gets higher, the exception being the 75+ age group which received lower levels of responses than 45-54, 55-64 and 65-74.

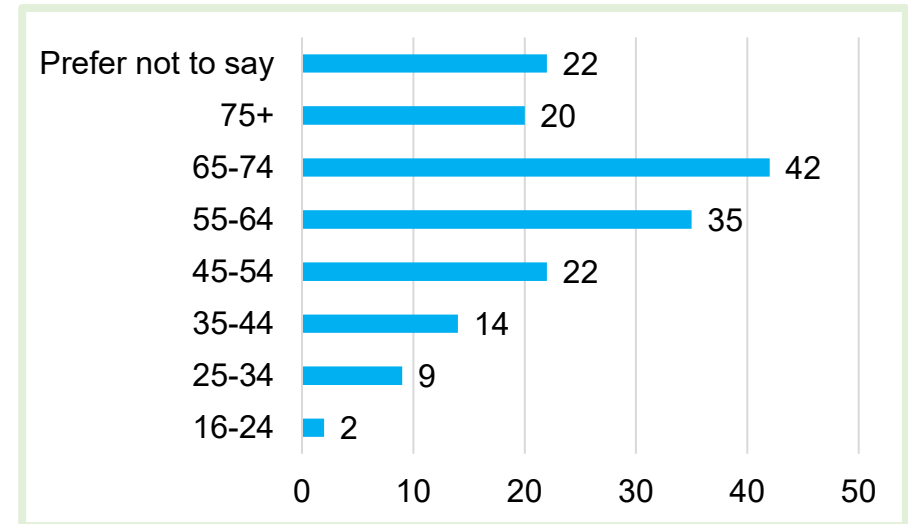


Figure 2 - Age of respondents

62 respondents were aged 65 and above, making up 37% of the responses. Almost 60% of responses were from people aged 55 and above.

16–24-year-olds had the lowest levels of response (on the basis of those who responded to this question), with 2 respondents selecting this option. These were followed by 25–

34-year-olds, with 9 respondents selecting this age group. Collectively, those aged 16-34 made up 6% of the 166 respondents to this question.

Distribution of respondents

In the survey, we asked “ii) To help us understand the geographic spread of the responses we receive, please tell us your postcode in the box below.” The map in Figure 3 shows the distribution of respondents within the districts who provided their postcode in response to this question (including those manually filled out by officers where responses came in as emails or letters). Please note that the map only represents the distribution of postcodes and does not indicate where multiple responses were received from a particular postcode.

The map shows a fairly broad distribution of responses across both districts.

We also received responses from postcode locations outside the districts, the full list of these areas is below:

- Basingstoke and Dean
- Bedford
- Birmingham

- Bracknell Forest
- Bristol
- Buckinghamshire – Aylesbury Area
- Buckinghamshire – Chiltern Area
- Buckinghamshire – Wycombe Area
- Cheltenham
- Cherwell
- City of London
- Cotswold
- Dorset
- Gloucester
- Guildford
- Hart
- Kingston upon Thames
- Lichfield
- Milton Keynes
- New Forest
- Oxford
- Reading
- Windsor and Maidenhead
- Rugby
- Solihull
- South Gloucestershire
- Stratford on Avon
- Swindon
- Warwick
- West Oxfordshire
- Westminster
- Wiltshire
- Wokingham

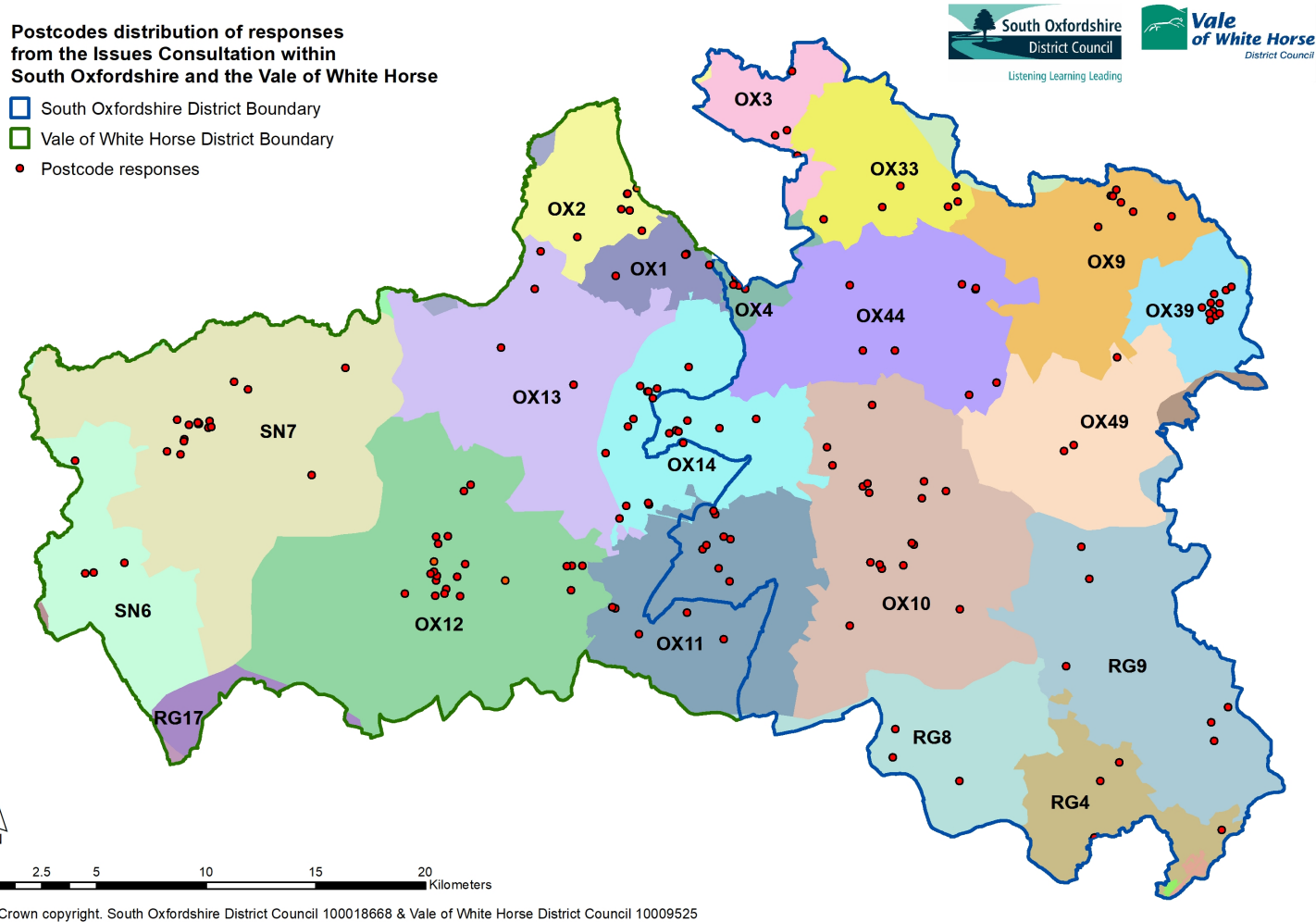


Figure 3 - Distribution of responses

How did people respond?

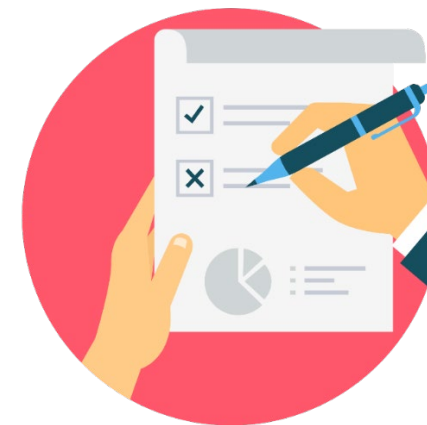
We received a total of 314 completed named responses, including:

- 156 submitted via the online survey
- 153 via email (this includes those where an email was sent to supplement a response submitted via the online survey directly)
- 5 via post

We also received 2,564 responses to questions from the interactive website. As we did not collect data on who these respondents were, we can't report accurately on the number of respondents who responded to the interactive questions. However, the maximum number of responses to a single question was 175.

In the rest of this consultation statement, you will see us reporting on 'Number of responses per question'. For the named responses in our analysis, we can identify these as separate individuals/organisations. For the anonymous responses we can't confirm who responded or whether a particular individual/organisation responded multiple times,

but we can say how many times the question was answered (i.e. the number of responses that were received against that question).



How many responses were received per question?

- Figure 4 shows a summary of the number of times each question was answered, including named and anonymous respondents' answers.

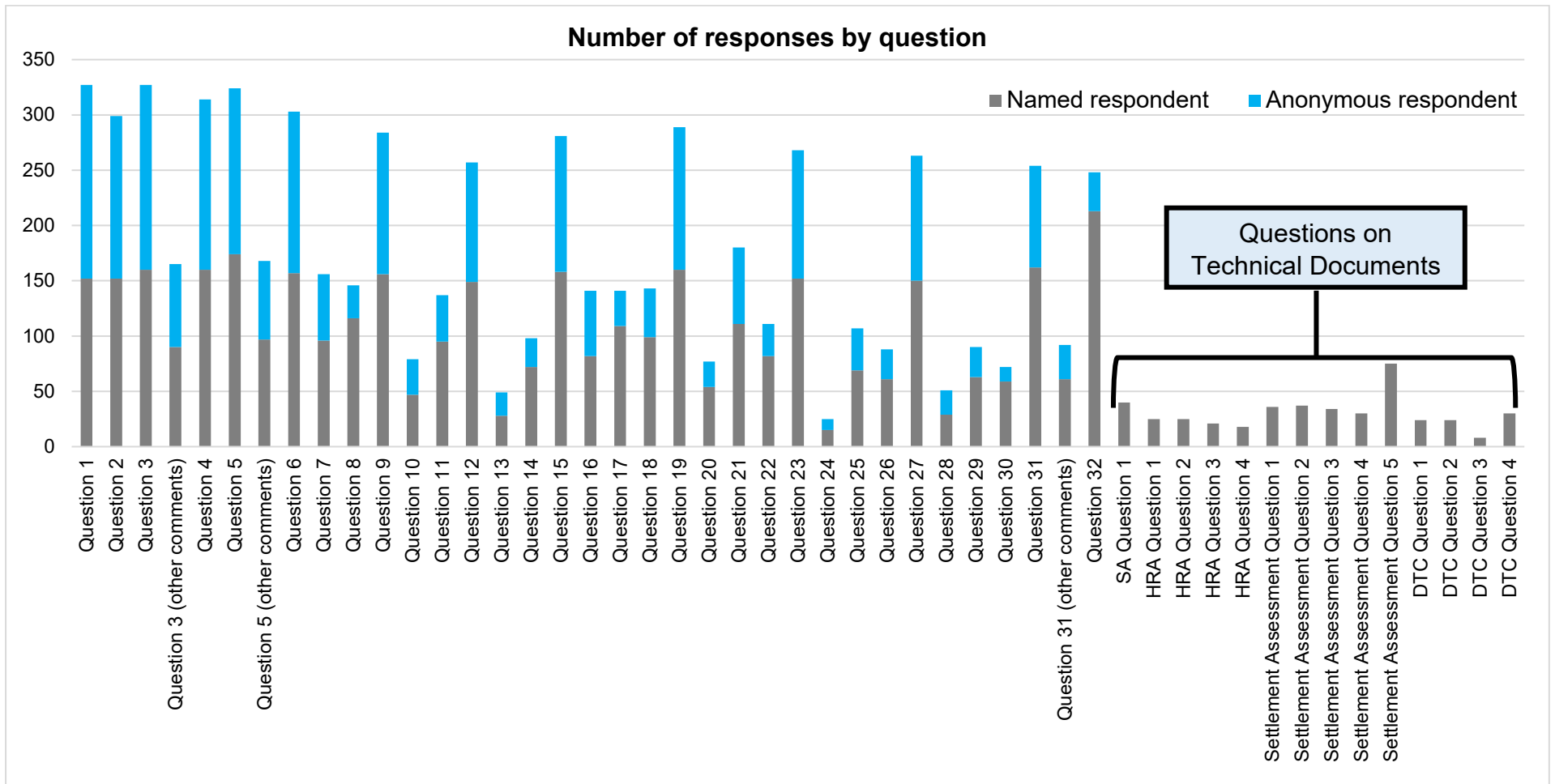


Figure 4 - Number of responses by question

- Generally, there was a fairly even split between the number of times each question was answered anonymously and the number of times it was answered by a named respondent. There were exceptions to this, particularly those more open textbox-based questions, which frequently received more responses through the named respondent route. This was something which we expected given the nature of the interactive website, which allowed for a slightly more flexible approach to responding than the standard full survey.
- Question 32 is an exception as we included reference to any responses with attachments under the ‘named respondent’ category for the purposes of reporting on these responses, under this question. There were 134 responses of this nature in total which have contributed to the number of responses recorded against Question 32.
- There were fewer responses to the technical document questions at the end of the survey. Respondents who wished to answer these questions were directed to the full survey so that we could record who had responded to these documents. Where attachments received made reference to the technical documents, we have recorded these under the survey questions for the relevant technical document and counted towards the number of responses to that question.

- The trends seen in Figure 4 show a general level of support for the opportunities which were presented, as those questions which asked ‘Do you disagree with any of these opportunities?’ (Questions 7, 10, 13, 16, 20, 24 and 28) tended to receive fewer responses than those which asked which opportunities people felt were most important (Questions 6, 9, 12, 15, 19, 23 and 27).
- The data also shows that there remained a steady level of responses throughout the survey until the final questions on the technical documents. This shows that respondents remained engaged with responding to the consultation through to the end of the questions, without too much drop off.



Question: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the way in which you have been able to provide feedback on the Joint Local Plan?

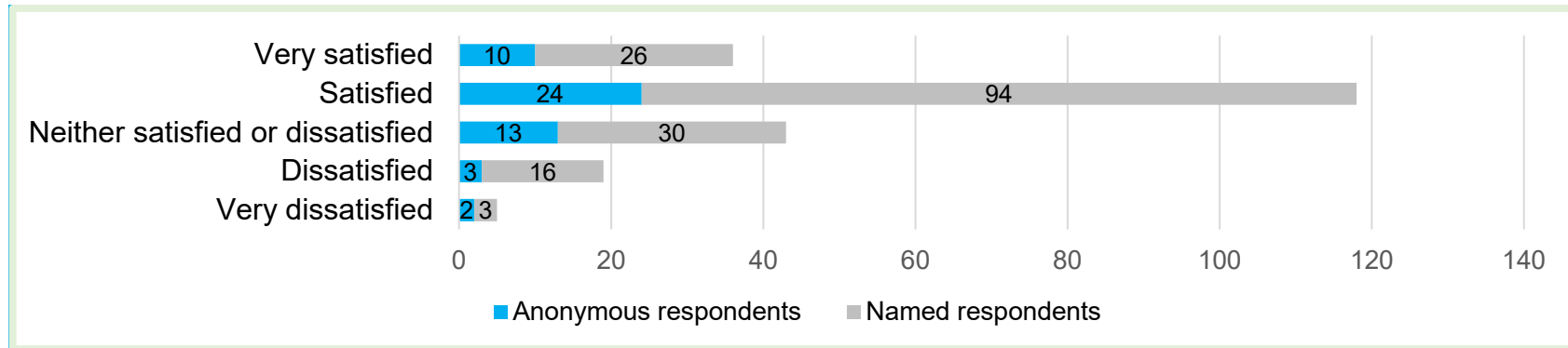


Figure 5 - How satisfied were you with how you could provide feedback?

- Almost 70% of the 221 total responses to this question answered with ‘Satisfied’ or ‘Very satisfied’.
- There were fewer responses from those who filled out the anonymous survey, however the pattern of results is very similar to the named responses, with most selecting that they were ‘Satisfied’ with how they could respond and the fewest selecting ‘Very dissatisfied’.
- Around 20% of respondents were neither satisfied or dissatisfied with how they could respond, and only 11% of respondents were ‘Dissatisfied’ or ‘Very dissatisfied’.

ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

We were trying something new with this consultation and are pleased with the overall satisfaction levels. We really

appreciate that people took the time to let us know what did or didn’t work so well this time. A selection of the comments we received are set out on pages 18 to 20.

We found that: the results were very similar between those who were responding anonymously and named respondents. This gives us confidence that providing an anonymous route doesn’t seem to have led to misuse or bias.

We propose to: keep trying to create engaging consultation materials for the Joint Local Plan, and easy methods of responding. We will explore tweaks which would address your suggestions when we consult on the next stages of the Joint Local Plan. We are looking at new consultation software and approaches to improve people’s experience.

What you said about how you could respond to the Joint Local Plan Issues Consultation

Full survey (named responses):

"Being able to refer back to the relevant part of the Local Plan while progressing through the questions was excellent"

"The topics covered are defined by the engagement process - it is difficult therefore to give necessary importance to any topic (e.g. the Green Belt) that has not been included. Also many respondents will not think to include feedback on something they consider important simply because it has not been included in the engagement process."

"The swapping between interactive consultation material and survey was / is clumsy. Integrate them for more targeted / considered / coherent / complete responses"

"...We are keen to use online tools to respond and so reduce the burden on the LPA in compiling responses, however online surveys make it difficult for our clients to review draft responses. A facility which allowed us to produce a PDF of our online response before submission in order that we can get sign-off from clients would help us and no doubt encourage more agents to use the online survey."

"We would have liked to have submitted a report but the feedback process as a whole was easy to follow and very informative."

“Difficult to write freely due to closed questions. Would be good to have the facility to submit a letter to the Council, supported by a questionnaire. I appreciate that this format makes it easier for officers to collate the data but this can be at the expense of the consultee, who is limited by how the questions are framed.”

“The interactive website was very helpful, and this survey (with the ability to save and continue later) was very well laid out.”

“A lot of questions but the questionnaire was well thought out and stimulating so that it took about an hour. Liked the way you could refer back to information and save work in stages”

“Always a challenge to get the relevant information across in an online survey, particularly when this is designed with individual residents in mind, but the availability of free text boxes with abundant character space has been helpful, thank you”

“I think this is much more accessible than previous consultations.”

Interactive Website (anonymous responses):

“Works very well in Safari on Mac OS (Catalina 10.15.7, Safari 15.4) which shows the company making the survey system has at least tested it on something other than a Windows PC.”

“This has been a very effective method of communication.”

“Quite hard to use/frustrating (answers disappear if you scroll back up the page to check something).”

“This website is clunky to use. The questions take an age to load and then it doesn’t remember what you have answered already.”

“Very pleased with the format but dismayed that there is not capture of the type of respondent.”

“It’s a great platform. It might be a bit easier if the questions were given priority and options to drill down for more information were put alongside.”

Chapter 2

The Districts – Context



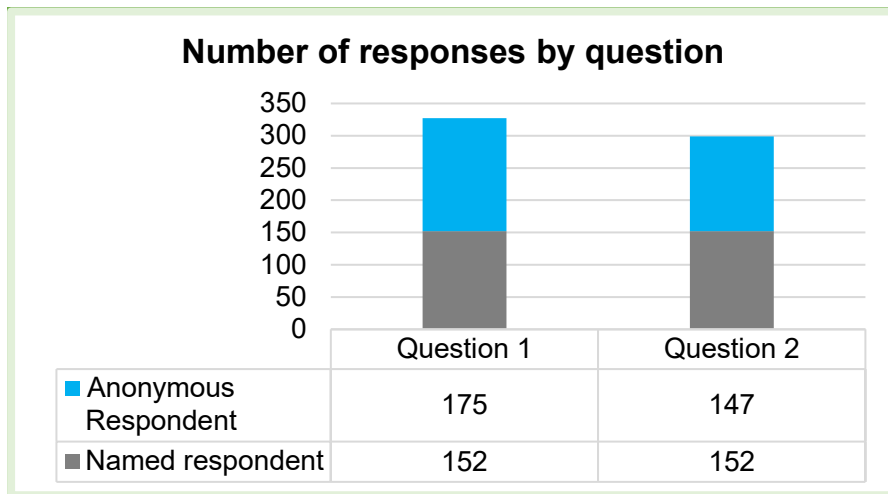
Overview

We asked two questions in the ‘Districts – Context’ section of the consultation:

Q1. What three things do you value most about where you live?

Q2. In fewer than 50 words, if you could make one change to improve where you live, what would it be? Include the name of the town, village or area you’re talking about.

The number of responses to these questions were similar:



Question 1. What three things do you value most about where you live?



Figure 6 - Question 1 word-cloud

- The word-cloud above (Figure 6) visually presents the most common words and phrases raised in response to this question.
- The words and phrases most commonly raised in response to this question included:

countryside, access, community and green space.

- Key themes which emerged from the responses were the natural environment (for example countryside, wildlife, nature and open spaces), transport and access including good transport links, and references to local communities and a sense of community.
- There were multiple responses which mentioned the proximity to Oxford, and ease of access to Oxford and other cities and towns from where respondents lived.
- Access to facilities and services was also raised multiple times, with mention of convenient access to medical centres, hospitals, shops, schools, open green spaces, pubs, restaurants and sports facilities. The need for these services to be accessible and have the capacity to serve existing and new residents was highlighted.
- Respondents also mentioned their sense of community, quality of life, their neighbours and having a caring community. Responses referred to 'village life' and village communities where there is friendship and someone to help if needed.



Question 2. In fewer than 50 words, if you could make one change to improve where you live, what would it be? Include the name of the town, village or area you’re talking about.

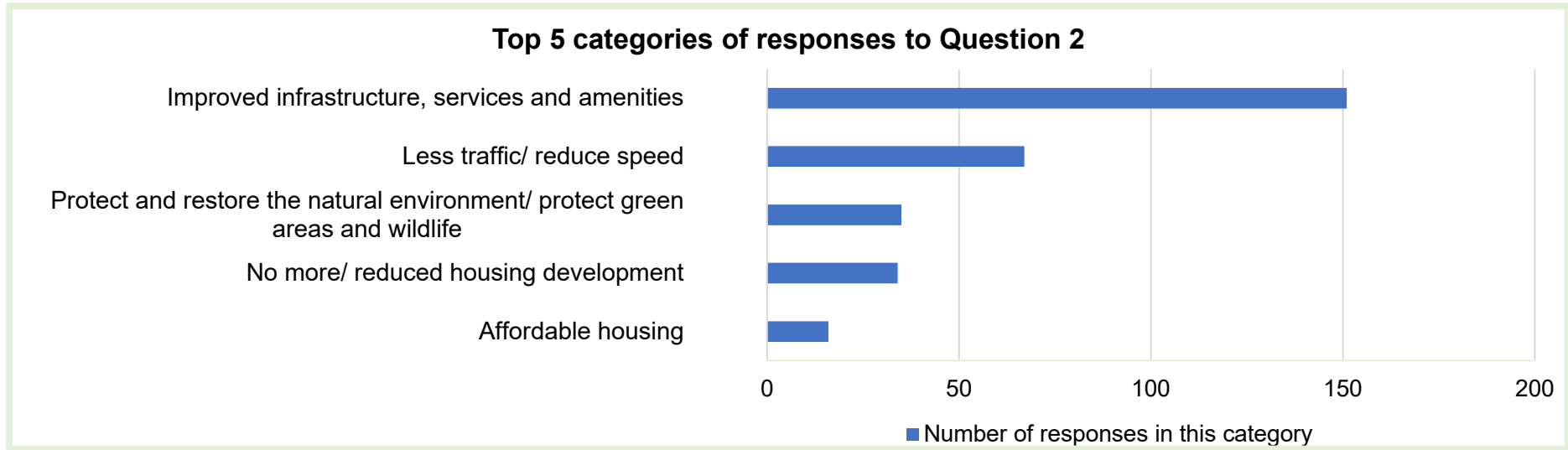


Figure 7- Top 5 categories of responses to Question 2

- The striking message raised in response to this question was the need for improved infrastructure, services and amenities. The detail given in people’s responses to this open text box question were broad in scope, covering the need for new and/or improved: medical facilities, roads (including active travel provision), leisure facilities (including swimming pools), schools, parking facilities, water and sewage systems, public transport, green spaces, playgrounds, food stores, independent shops, internet access, train

station at Wantage/Grove, and community buildings. Many respondents requested that the necessary infrastructure be provided ahead of any future developments.

- A large proportion of responses made reference to existing traffic congestion issues and the need for traffic improvements and speed limit reductions in certain areas. Some respondents linked this to improvements in active travel provision and measures such as widening pavements and adding cycle lanes.

People raised concerns that new housing is leading to worsening traffic congestion.

- Tighter protection for the countryside was raised by multiple respondents. There were suggestions of encouraging re-wilding in more areas.
- There were requests to stop Oxford from expanding and to reverse particular site allocations from the existing South Oxfordshire Local Plan.
- Many respondents felt that less housing development should be carried out, with reference made to green spaces getting smaller and existing facilities unable to sustain more housing. There were concerns that large

scale developments would negatively impact villages in the districts.

- Respondents called for a significant increase in genuinely affordable housing, especially making housing affordable for young single people, young families and older people wishing to downsize.
- There were also responses which focussed on improvements to housing standards, ensuring that new developments respect local character. Some responses also suggested the inclusion of renewables.
- There was a request from multiple respondents to tackle littering and pollution, including light and noise pollution.

This question also asked respondents to provide the name of the town, village or area that they were talking about. We've used this to identify the main topics raised in relation to specific towns, villages and areas, shown in Table 1.

Table 1 - Main topics raised by town/village/area in response to Question 2

Town/village/area	Main topics raised	Town/village/area	Main topics raised
Abingdon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce traffic • Improve infrastructure • Improved high street/town centre 	Beckley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve infrastructure for active travel and public transport
Appleton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better services and road links 	Benson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic/speed limit

Town/village/area	Main topics raised	Town/village/area	Main topics raised
Berinsfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic/speed limit • Stop housing development 	Cumnor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable housing
Botley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce traffic and pollution • Reduce development 	Didcot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of adequate infrastructure and services to support development • Housing affordability
Chalgrove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment opportunities • Reduce traffic/speed limit • Stop Chalgrove Airfield development • Improve cycle paths 	East Challow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overdevelopment
Chilton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of adequate infrastructure • Limit expansion 	East Hagbourne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve infrastructure (roads)
Chinnor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of adequate infrastructure and services to support development 	East Hanney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop development • Protect green areas • Lack of adequate infrastructure and services to support new developments
Cholsey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of adequate services 	East Hendred	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve public transport and infrastructure for active travel • Reduce traffic • Low carbon
Coleshill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce traffic/speed limit 	Faringdon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of adequate services, amenities and infrastructure for level of development • Reduce traffic and support active travel
Culham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce traffic/speed limit • Improve infrastructure • Protect natural environment/tackle climate change • Less housing development 	Fyfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce housing development and traffic

Town/village/area	Main topics raised	Town/village/area	Main topics raised
Garsington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop development and protect Green Belt 	Lewknor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce traffic (noise)
Goring Heath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce traffic 	Littleworth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve safety of A420 for pedestrians and vehicles
Great Haseley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect natural environment and tackle climate change 	Milton Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment opportunities
Grove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve infrastructure, services and amenities: • Stop housing development 	Sandford on Thames	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve infrastructure; • Reduce traffic/speed limit
Harwell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve infrastructure for active travel 	Sandhills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce speed limit
Henley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect natural environment and historic character 	Shrivenham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop housing development
Horspath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve public transport to reduce dependency on car 	Sonning Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less traffic • Improve infrastructure • More housing options
Ipsden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve infrastructure (roads) 	Stadhampton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce traffic
Kidmore End	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve infrastructure, especially for active travel 	Sutton Courtenay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce traffic and overdevelopment
Lechlade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking 	Thame	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green areas/ infrastructure • Regulate business rates

Town/village/area	Main topics raised	Town/village/area	Main topics raised
Wallingford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce traffic/speed limit • Illegal parking 	Watlington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce traffic/speed limit
Wantage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less housing development • Lack of adequate infrastructure and services • Accessibility • Reduce traffic 	Wootton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic/speed limit
Waterstock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce traffic/speed limit • Stop development and protect green areas • Improve infrastructure 		

ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

The majority of comments we received to this question related to the other chapter themes in the Issues consultation document.

Two areas which were not covered in any detail through the Issues consultation, but were raised in response to this

question, were the approach to Green Belt and the scale of future housing development.

We propose to: explore the issues raised in greater detail

We propose to: address the matters of housing requirements and Green Belt through future engagement on the Joint Local Plan.

Chapter 3

How things are right now



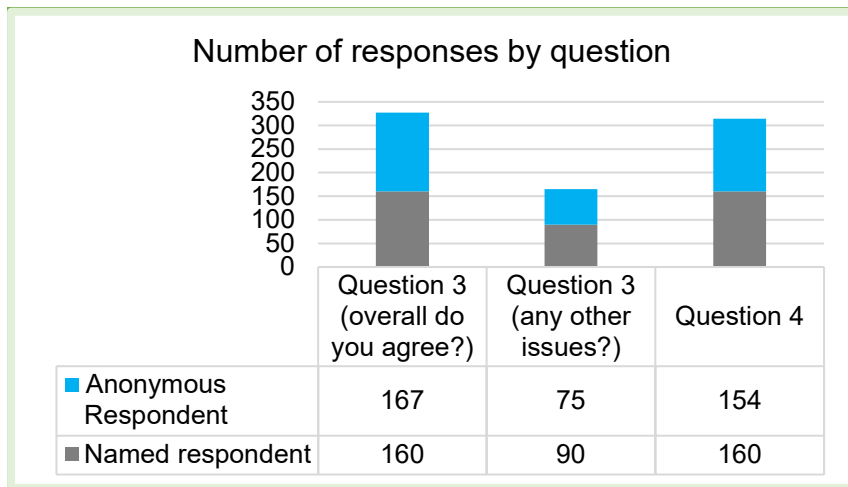
Overview

We asked two questions in the ‘How things are right now’ section of the consultation:

Q3. Overall, do you agree that these are the main issues that the Joint Local Plan should consider? If there are any other issues the Local Plan should consider, please let us know in this box.

Q4. Which of these issues do you think is the most important?

The number of responses to these questions were almost evenly distributed between the two methods of response. Fewer people responded to the second part of question 3:



The main issues we presented:



Climate

We have a commitment and a duty to tackle the climate emergency, reduce carbon emissions, increase biodiversity and reverse nature's decline.



Protecting our countryside

We live in districts of beautiful countryside that are home to two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which we have an important duty to protect. Oxfordshire is the most rural part of South-East England and we have lots of important historical and natural assets to look after, including the River Thames.



Our towns and villages

Most of our residents live in historic villages and market towns, and we have a duty to manage any change in these locations extremely carefully. There are also a number of areas where significant growth and change is already planned or happening.



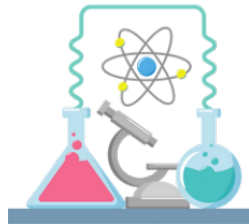
Quality of life and affordability

We're an area of high demand for housing, with house prices beyond the reach of many who want to live in the district. Living in an expensive area of the country makes the lives of those with less money even more difficult. People's experiences of living in the districts vary and while we live in a relatively affluent area of the country, many households are facing a cost-of-living squeeze. The resident population is also getting older, which brings more challenges.



Traffic and transport

Many of our roads have already reached or exceeded their maximum capacity, which causes congestion and significant air quality issues in certain areas. As a neighbour to the city of Oxford and large towns of Reading and Swindon, many people live in the districts and travel to work outside, and vice versa.



Employment

There are low levels of unemployment in the districts, which are most notably home to a wide range of science and innovation businesses that are nationally and globally important. Many of these businesses are based in an area known as Science Vale that crosses the district boundary and is home to two Enterprise Zones.



Development and Infrastructure

Our adopted Local Plans have already planned large quantities of new housing and employment land, much of it still to be built. It is important that new infrastructure is delivered alongside this growth, to reduce pressure on existing facilities. This will include better public transport, new schools, sewage treatment capacity, health facilities and open space.

Question 3. Overall, do you agree that these are the main issues that the Joint Local Plan should consider? If there are any other issues the Local Plan should consider, please let us know in this box.

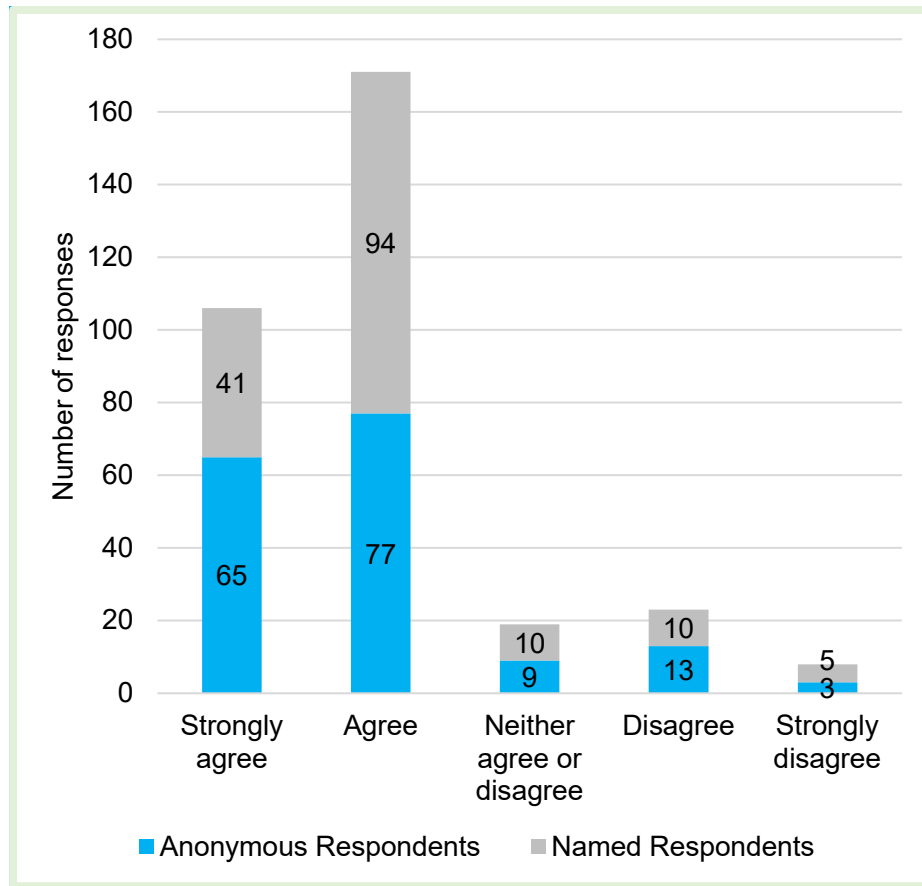


Figure 8 - Do you agree that these are the main issues that the Joint Local Plan should consider?

- There was a high level of agreement that the issues identified in this chapter were the main issues that the Joint Local Plan should consider, with almost 85% of responses selecting strongly agree or agree.
- Just over 5% of responses were ‘neither agree nor disagree’ and the remaining 10% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- Only 8 of the responses selected ‘strongly disagree’.
- In terms of any other issues that the Joint Local Plan should consider, the most common category of response was around a lack of adequate infrastructure and services.
- This was followed by housing provision and affordability, including tackling poverty and inequalities in the districts.
- Sustainability of developments was the next most frequent topic which came up in response to the second part of this question.

- Other categories of response included:
 1. Availability and accessibility of services
 2. Protection of the Green Belt and other natural areas
 3. Environment/Climate change
 4. More focus on renewable energy and sustainability
 5. Local businesses and economy
 6. Developing active communities
 7. Requests for less housing development
 8. Farming, agriculture and food security
 9. Traffic
 10. Protecting rural areas and local heritage
 11. Issues needing to be tackled in partnership with other authorities
 12. Themes do not operate independently of each other (balance)
 13. Flooding
 14. Need to balance flexibility in delivery yet ensure development certainty
 15. Suggestion that climate change should not be the top priority

The frequency with which these topics were raised in the open answer box can be found in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Number of responses to Question 3 which were assigned to each category of response

Category of response	Number of responses
Lack of adequate infrastructure/ services	44
Housing provision and affordability (including tackling poverty and inequalities)	31
Sustainability of developments/ farming and agriculture	31
Availability and accessibility of services	19
Protection of the Green Belt and other natural areas	16

Category of response	Number of responses
Environment/ climate change	16
Other	12
More focus on renewable energy and sustainability	11
Local businesses and economy	10
Develop active communities	8
Less housing development	6
Farming, agriculture and food security	6
Traffic	5
Protect rural areas and local heritage	4
Issues need to be tackled in partnership with other authorities	4
Themes do not operate independently of each other (balance)	4
Flooding	4
Need to balance flexibility in delivery yet ensure development certainty	4
Climate change should not be top priority	2

ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

There was a high level of agreement with the issues presented in this chapter being the main issues that the Joint Local Plan should consider. The majority of comments received related to the main issues already highlighted in this

chapter and have also been picked up in the themed chapters later on.

We propose to: continue with our focus on these main issues and commission evidence to explore the issues in greater detail.

Question 4. Which of these issues do you think is the most important? (Please select ONE option)

- Almost a third of responses selected ‘Protecting our countryside’ as the most important of the issues set out in the ‘How things are right now’ section.
- Around a quarter of responses selected ‘Climate’ as most important.
- ‘Development and infrastructure’ and ‘Quality of life and affordability’ gained around 16% and 13% of selection respectively.
- Collectively, the final three issues were selected as most important by around 16% of the total responses.

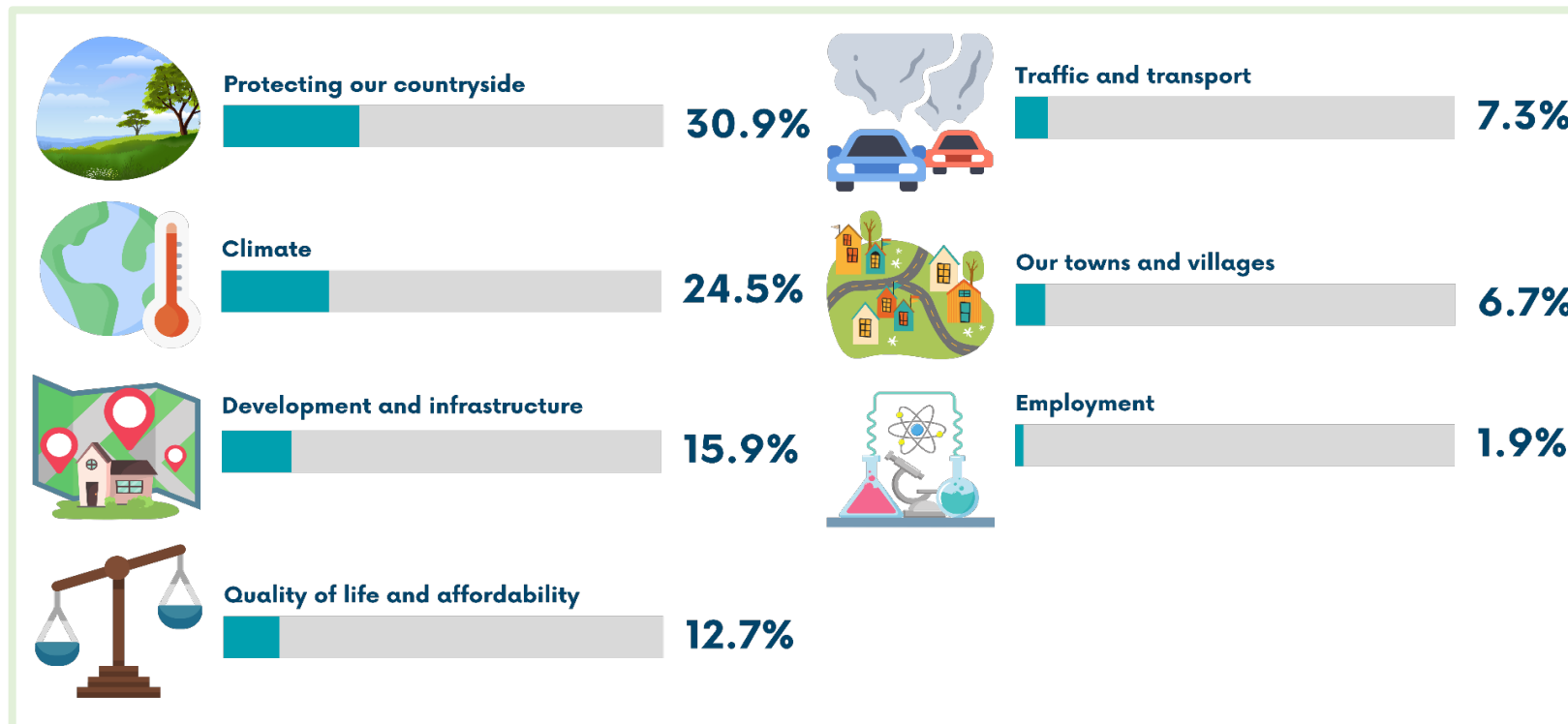


Figure 9 – Percentages of responses to ‘Which of these issues do you think is the most important?’

Chapter 4

Vision

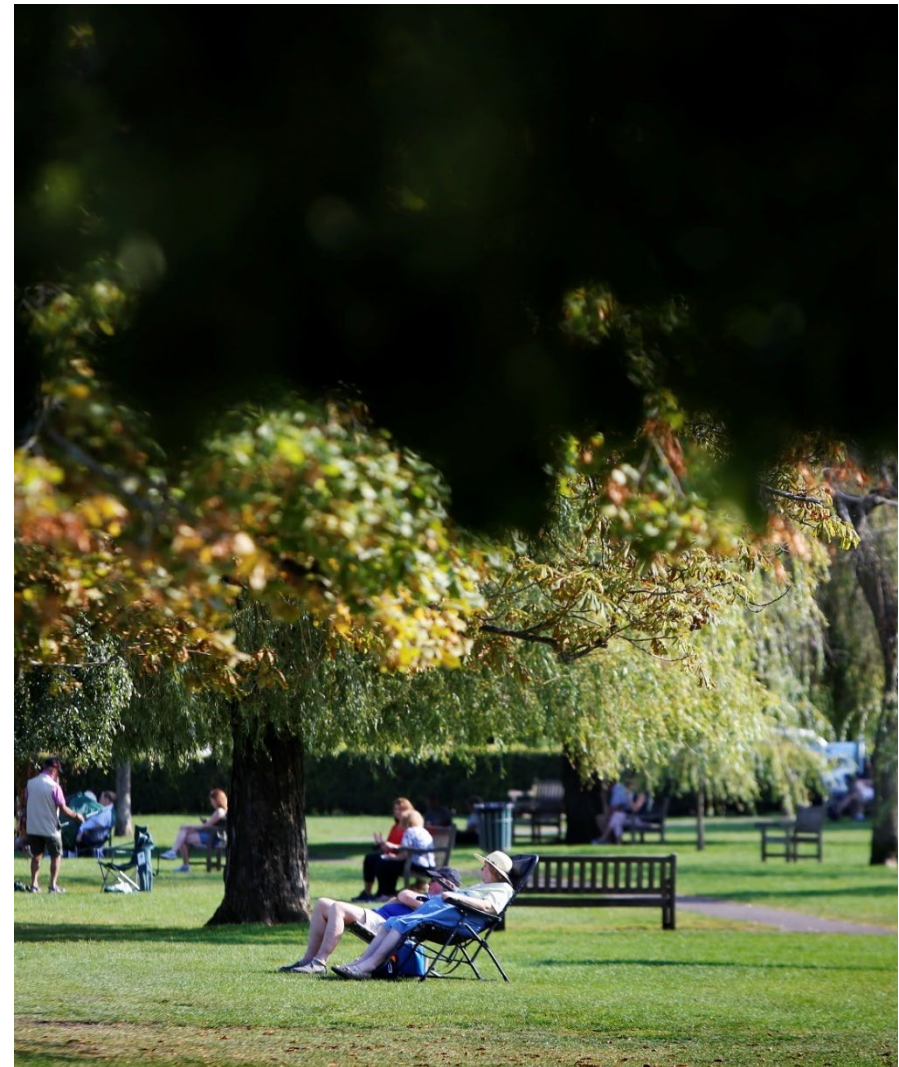
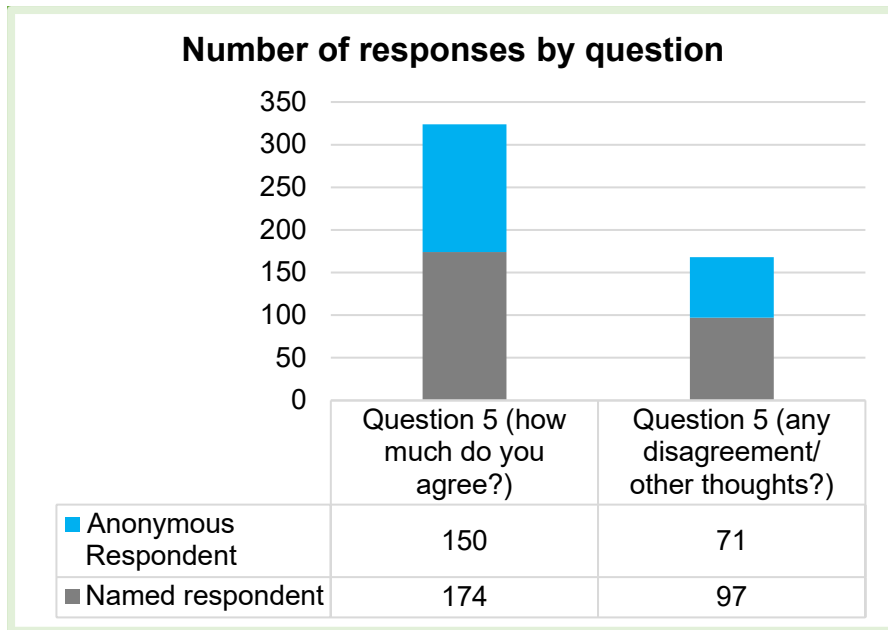


Overview

We presented a draft vision and asked one question in the 'Vision' section of the consultation:

Q5. How much do you agree with this vision for the Joint Local Plan? If there is anything you disagree with in particular, or you have any other thoughts, let us know here.

Fewer people responded to the second part of the question:



Our Vision

Our vision is for **carbon neutral** districts, for current and future generations.

For this to be a place where **nature** is thriving, and nature reserves are no longer isolated pockets. A place where **history** is still visible, where heritage and landscape character are safeguarded and valued, and the beauty and the distinctive local identity of our towns and villages have been enhanced.

A place where **people can thrive**. Where people have housing choices they can afford, where villages, market towns and garden communities are diverse and inclusive places where people of all ages and backgrounds can live together.

A place where local residents can reach the **facilities** they need for everyday living on foot, bicycle or by **zero-emission and low carbon transport** choices.

Where residents and visitors can live **healthy lifestyles** and access greenspace. Where **people are safe** from pollution, flooding, and the effects of climate change.

Where there are valuable and rewarding **jobs**, embracing clean technologies and growing the opportunities in Science Vale for the districts to contribute on a national and international scale to solving pressing global issues.



Question 5. How much do you agree with this vision for the Joint Local Plan? If there is anything you disagree with in particular, or you have any other thoughts, let us know here.

- There was a high level of agreement with the draft vision for the Joint Local Plan, with around 85% of responses selecting strongly agree or agree.
- Just over 8% of responses were 'neither agree nor disagree' and the remaining 7% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- Only 9 of the responses selected 'strongly disagree'.
- We had 168 comments in the open text box which asked about anything people disagreed with/ other thoughts raised. A selection of these comments on the vision can be found on page 42.
- Of the comments received, the most common comment was that the vision was too vague/ generic, and that progress could not be measured.
- Some people raised concerns that the vision was unachievable and didn't seem realistic within the plan period. Questions were raised around how the vision would be achieved in reality. Some people said the different parts of the vision were contradictory.

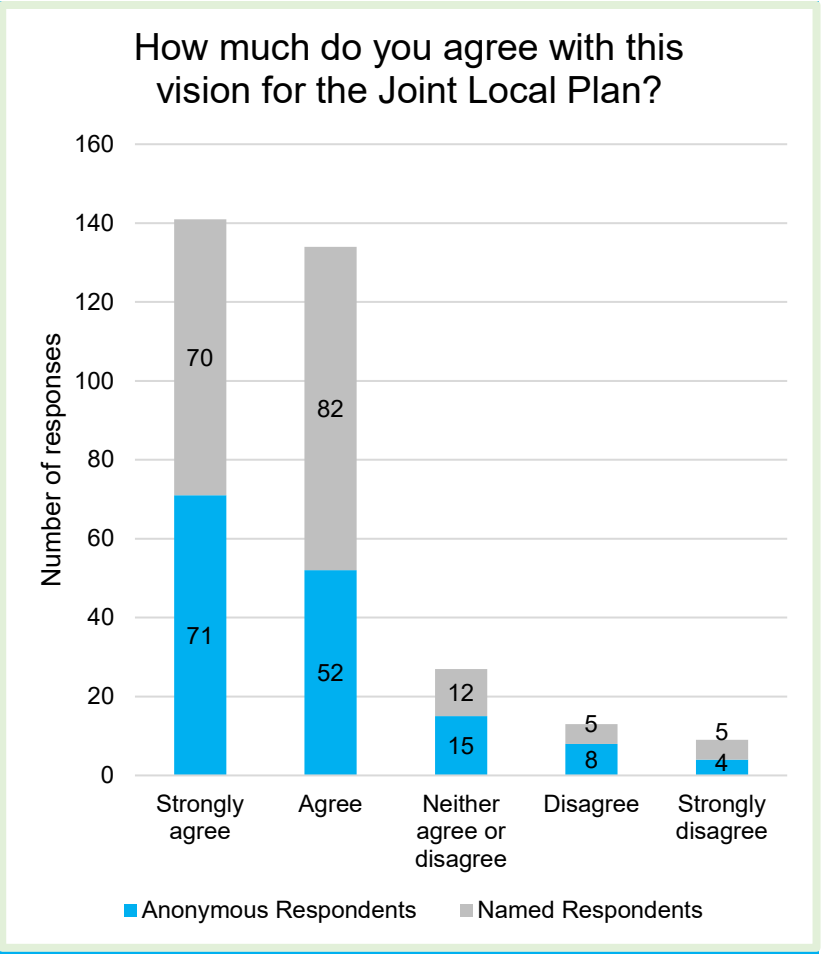


Figure 10 - Responses to Q5 'How much do you agree with this vision for the Joint Local Plan?'

What you said about the draft vision:

“These are just generic vision thoughts. Everyone will agree that this vision is good. It would be better to concentrate on things that need changing now rather than all this”

“We need a period of consolidation after the transformation resulting from the current level of development.”

“I’ve seen no evidence over the last ~40 years of any serious commitment to any of this.”

“This is beautiful and inspiring.”

“All a bit pie in the sky when you look around the local area and see the little red brick boxes that the developers are allowed to put up.”

“This vision sounds lovely but omits the reality that this plan is about unconstrained economic growth, replacing significant areas of countryside with concrete for housing, new employment sites and infrastructure to enable high levels of migration into the county. The construction carbon emissions alone will likely make Oxfordshire a net contributor to climate change for decades to come.”

- On more specific topics, some respondents agreed with the mention of housing choices that people can afford in the vision, but called for a greater focus on housing affordability and the delivery of homes. Some noted a lack of reference to meeting the development needs of the districts.
- Other matters that were raised in the open text box included reflections about how current or recent development clashes with this new vision:
 - Concerns that current development is unsustainable/ not well planned
 - Request for less housing development
 - A need for more affordable and sustainable housing
 - A need to improve infrastructure (particularly for sustainable travel options) – linked to this were comments about a lack of adequate infrastructure and services
 - Comments about accessibility
 - Comments about local economic growth
 - Comments around levels of growth

- And more general requests like:
 - A need to protect countryside and wildlife
 - More focus on sustainability and climate change
 - Suggestion that the districts should aim for Zero Carbon not Carbon Neutral
 - Concerns that carbon neutrality might harm economy, communities and environment
 - Request for more focus on social and economic inclusion
- Many responses confirming that were happy with the vision and had no further comments to make.

ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

As shown by the first part of the question, there was a high level of support for the vision as drafted and many of the comments received related to topics already included in the vision.

We propose to: carry forward the vision, with minor adjustments, into the next stages of drafting the Joint Local Plan.

Chapter 6

Reducing Carbon Emissions

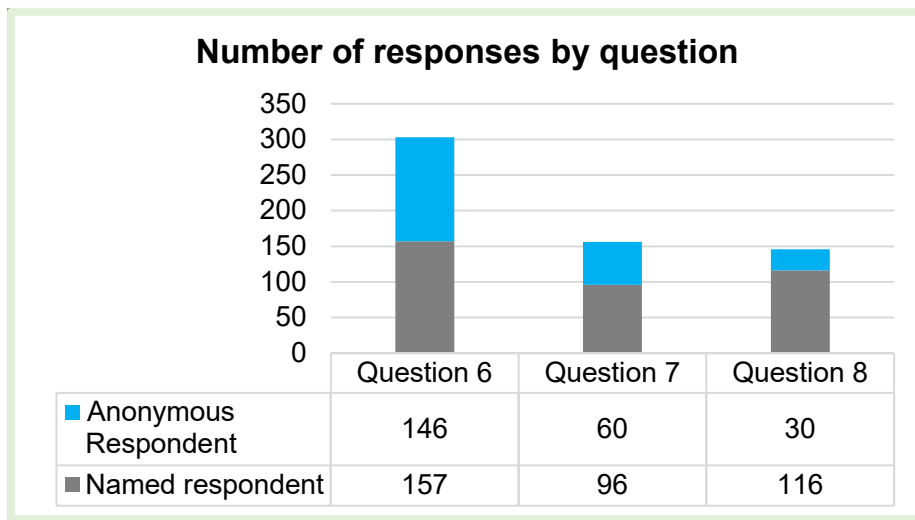


Overview

We presented nine opportunities for what the local plan could do about carbon emissions, and then asked three questions:

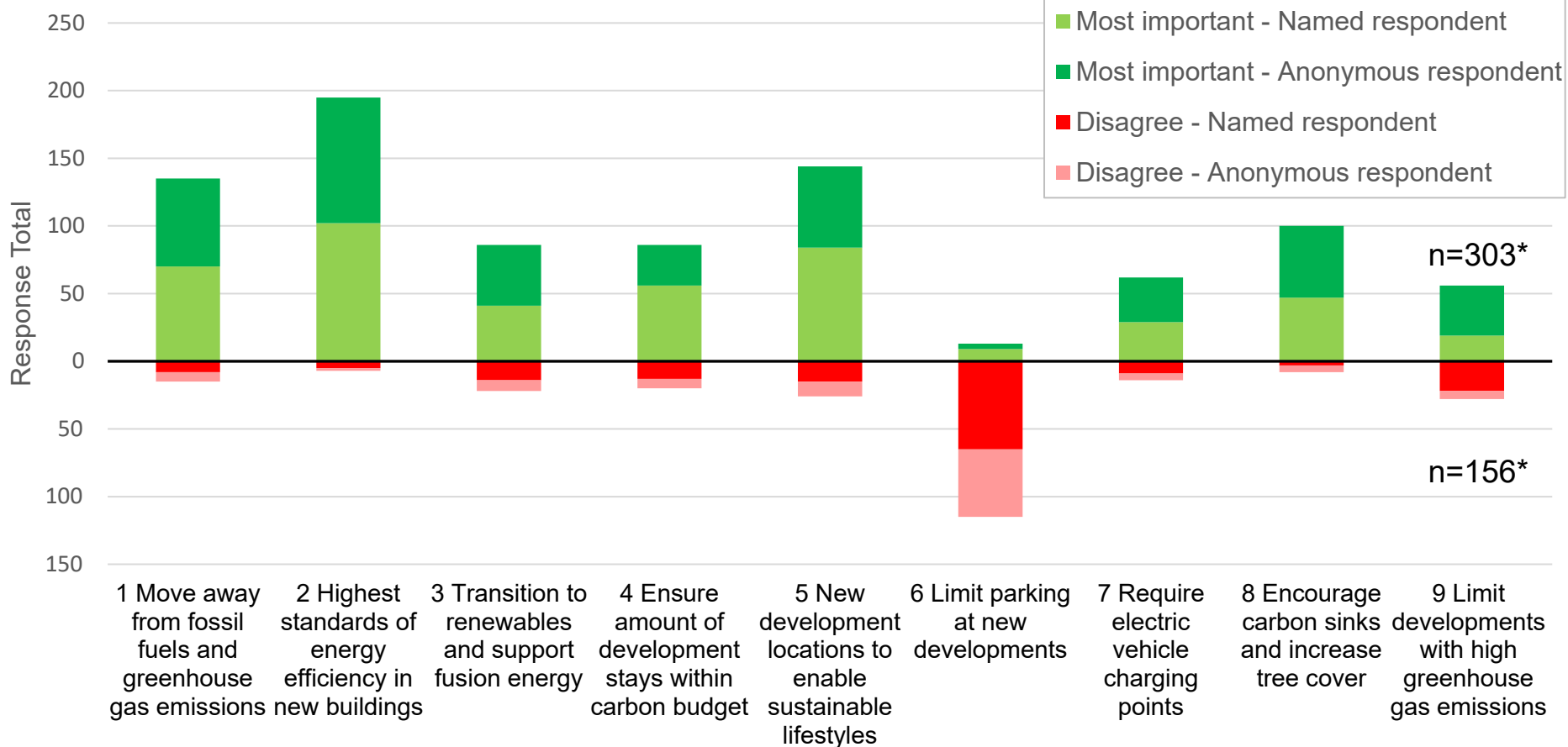
- Q6. Please select the THREE opportunities listed above that are most important to you.
- Q7. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities?
- Q8. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to reduce carbon emissions, please write them here.

The number of responses to these questions varied by question and method of responding:



Question 6. Select the THREE opportunities listed above that are most important to you.

Question 7. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.



*n = the number of times this question was answered (combining named responses and anonymous responses)

Figure 11 - Responses to Question 6 and Question 7 (Named and Anonymous responses)

Question 6. Select the THREE opportunities listed above that are most important to you.

The opportunity which was selected the most as most important was opportunity 2 – ‘highest standards of energy efficiency in new buildings’. Followed by opportunity 5 – ‘new development locations to enable sustainable lifestyles’ and opportunity 1 – ‘move away from fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions’.

Question 7. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

The standout opportunity which received more disagreement than the other opportunities in this chapter was opportunity 6 – ‘limit parking at new developments’. Key points raised from comments regarding limiting parking were that rural areas rely on cars to get around, that limiting parking will push cars onto other roads and that it will encourage illegal parking.



“In rural towns many people need a car to work, visit family, friends, hospitals, for mobility issues, and there are NOT enough car parking spaces on housing estates or in town centres to cope with the number of cars. This needs rectifying.”

“Limiting parking on new estates will just push cars on to other roads”

Question 8. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to reduce carbon emissions, please write them here.

Summary of any other thoughts raised:

- To help reduce carbon emissions, many respondents mentioned the importance of the plan encouraging the use of public transport, as well as travelling by active travel methods like walking and cycling.
- We received suggestions that new developments should include high quality cycle and walking routes, and that these should be joined up with routes in surrounding areas to encourage active travel methods.
- The majority of respondents agreed with the idea of planning for new development in locations that enable sustainable lifestyles, however a few respondents noted that 20-minute neighbourhoods can be more difficult to achieve in rural areas where public transport and active travel options are limited or not available.
- Regarding the transition to renewable forms of energy, respondents frequently raised that all new developments should have solar panels installed.
- Many respondents agreed that all new homes should include electric charging points to encourage the move to electric vehicles, although also raised that these are often expensive to own.
- Many respondents raised that the plan should support retrofitting existing homes, but also commented that this is often expensive, and noted that it should be made more affordable.
- Many respondents disagreed with potentially limiting parking at new developments. Some stated that without private parking, off-street parking can increase which can lead to obstructions and look unsightly. Others felt that in rural areas or areas with poor public transport links, cars are needed for travel.
- Developers in particular raised the importance of ensuring any plan requirements to reduce carbon emissions should be both supported by viability evidence and deliverable.
- Developers also considered that the local plan should not be setting energy efficiency requirements for new homes that go beyond the minimum standards set through Building Regulations.
- In contrast, parish councils raised that the plan should set requirements beyond the building regulations, including to net zero standards.

*“...it is considered that any future policy will need to acknowledge that technical specifications and inclusion of specific technologies (for example to achieve energy efficiency in new development) are best dealt with through Building Regulations.”
- Developer*

“...there is an urgent need for implementing significantly higher standards in the area of sustainable design and energy efficiency well above current Building Regulation requirements.” - Parish Council

ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

We propose to: think carefully about where to apply new limits on car parking for new residential developments.

We propose to: commission specialist advice to help develop our standards for sustainable design and test them for viability.

We propose to: keep going with developing policies that ensure developments within the districts produce as few carbon emissions as possible, both in their construction and during their use, and require building designs to be adapted to be resilient to climate change impacts like overheating. We also propose to develop policies ensuring that the location and design of our developments encourage more sustainable lifestyles.

We propose to: develop policies that are ambitious in their aims to reduce carbon emissions. We will pursue further the opportunities we presented, and also give thought to how the plan can support the retrofitting of existing homes, encourage active travel and public transport use (including in rural areas), and ensure its policies are viable and deliverable.

Chapter 7

Nature Recovery and Landscape

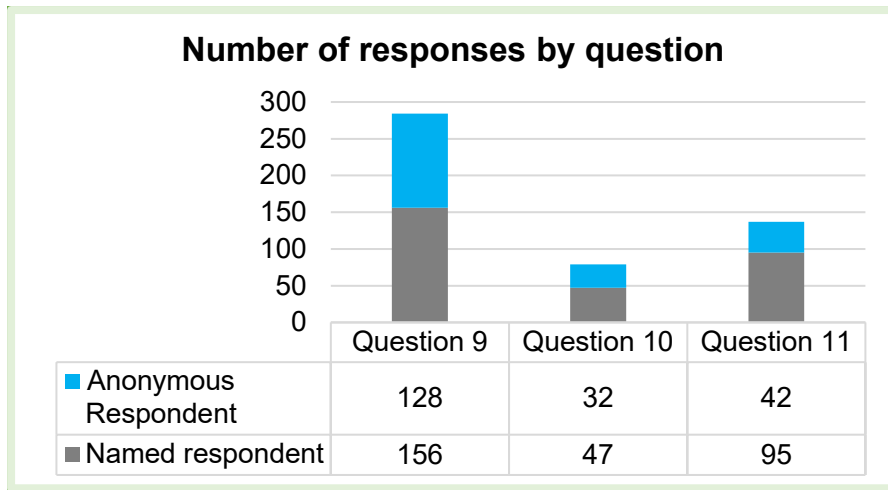


Overview

We presented nine opportunities for what the local plan could do on nature recovery and landscape, and then asked three questions:

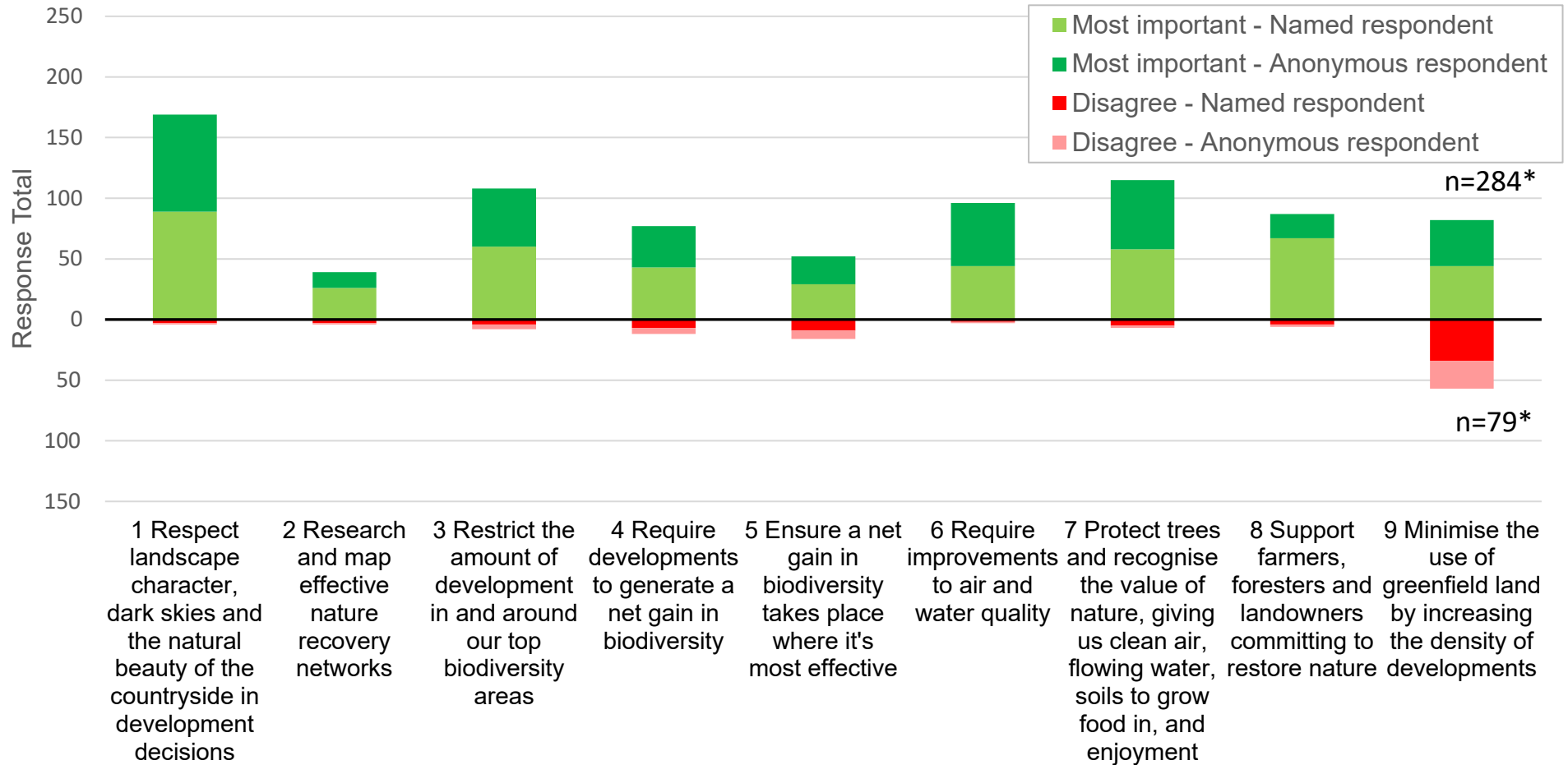
- Q9. Please select the THREE opportunities listed above that are most important to you.
- Q10. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities?
- Q11. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to protect the natural environment, please write them here.

The number of responses to these questions varied by question and method of responding:



Question 9. Select the THREE opportunities listed above that are most important to you.

Question 10. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.



*n = the number of times this question was answered (combining named responses and anonymous responses)

Figure 12 - Responses to Question 9 and Question 10 (Named and Anonymous respondents)

Question 9. Select the THREE opportunities listed above that are most important to you.

Opportunity 1 – the most popular opportunity was ‘respect landscape character, dark skies and the natural beauty of the countryside in development decisions’, other fairly high results were for opportunity 3 – ‘restrict the amount of development in and around our top biodiversity areas’ and opportunity 7 – ‘protect trees and recognise the value of nature, giving us clean air, flowing water, soils to grow food in and enjoyment’.

Question 10. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities?

There was a higher number of responses that disagreed with opportunity 9 – ‘minimise the use of greenfield land by increasing the density of developments’ than with the other opportunities in this chapter, although overall this opportunity was more popular than unpopular. Of the 79 responses received to this question, opportunity 9 was selected 57 times.

Looking through the negative comments submitted, the key concern around increasing the density of developments was that it may result in a reduced quality of life for residents.



“Yes, we agree that the use of greenfield sites should be minimised and only be considered when brownfield sites have been exhausted, but we consider that further increases in housing density are not supported as this would detract from the quality of life and wellbeing of residents.”

Question 11. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to protect the natural environment, please write them here.

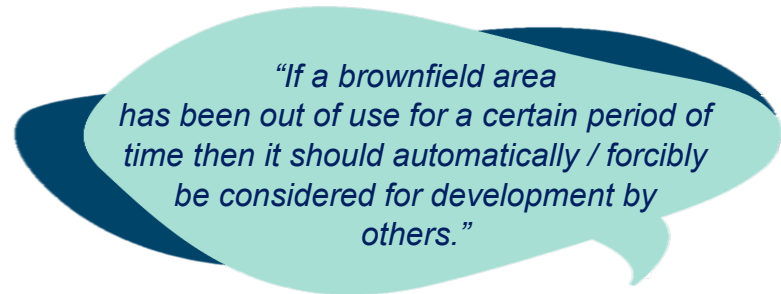
Table 3 – Main categories of responses to Question 11 and number of responses assigned to that category

Category of response	Number of responses
Amount of New Development (Impacts on the Natural Environment)	45
Location of New Development (Impacts on the Natural Environment)	40
Biodiversity Net Gain	38
Green Infrastructure	35
Plan-making process (Natural Environment Approach)	35
Water Resources	33
Landscape	30
Trees, Hedgerows and Plants	24
Addressing Pollution	15
Wildlife	12

Summary of any other thoughts raised:

- Many respondents felt that planning new development conflicts with aims to protect and restore the natural environment. However, others, particularly developers, considered that well designed development could help to protect and enhance the natural environment.
- There was strong support for focusing development on brownfield land. However, some respondents, particularly developers and housing associations, considered that some greenfield development is likely to be necessary to meet the districts’ development needs.

- Many respondents felt that there should be no or very limited development in the AONBs and Green Belt.

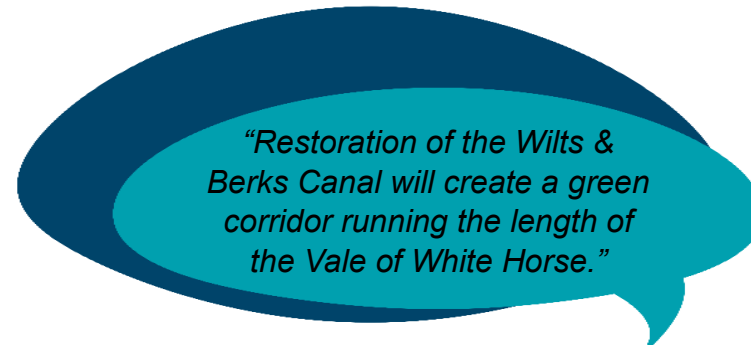


- The majority of respondents who disagreed with increasing the density of development were concerned

this could have negative impacts (for example a lack of green space, a lack of parking, poor-quality living environments and development not being in keeping with local character).

- Concerns were raised about the impacts of solar farms on the districts’ landscapes.
- We received suggestions that new developments should incorporate features such as bat, owl and bee boxes, insect hotels, hedgehog highways and insect friendly plants.
- Many respondents highlighted the value of trees and hedgerows and felt that more should be done to protect them and to encourage new trees and hedgerows to be planted.
- There were significant concerns about the capacity of wastewater treatment infrastructure and about sewage being released into rivers.
- Concerns were raised about light and noise pollution, asking the joint local plan to do more to address these issues.
- There was support for the use of sustainable drainage systems, the re-naturalising of flood plains and the restoration of the Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal.
- Whilst there was some support for biodiversity net gain, including support for seeking more than 10%, many respondents were concerned that mature trees and

habitats cannot be easily replaced and that biodiversity losses cannot be offset elsewhere.



- Many respondents considered it important for communities to have access to nature and high-quality green spaces close to home.

ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

We propose to: continue to develop a policy to achieve the right housing densities in the right locations, making sure that this won’t adversely impact on the quality of life for current and future residents. We will have policies that require all developments to be of high quality.

We propose to: develop policies within the Joint Local Plan that are ambitious about protecting and restoring the natural environment. We will consider the wide range of opportunities and challenges raised through the responses, including through commissioning specialist studies to help us.

Chapter 8

Protecting and Enhancing Local Heritage



Overview

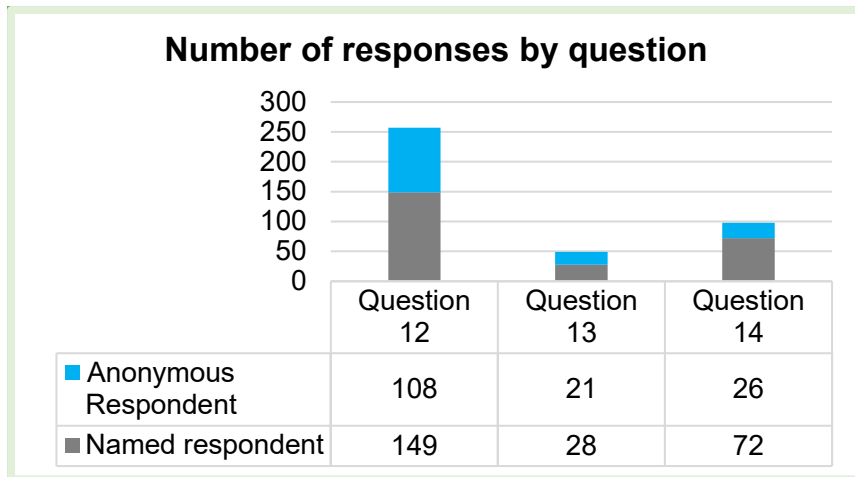
We presented nine opportunities for what the local plan could do to protect and enhance local heritage, and then asked three questions:

Q12. Please select the THREE opportunities listed above that are most important to you.

Q13. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities?

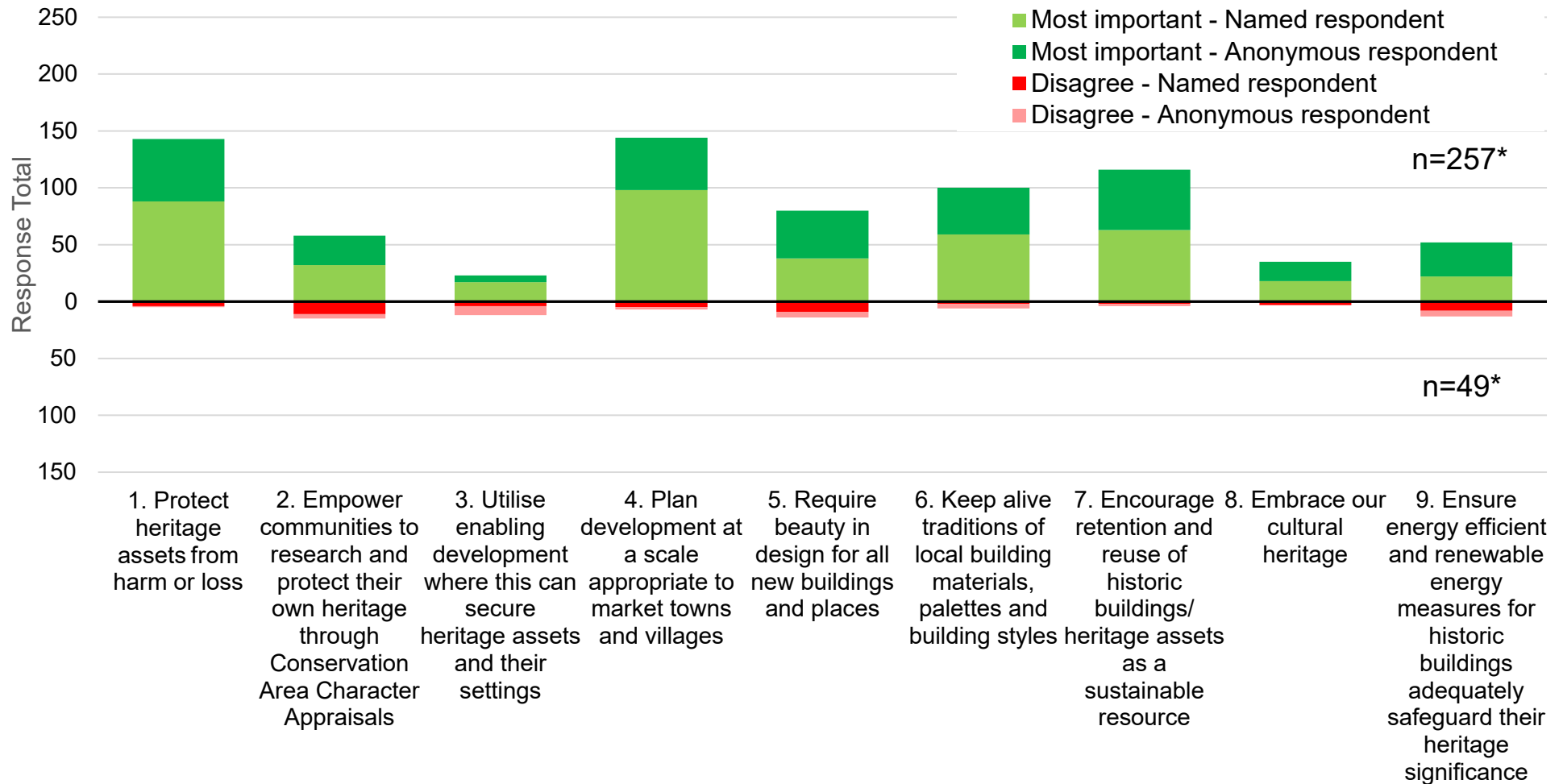
Q14. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to protect and enhance local heritage please write them here.

The number of responses to these questions varied by question and method of responding:



Question 12. Select the THREE opportunities listed above that are most important to you.

Question 13. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.



*n = the number of times this question was answered (combining named responses and anonymous responses)

Figure 13 - Responses to Question 12 and Question 13 (Named and Anonymous respondents)

Question 12. Select the THREE opportunities listed above that are most important to you.

The opportunities that stand out as most important to respondents are opportunity 1 – ‘protect heritage assets from harm or loss’ and opportunity 4 – ‘plan development at a scale appropriate to market towns and villages’.

Question 13. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

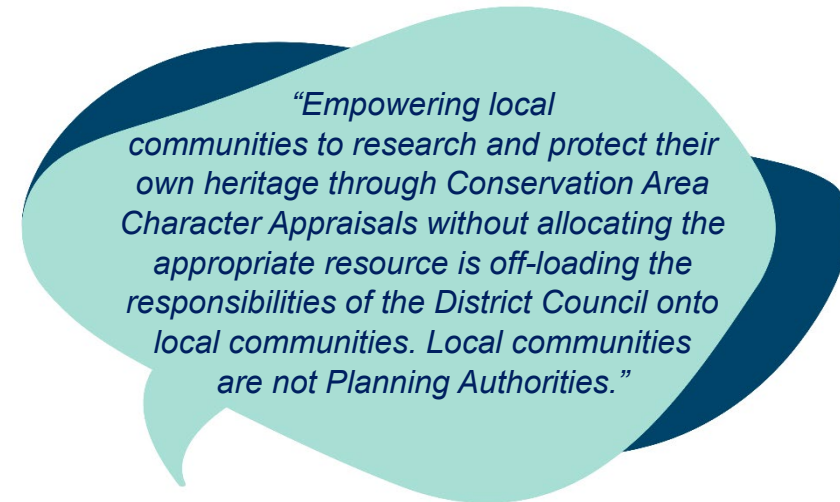
Unlike the previous two chapters, there wasn’t much disagreement with any of the opportunities in this chapter. There were 15 responses disagreeing with opportunity 2 – ‘empower communities to research and protect their own heritage through conservation area appraisals’, 14 for opportunity 5 – ‘require beauty in design for all new buildings and places’ and 13 for opportunity 9 – ‘ensure energy efficient and renewable energy measures for historic buildings adequately safeguard their heritage significance’. Concerns were raised on opportunity 2 that the councils would be off-loading responsibilities to local communities and that conservation area appraisals should be carried out by professionals. Concerns about opportunity 5 related to how we define beauty and how it can be measured. Responses on opportunity 9 mentioned that we may have to accept changes in order to achieve carbon targets.



Question 14. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to protect and enhance local heritage, please write them here.

Summary of any other thoughts raised:

- There were multiple responses which emphasised a need to stick to the local plan when it comes to protecting and enhancing local heritage, citing some examples of modern developments being out of character and not reflecting the style of the existing. There was a suggestion to restrict or ban mass developments that destroy local character. One comment mentioned that new development is operating within the national market and as a result is out of character with the area.
- Some responses raised the benefits of sharing guidance and publicising existing good practice. There was also the suggestion of educating in schools about local heritage.
- Taking proper note of community appraisals carried out and listening to the views of local people was mentioned. As noted under Question 13, some felt that the opportunity 'Empower communities to research and protect their own heritage through Conservation Area Character Appraisals' may shift too much responsibility to communities and should be supported by qualified professionals. Some felt that this opportunity could result in the Local Planning Authority shifting responsibility onto communities who may not have the resources to carry this out.



- Some respondents queried how we measure beauty with concerns that this is open to interpretation.
- Many of the responses related back to high quality design, focussing on excellence in design and encouraging innovative design. Some respondents made a specific request that the Joint Local Plan should include a policy relating to the Chilterns Building Design Guide.
- Respondents also mentioned a need for a pragmatic approach to conservation and heritage rules and flexibility in design policies. One respondent suggested that heritage should incorporate new technologies. Another

suggested that double glazing should be permitted in non-original windows of listed buildings.

- Some responses mentioned links with climate change, retrofitting and energy efficiency, for example the need to balance safeguarding heritage with a need to be net-zero. There was also support for the retention and reuse of historic buildings.
- There was support for the restoration of the Wilts/Berks canal as a heritage asset.
- Many respondents highlighted a need to make sure that heritage is used. One respondent suggested appraising local heritage sites for their business opportunities.
- There was mention of the dependence on national policy and guidance for this particular theme.
- There was a request for the Joint Local Plan to support village pubs as essential community assets.
- Some respondents felt that the opportunities from this chapter were too vague.
- We received multiple responses promoting specific sites and their relationship with the historic environment.



ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

We propose to: continue with the approach of protecting and enhancing local heritage because it clearly matters to people and it is a legal requirement to protect heritage assets. We will make sure that communities will have support to research and protect their own heritage through involvement in conservation area appraisals.

Chapter 9

Thriving Inclusive Communities



Overview

We presented nine opportunities for what the local plan could do to help thriving and inclusive communities, and then asked four questions:

Q15. Select the THREE opportunities listed above that are most important to you.

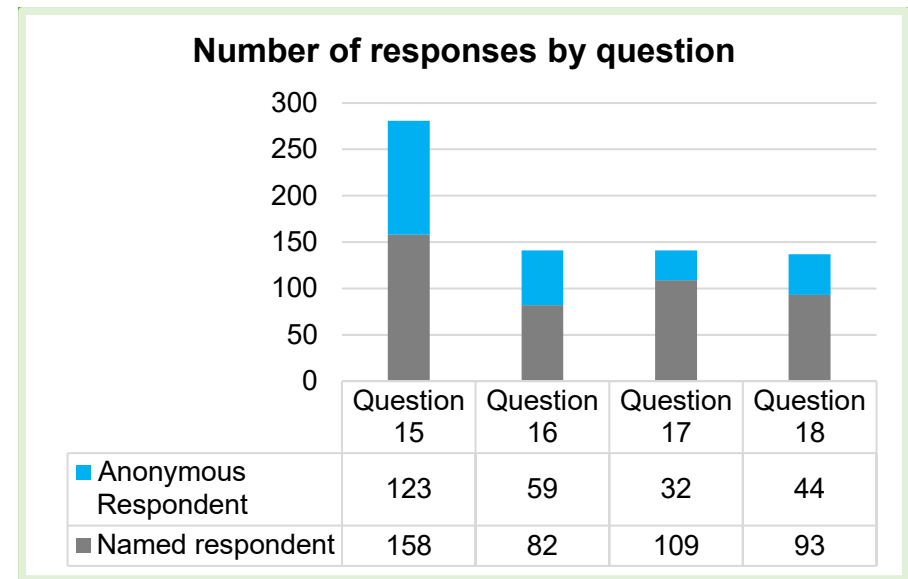
Q16. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities?

Q17. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to tackle housing inequality and affordability, please write them here.



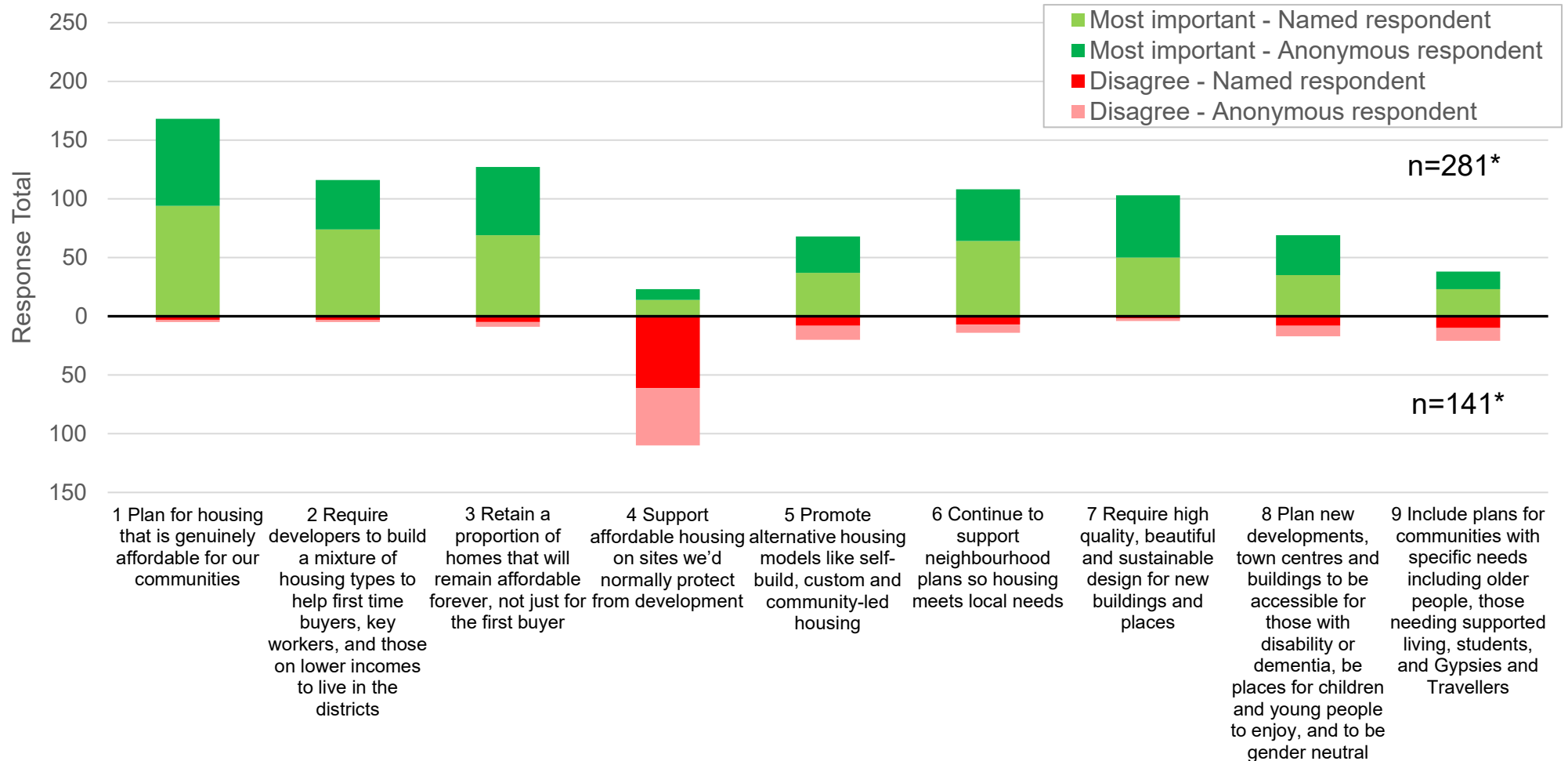
Q18. We'd like to hear your ideas for how we could adapt our town centres and high streets to meet our changing needs. Are there any improvements, new facilities or uses that you would like to see in the locations marked on the map? Which location(s) does your answer above apply to?

The number of responses to these questions varied by question and method of responding:



Question 15. Select the THREE opportunities listed above that are most important to you.

Question 16. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.



*n = the number of times this question was answered (combining named responses and anonymous responses)

Figure 14 - Responses to Question 15 and Question 16 (Named and Anonymous respondents)

Question 15. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

Many of the responses to this question selected opportunity 1 – ‘plan for housing that is genuinely affordable for our communities’ in the three opportunities most important to them. In contrast, fairly few responses selected opportunity 4 – ‘support affordable housing on sites we’d normally protect from development’ as most important to them.

Question 16. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

A noticeably larger number of responses disagreed with opportunity 4 – ‘support affordable housing on sites we’d normally protect from development’ than any of the other opportunities in this chapter. Concerns were raised about why this would be a sensible approach, with specific concerns relating to building in the Green Belt and other protected areas. Concerns were also raised that the opportunity is too ambiguous and open to misinterpretation for it to be used in the districts.



“Very concerned about support affordable housing on sites we’d normally protectcould this mean building in the Green Belt and other protected areas? Building should be done at higher densities in towns and maybe build upwards like in London. More emphasis should be given to converting retail and commercial premises into flats or houses”

“rather too ambiguous and open to misinterpretation for use in our two Districts. There have always been 'exception sites' for affordable housing, and that should continue, but when developers produce plans for a housing development where all the houses are similar in value, and therefore in Oxfordshire often 10 times the average household income in our Districts, an 80% reduction in the sale price of such housing to render them saleable as 'affordable' does not actually render them truly affordable for most first-time buyers.”

Question 17. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to tackle housing inequality and affordability, please write them here.

Summary of any other thoughts raised:

- Many respondents agreed that housing affordability was an issue in the plan area and that the councils should support additional measures to tackle housing affordability, including the delivery of more affordable homes.
- Some comments questioned the affordability of existing affordable housing tenure types and the need to define what is affordable locally. Some respondents stated a preference for seeing more social rented homes delivered, while others considered more key worker housing was needed. There was more agreement on the need for affordable housing to remain affordable in perpetuity.
- In terms of where affordable housing is delivered, some comments were received about the need of a particular area, including the need for more affordable homes in rural areas.
- Several respondents disagreed with building affordable housing in protected areas as this was contrary to policy, while others supported the idea as it would help to deliver additional affordable housing.
- A number of respondents criticised the current developer-led approach to delivering affordable housing and there was support for the Councils to deliver affordable housing themselves. However, others highlighted the role of developers in delivery of affordable housing as a proportion of the overall development, noting they are likely to continue having a significant role in meeting affordable housing need.
- A number of comments were received on the overall housing need and the need for affordable or specialist housing. Concern was raised that the number of homes that have already been built was too high and that the future requirement should reflect actual local housing need. There were also thoughts that future growth should be lower than current planned level. However, others were keen to see the current scale of growth continue or even increase in the Joint Local Plan.
- There were responses highlighting the need for robust evidence to assess the overall housing need and the need for affordable and specialist housing in the district.
- There was disagreement about the effect building more homes would have on housing affordability, with some respondents feeling that building more homes would

not resolve the issue, while others considering it has a positive effect, including on lowering house price inflation.

- We received a number of comments about the housing need of specific groups for example community-led housing, self-builders, older people’s accommodation and Gypsy and Travellers. Some comments were supportive of additional measures to support these housing groups, such as allocations in the plan or more supportive development management policies, while others considered there was already sufficient provision or that it was not appropriate for the plan to make provision for these groups.
- Several comments were received about design, access and density of development. Of these some highlighted the importance of good design standards for both market and affordable housing. Others highlighted the need for new development to be accessible, both in terms of the homes meeting the needs of older people and people with disabilities, and wider development being accessible to everyone. They also mentioned a need to provide good access to services and facilities. Some respondents considered it important that new development is delivered at higher densities.
- We received a number of comments about the spatial strategy, where development should be focused and what should influence the emerging strategy. Comments were also received supporting a brownfield

first approach and exploring opportunities to re-develop under-utilised areas within existing settlements.

- A number of developers wishing to promote specific sites through the joint local plan process made comments in this section about the contribution their site could make.
- Several responses championed the role of neighbourhood planning in helping to meet the districts’ needs, and their own local housing need.
- Echoing the earlier responses to Q2, respondents raised concerns about the housing growth not being matched by infrastructure improvements, with some respondents suggesting a higher financial contribution should be sought from developers. However, others highlighted that the local plan’s requirements including for the delivery of affordable housing and infrastructure need to be deliverable, and making requirement too high would undermine the delivery of the plan as a whole.
- Suggestions on housing mix (number of bedrooms) highlighted the need to deliver an appropriate mix to match the current and future needs of the districts. Some respondents were concerned the mix currently sought doesn’t account for changes in the current housing stock over time, resulting in an unbalanced housing stock with fewer smaller units available, potentially having a negative effect on housing

affordability. Others considered there to be a need for more family-sized homes.

- There was some support for a restrictive approach to certain forms of development, including restricting Homes in Multiple Occupation and the removal of permitted developments rights to extend properties.

ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

We propose to: explain more clearly that exception sites are something that is already included in national policy, and not a new idea in this emerging plan.

We propose to: commission evidence to assess the need for affordable housing and housing to meet the needs of specific groups within the plan area.

We propose to: develop policies within the Joint Local Plan that are ambitious in their aim to address the housing needs of our communities but are appropriate in what can be delivered and balanced against the other objectives of the plan.

We propose to: work with neighbourhood planning groups in bringing forward plans for their areas.

Question 18. We'd like to hear your ideas for how we could adapt our town centres and high streets to meet our changing needs. Are there any improvements, new facilities or uses that you would like to see in the locations marked on the map? Which location(s) does your answer above apply to?

Summary of any other thoughts raised:

We have grouped the various responses to Question 18 on town centres and high streets under 5 key themes:

1. Land use/facilities
2. Transport/accessibility
3. Climate mitigation
4. Financial/business support
5. Planning for retail provision in rural areas

Responses relating to land use/facilities mentioned:

- Support for converting vacant properties/sites for other uses.
- The need to make better use of upper floors in town centres for residential.
- Concern that too much housing could undermine a centre's role/function.
- Recognition that higher density living has benefits, but that town centre residents need easy access to public open space.
- Requests for: fewer coffee shops/charity shops/supermarkets and more independent retailers, better toilets, seating, green spaces.

- Suggestion that restricting out-of-town stores could support our town centres, small businesses and active travel.

Responses relating to transport/accessibility mentioned:

- Need for better cycle provision – more cycle lanes, secure parking facilities, improvement of existing routes.
- Greater pedestrian priority in central areas (e.g. temporary exclusion of vehicles, traffic free market squares).
- Requests for improved public transport services.
- Need to improve traffic flow and road infrastructure.
- Suggestion that retaining/increasing parking provision, and reducing charges could encourage more people to visit the centres.
- How developing in sustainable/accessible town centre locations can support their vitality and viability.

Responses relating to climate mitigation mentioned:

- Making all public transport and local delivery lorries electric.
- Introducing more electric vehicle charging points.

- Showcasing new environmentally friendly technologies in public buildings.
- Increasing provision of click and collect units.
- Encouraging local businesses to provide sustainable local delivery services.

Responses relating to financial/business support mentioned:

- Reducing rent and/or business rates to support existing businesses and encourage new ones.
- Providing more business support/encouragement for markets and local craft/producers.
- A request for more public events.

- Need for wider marketing of the centres as thriving community hubs.

Responses relating to planning for retail provision in rural areas mentioned:

- Agreement that the Joint Local Plan will need to consider future retail and other service provision in our rural areas, emphasising that villages play a vital role in providing for the essential needs of residents.
- How Joint Local Plan policies could seek to address rural needs – e.g. by offering protection to essential community facilities, shops and employment uses.

Developers also made comments in relation to a number of prospective sites, mentioning how their development proposals would:

- support the viability of existing facilities in nearby towns and villages
- provide new infrastructure (including schools, recreation or health facilities)
- deliver thriving, inclusive communities.

We also asked which location people’s responses related to. We have summarised suggestions by location on pages 71-78, under the 5 key themes mentioned above (where relevant to that location).

Abingdon

Land Uses/Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town centre needs a broad mix (of residential, shops, events etc) to stay alive. • Need more small independent shops (and fewer supermarkets, coffee shops, barbers). • Make better use of vacant properties/sites (e.g. for start-ups, housing, food banks or youth centres). • Would like shared office space, new pre-school, better maintained toilets, outdoor gym, a bandstand.
Climate Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more electric vehicle charging points.
Transport/Accessibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain (and if possible increase) car parking provision – demolish the multi-storey and rebuild. • Sustrans route needs work to improve safety/accessibility – also need accessible/covered cycle parking, • The bridge needs repairing and would like to see a reduction in through-traffic.
Financial/Business Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce rent/ rates to encourage and support small independent businesses. • Lower parking costs to encourage more visits to the town centre.



Botley

Land Uses/Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make better use of vacant properties (e.g. for start-ups, housing, food banks or youth centres). • West Way centre lacks high quality, beautiful, sustainable design. • Would like a new pre-school.
Climate Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more electric vehicle charging points.
Transport/Accessibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New developments need to provide sufficient on-site parking (e.g. underground, roof top).
Financial/Business Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce rents/ rates to support small businesses and community uses.



Didcot

Land Uses/Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage higher density residential, above shops/restaurants. • Make better use of vacant properties/ sites (e.g. for start-ups, housing, food banks or youth centres). • Would like more healthcare facilities, community spaces and more readily accessible green space. • Need mixed '10 minute neighbourhoods' not isolated estates around a soulless centre • Significant housing growth to the west of the town, whilst the large supermarkets are all located to the east. Adds to traffic congestion in the town centre.
Transport/Accessibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not as cycle or pedestrian friendly as it should be. Too many people drive into town. • Need better cycling infrastructure for both commuting and leisure. • Free parking and more electric vehicle charging points would encourage more visits.
Financial/Business Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage more local independent businesses with lower rent/business rates. • Support shops to provide click and collect services via a town website.



Faringdon

Land Uses/Facilities

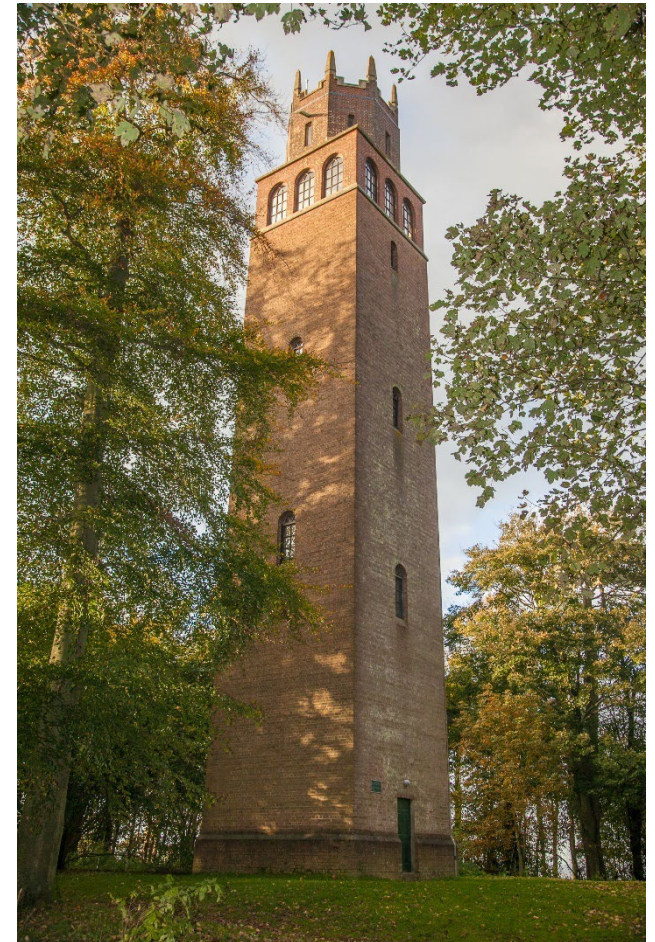
- Need a wider range of independent shops/services (too many food outlets, hairdressers, charity shops).
- Would like more culture/leisure uses, bank facilities/ATM, post office, mini supermarket.
- More sports grounds/facilities, better pool, netball courts, play space for older children.
- Need another dentist, larger GP practice, new pre-school and community space for young people.
- Redevelop vacant/ under-utilised sites for more affordable housing.

Transport/Accessibility

- Improve the bus links to Oxford, London and Swindon.
- Pedestrianise the market square to create an outdoor public space and café culture.
- Create a 'Narrows style' shopping arcade as in Totnes.
- Need to improve walking and cycling links into the centre of Faringdon, with separate cycle paths away from motorised traffic, suitable for young children.

Financial/Business Support

- Expand the market, hold more public events and market the town as 'Gateway to the Cotswolds'.
- Lower parking costs to encourage more visits to the town centre.
- Reduce rents/rates to encourage new businesses to open/require landlords to make vacant units available for pop-up shops until new tenants found.



Henley-on-Thames

Land Uses/Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to permitted development rights may adversely impact retail/leisure offer. • Fewer coffee shops & more independent (non-catering) businesses. • Prevent dentists, solicitors etc from occupying ground floor units in Market Place.
Climate Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve traffic flow on Remenham Hill and over Henley bridge to reduce air pollution.
Transport/Accessibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain (and if possible increase) car parking. • Support free parking and electric vehicle charging in car parks to encourage visits.
Financial/Business Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More control over landlords to allow more independent shops. • Support shops to provide click & collect services (via a town website).



Thame

Land Uses/Facilities

- Would like the Cattle Market development to include a community centre, café and chemist.
- Would like more retailers, especially more local independent businesses.
- Encourage more town centre living, making use of vacant properties.
- Would like an affordable/large supermarket, better maintained public toilets and new recreational space.
- New green infrastructure and better connections to existing green spaces e.g. local nature reserve.

Climate Mitigation

- More electric vehicle charging points.
- Would like electric self-driving hire cars/taxis to provide easy access into town.

Transport/Accessibility

- Reduce traffic and give pedestrians/cyclists priority along High Street.
- More footpaths, cycling routes and improved bus services to surrounding towns/villages.
- Retain and if possible increase (free) parking provision for shoppers and those working in town.



Wallingford

Land Uses/Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage more town centre living, making use of vacant properties. • Need a broad mix of uses and events, so that the town stays alive. • Make better use of the town square for outdoor eating/socialising. • Would like a new school, swimming pool/leisure centre, better maintained public toilets.
Climate Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage local businesses to provide sustainable local delivery services.
Transport/Accessibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared/living streets giving priority to active travel modes, plus accessible/covered cycle parking. • Improve walking and cycling links into Wallingford. • Support free parking and electric vehicle charging in car parks to encourage visits. • Close Market Place to traffic (9am to 5pm) or pedestrianise the town centre at weekends.
Financial/Business Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More control over landlords to allow more independent shops. • Business support for markets and local craft/producers.



Wantage and Grove

Land Uses/Facilities

- Do not allow large supermarkets to be built outside the current shopping hubs.
- Convert vacant/under-used town centre properties to residential.
- Upgrade existing sports provision (tennis/swimming pool) & provide new facilities to support population.
- Need more GP capacity, healthcare facilities and community spaces – also keep the banks open.
- Replace low density suburban development with sustainable, mid-rise schemes.

Transport/Accessibility

- Need more pedestrianised areas/vehicular restrictions to allow better use of the Market Square.
- Re-open the railway station.
- Retain existing parking provision and provide more (free) spaces close to the town centre.
- Need better access for mobility scooters/wheelchairs – wider pavements, dropped kerbs etc.
- Would like a green cycleway (Wantage-Grove-East Hanney) and better cycling infrastructure generally.
- Requests for a bypass to reduce HGV traffic, a Park & Ride scheme and more electric charging points.

Financial/Business Support

- Bring back 2 hours free parking - charging puts people off visiting.
- Reduce rents/rates to encourage new independent businesses and community uses.



ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

We propose to: share the consultation feedback with other teams across the councils. For example: comments regarding business support we'll share with economic development colleagues and any relating specifically to Abingdon we will discuss with the Central Abingdon Regeneration Framework team.

We propose to: share the responses with our consultants who have been appointed to undertake a Town Centres and Retail Study to support work on the Joint Local Plan. The comments made on individual town centres will be particularly useful as the project team begin their site visits to carry out Health Checks for each of our centres. We will also revisit these responses to feed them into other relevant studies, such as employment land needs.

We propose to: use the feedback, together with the findings of the Town Centres and Retail Study, as evidence to underpin the formulation of new town centre and retail policies in our Joint Local Plan.



Chapter 10

Transport and Facilities



Overview

We presented eight opportunities for what the local plan could do on transport and facilities, and then asked four questions:

Q19. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

Q20. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities?

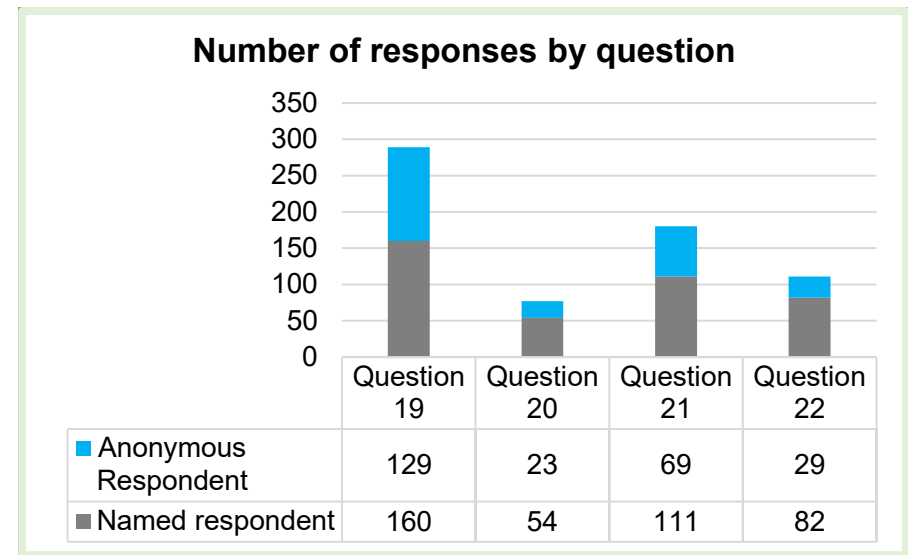
Tick all that apply.

Q21. If you currently drive, what would encourage you to drive less and/or walk, cycle or take public transport more?



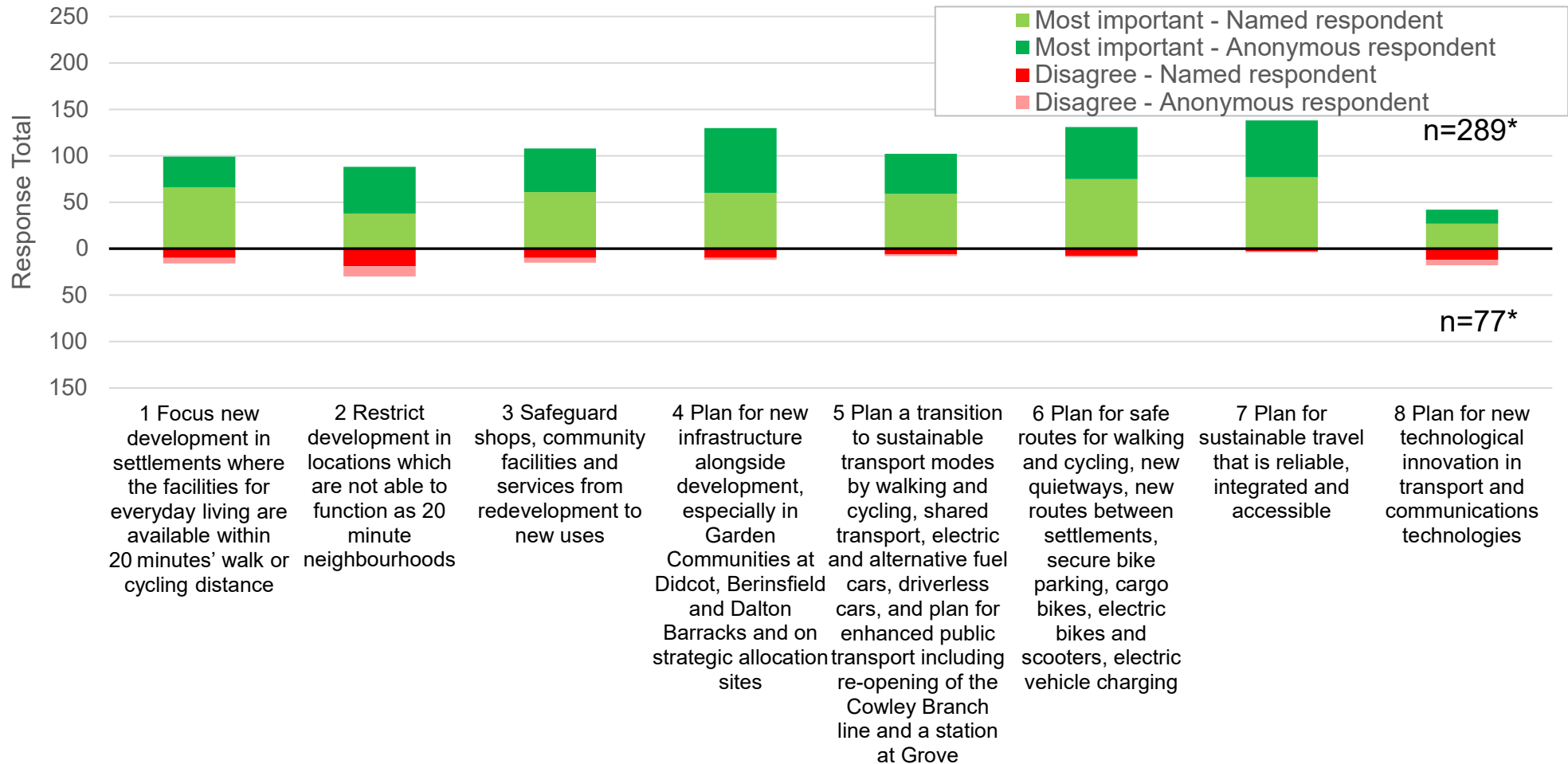
Q22. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to ensure people have easy access to the services they need to use on a day-to-day basis, please write them here.

The number of responses to these questions varied by question and method of responding:



Question 19. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

Question 20. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.



*n = the number of times this question was answered (combining named responses and anonymous responses)

Figure 15 - Responses to Question 19 and Question 20 (Named and Anonymous respondents)



Question 19. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

There was a fairly balanced level of responses marking each of the opportunities as most important in this case. The opportunity which was selected most frequently as one of the three most important opportunities was opportunity 7 – ‘plan for sustainable travel that is reliable, integrated and accessible’. The least popular was opportunity 8 – ‘plan for new technological innovation in transport and communications technologies’.

Question 20. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

There were no opportunities in this section where the number of responses that disagreed with it outweighed the number of times the opportunity was selected as most important. Opportunity 2 – ‘restrict development in locations which are not able to function as 20 minute neighbourhoods’ was selected more times as an opportunity that respondents disagreed with than the other opportunities in this chapter, but we noted that almost three times as many responses selected this opportunity as one of their three most important opportunities than disagreed with it.

Question 21. If you currently drive, what would encourage you to drive less and/or walk, cycle or take public transport more?

Table 4 - Main categories of responses to Question 21 and the number of responses assigned this category.

Category of Response	Number of Responses
Better infrastructure for cycling	73
Provision of public transport in more locations	62
Increased frequency of public transport services	60
Improved cycle safety	49
Better infrastructure for walking	33
Public transport services to extend over more hours of the day	31
Cheaper or free public transport	27

Key findings:

- People expressed that more and safer cycling infrastructure would encourage them to leave their car at home more often.
- If public transport services covered more locations and with a greater frequency, over more hours of the day, this would allow more people to use public transport instead of their car. Respondents also suggested that reducing the cost of public transport would encourage greater use.
- Respondents also highlighted the need for better walking infrastructure in more locations around the districts.

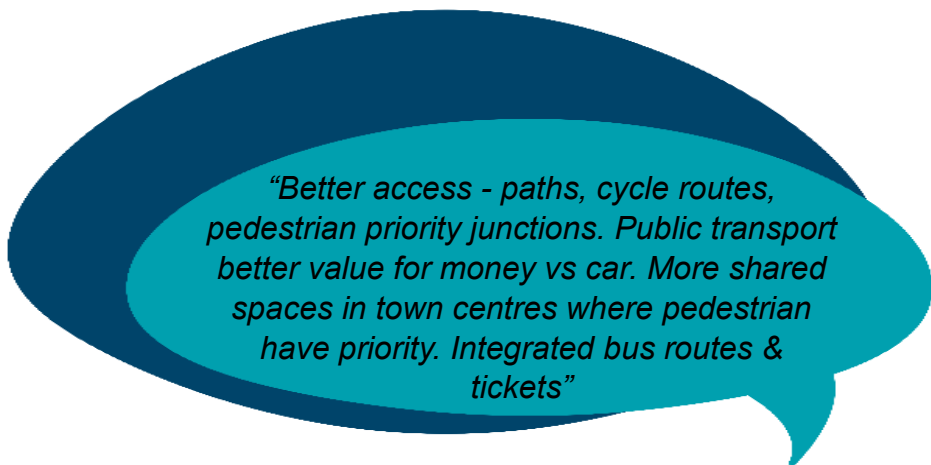
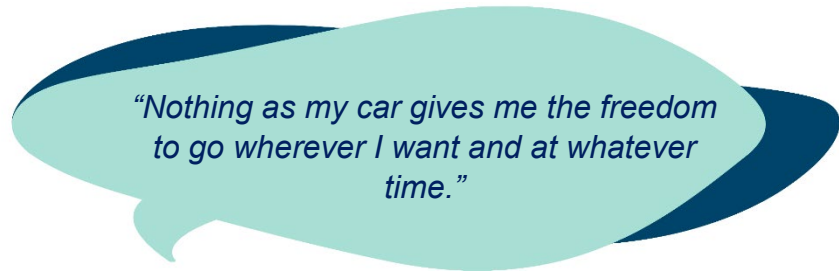
“Living in a rural community vehicular travel is both necessary and enables the residents of that area to make personal journeys to other rural communities often not reachable by public transport”

Summary of any other thoughts raised:

- Respondents stated that public transport reliability is a key factor impacting their travel choices.
- Some suggested improvements to cycle parking provision would encourage them to cycle more often.

While improvements in walking safety would increase some people’s likelihood of walking.

- Some said that it was not feasible or practical for them to travel other than by car due to time constraints, infrastructure provision or mobility.



- Respondents highlighted that the comparison in travel time between sustainable travel and car use prevents them from changing travel mode.
- Some people suggested that measures to discourage car use could be employed to support the uptake of sustainable travel.

ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

We propose to: provide policy support for the delivery of well-designed walking and cycling infrastructure.

We propose to: work with Oxfordshire County Council, as the highway authority, to help deliver infrastructure improvements that will prioritise walking, cycling and public transport convenience and safety.

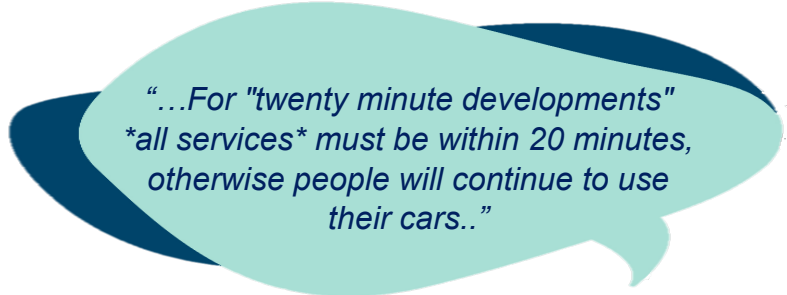
Question 22. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to ensure people have easy access to the services they need to use on a day-to-day basis, please write them here.

Summary of any other thoughts raised:

- Residents wanted their towns and villages to have easy access to shops, schools, health services and employment opportunities, and for these uses to be safeguarded. Some concern was expressed that businesses were not supported adequately.
- Where new housing development was planned, residents raised the importance of ensuring these types of services were provided alongside, particularly health services. However, some were concerned about issues around transport and congestion caused by people travelling into places to access their services.
- Many raised the need to improve transport infrastructure in the form of new or improved bike lanes, pedestrian walkways, and roads. Within this, improving existing public transport was of vital importance as well as providing public transport for new and expanded towns and villages.
- In terms of ensuring easy access to services, residents expressed a preference for new housing to be sited in existing towns and larger villages, as these are more sustainable locations, and for larger villages, it would

ensure there are enough residents to sustain existing services.

- Other residents raised the value of rural communities and that their needs should not be disregarded in favour of larger settlements.
- Multiple comments were received which promoted specific sites for development and how they could contribute towards ensuring people have easy access to the services they need to use on a day-to-day basis.
- There was support from residents for 20-minute neighbourhood, with services being within easy reach, and it was suggested it could be applied to walking distances in new developments. However, one person mentioned that the needs of business may not be able to be accommodated in this model.



- Residents asked that concerns were raised about car parking issues affecting access to services, particularly for elderly and disabled residents as well as those in ‘caring roles’, where multiple trips including to the shops, school and home, are made.
- Respondents mentioned the importance of working with neighbouring districts, including Reading, in relation to access to services and transport.

“...We support the opportunity to focus new development in settlements where the facilities for everyday living are available within 20 minutes walking or cycling distance. However, this is provided it isn’t at the expense of supporting a network of smaller villages that provides a cluster of valuable services and facilities to their local populations. It would be unsustainable to neglect the needs of the rural market towns and villages...” - agent, developer or landowner

ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

We propose to: think carefully about planning for car parking and its impact on certain groups and how they access services.

We propose to: consider how our policies may affect rural communities and their access to services.

We propose to: develop a spatial strategy and related policies within the Joint Local Plan that support existing sustainable places with good access to services, as well as promote 20 minute neighbourhoods in new developments, so that people have good access to services and facilities.

Chapter 11

Healthy Lifestyles and Safe Communities



Overview

We presented six opportunities for what the local plan could do on healthy lifestyles and safe communities, and then asked four questions:

Q23. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

Q24. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities?
Tick all that apply.

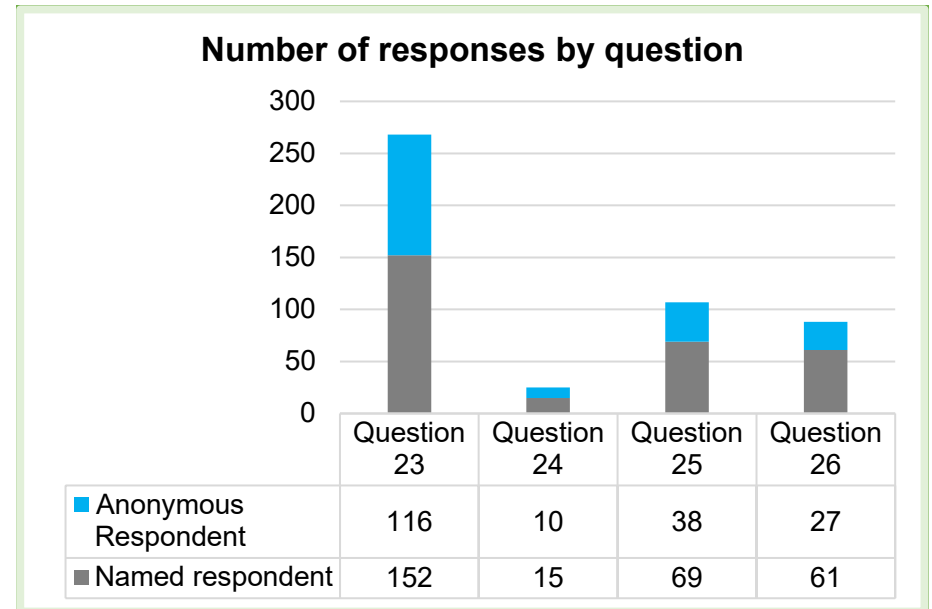
Q25. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to give residents and visitors



the opportunity to live healthy lifestyles, please write them here.

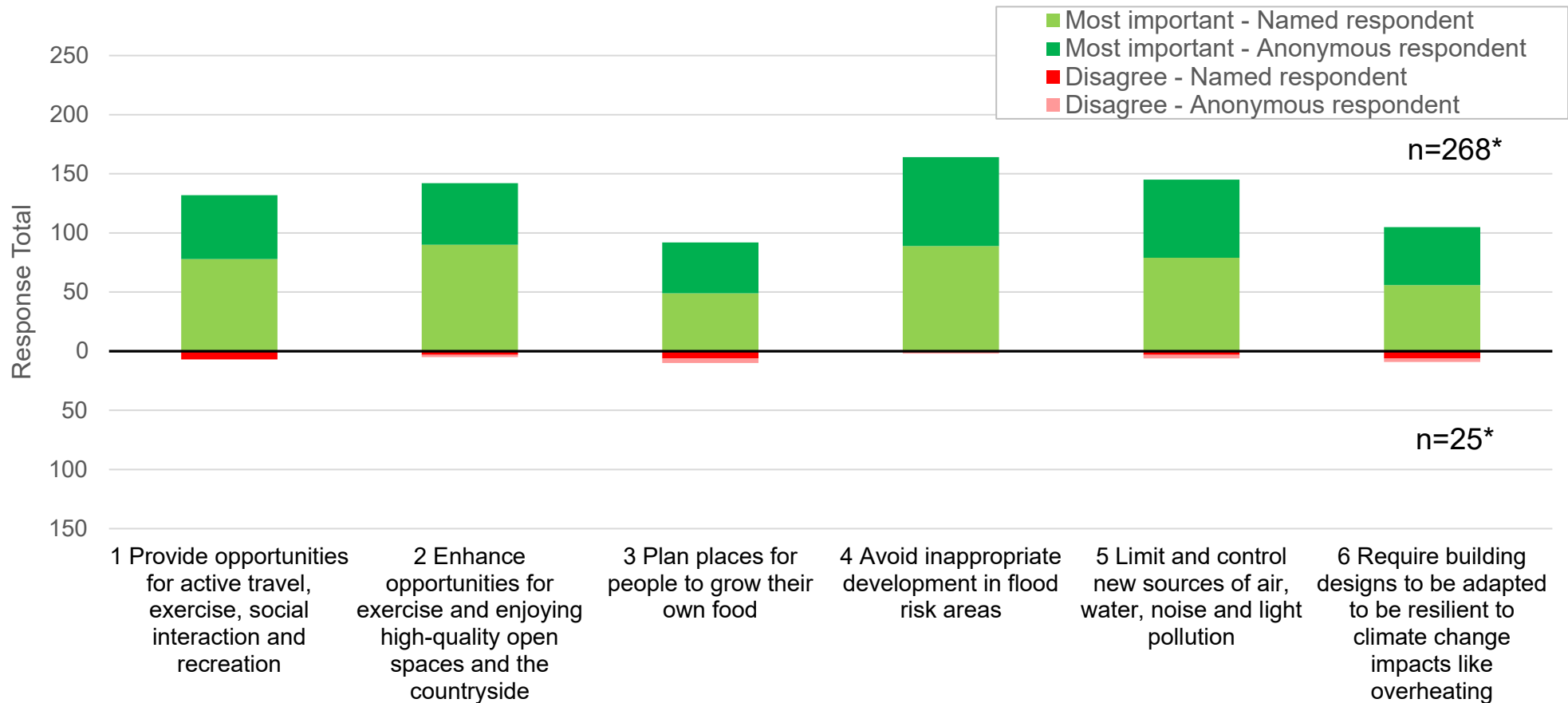
Q26. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to keep residents and visitors safe from pollution, flooding and the effects of climate change, please write them here.

The number of responses to these questions varied by question and method of responding:



Question 23. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

Question 24. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.



*n = the number of times this question was answered (combining named responses and anonymous responses)

Figure 16 - Responses to Question 23 and Question 24 (Named and Anonymous respondents)



Question 23. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

There were many more respondents (268) who selected their three most important opportunities than opportunities that they disagreed with (25) in this chapter. The opportunity selected most frequently as being important to people was opportunity 4 - 'avoid inappropriate development in flood risk areas'. There were slightly fewer responses that selected opportunity 3 - 'Plan places for people to grow their own food' than other opportunities, but generally the responses indicate that there is support for the opportunities in this chapter.

Question 24. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

As mentioned above, only 25 respondents answered question 24 which indicates low levels of disagreement amongst respondents with the opportunities presented in this chapter of the consultation.

Question 25. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to give residents and visitors the opportunity to live healthy lifestyles, please write them here.

Summary of any other thoughts raised:

- Maintaining safe, high quality active travel routes was a key theme in the responses. Suggestions included maintaining footpaths to encourage walking, creating safe cycleways for children to cycle to school, more crossings to calm traffic and provide safe crossings for children and cyclists, removing illegally parked cars and ensuring that active travel routes are safe along their entire length.
- Promoting active travel and prioritising active travel links between neighbourhoods and other locations, including provision of cycleways, were points mentioned by many respondents.
- Many respondents mentioned accessibility and how existing facilities do not serve certain groups of the population well. Comments mentioned accessible homes, accessible facilities, exercise classes for all, dropped kerbs at junctions for prams and mobility scooters, and tactile pavements.
- Making gyms and other sports facilities more affordable was mentioned multiple times across respondents.
- Preserving existing allotments and providing additional allotments was mentioned by several respondents.
- Many respondents mentioned access to facilities/countryside close to homes and providing a better spread of facilities across the districts. Respondents highlighted a need for local facilities that would be accessible from home without the need to drive to them.
- Respondents highlighted a need to have well planned, appropriately located developments that are linked to existing facilities, open spaces and active travel routes.



- Some responses related to reducing noise and pollution from industry and safeguarding rivers and wildlife from pollution.
- Some respondents felt that health is a personal matter that should not be dictated by the local authority.
- Restoration of existing/lost footpaths and introduction of new footpaths and connections was promoted through the responses.
- Respondents mentioned protecting existing facilities and the countryside.
- Multiple comments were received which promoted specific sites for development and set out how they could contribute towards healthy lifestyles.
- We received a request to review safeguarded land
- There was a request that policies relating to this theme, in particular open spaces and green spaces include specific, measurable requirements.

ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

We propose to: ensure that we evaluate the potential health and wellbeing impacts of future plan policies.

We propose to: reflect on healthy place shaping principles and how they can be incorporated into policy, particularly in relation to those on design.

We propose to: update our evidence on the need for leisure facilities and playing pitches in our district. Part of this work will look at how to support residents with accessing these facilities by means of transport other than private vehicles.

We propose to: provide policy to support the delivery of well-designed walking and cycling routes.

We propose to: review suitability of all safeguarding in the existing adopted local plans.

We propose to: retain and update our existing policies that protect allotments and other community facilities

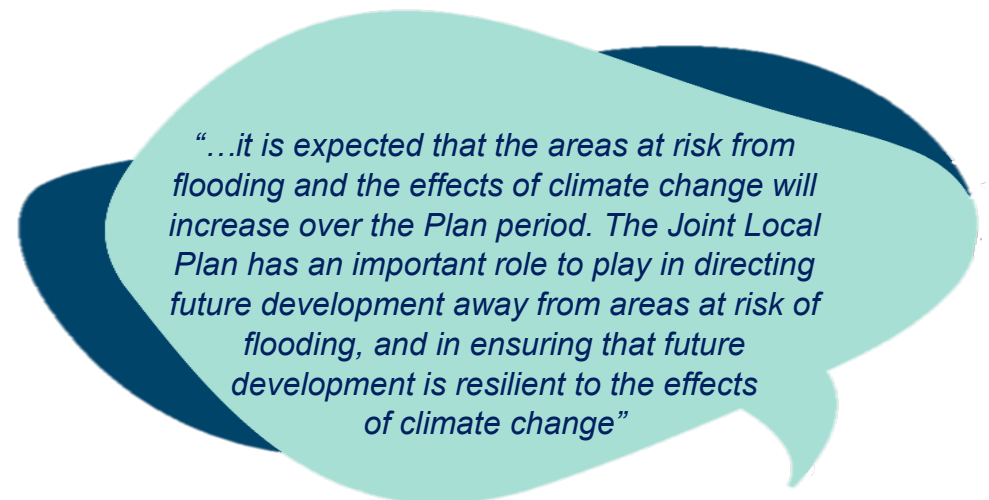
Question 26. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to keep residents and visitors safe from pollution, flooding and the effects of climate change, please write them here.

Table 5 - Main categories of responses to Question 26 and the number of responses assigned this category.

Category of response	Number of responses
Water, sewerage and flooding	73
Building/development	39
Miscellaneous/other	19
Transport	17
Air Quality/Pollution - other	15
Energy sources	12
Nature and biodiversity	11

Summary of any other thoughts raised:

- The majority of responses to this question raised points on the topics of water, sewerage and flooding; particularly raising concerns regarding sewerage and ensuring watercourses and rivers are protected.
- Many respondents highlighted views that no development should take place on the floodplain, or on land with poor drainage or flooding history. There were suggestions to restore the floodplain and ensure adequate drainage was always provided.



- There was support for retrofitting (for example, making homes more energy efficient and adding flood resilience measures to homes) as well as support for increased use of insulation.
- Ensuring homes are upgraded was a popular comment, with ideas frequently considering building efficiency, carbon reduction and sustainable development.
- There was much support for climate change awareness and for thinking about development proposals in a climate change context.
- Concerns were raised about air quality/pollution, with suggestions for improvements, as well as a need to monitor this.
- The need to limit other new pollution sources was raised frequently, with many encouraging electric vehicle use and increasing incentives for home EV charging grants.
- There was also encouragement to decrease the use of transport and/or decrease transport emissions.
- There were many suggestions related to improvement of energy sources, including ideas to prevent further fossil fuel or mains gas installations and a heightened focus on solar panels and air source heat pump installations.

- Encouraging tree/ rush/ hedgerow planting and understanding the role of the countryside in protecting people (e.g. in terms of carbon removal and capture) were highlighted by many.

“Reduce the need for commuting; don't build on flood plains or on areas prone to flooding; ban the installation of fossil fuel fired space and water heating on all new developments and encourage the retrofitting of non-fossil fuelled powered heat sources and improved insulation to all buildings.

District heating systems should be investigated and the means of using renewables to power whole communities with dependence on the national grid for back-up power input only. Community power generation and use needs a more flexible system than the current grid can accommodate, but this should be investigated.”

- Comments were received which promoted specific sites and how they could contribute towards keeping residents and visitors safe from pollution, flooding and the effects of climate change

ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

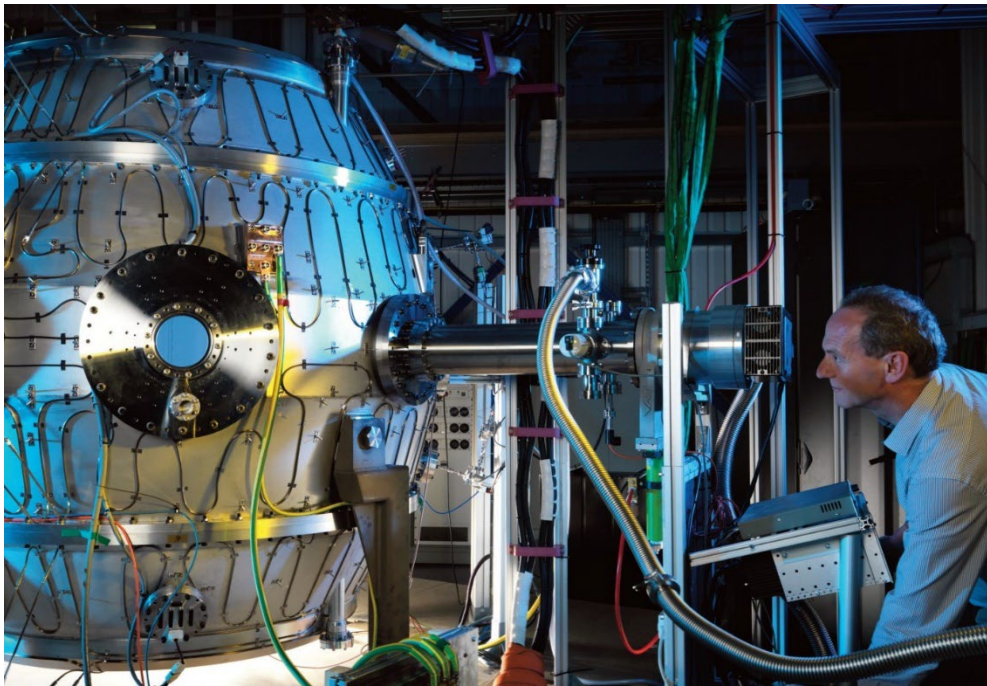
We propose to: develop policies ensuring that the location and design of our developments encourage more healthy lifestyles. This includes commissioning new studies to identify the sport and leisure needs of communities in the district.

We propose to: continue developing policies to ensure developments within the districts produce as little air and water pollution as possible, both in their construction and during their use, and require building designs to be adapted to be resilient to climate change impacts like overheating.

We propose to: develop policies within the Local Plan that are ambitious in their aims to keep our communities safe from pollution, flooding and the effects of climate change. We will explore further the wide range of opportunities and challenges raised through the consultation, including through detailed evidence studies.

Chapter 12

Jobs and Opportunities for Innovation



Overview

We presented six opportunities for what the local plan could do on jobs and opportunities for innovation, and then asked four questions:

We asked four questions in the section of the consultation:

Q27. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

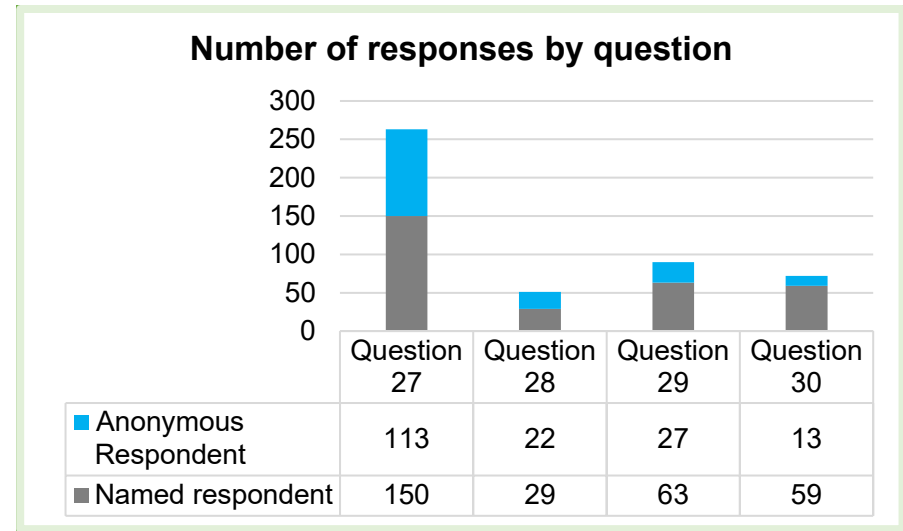
Q28. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities?
Tick all that apply.

Q29. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to cater for future working styles and patterns, please write them below.

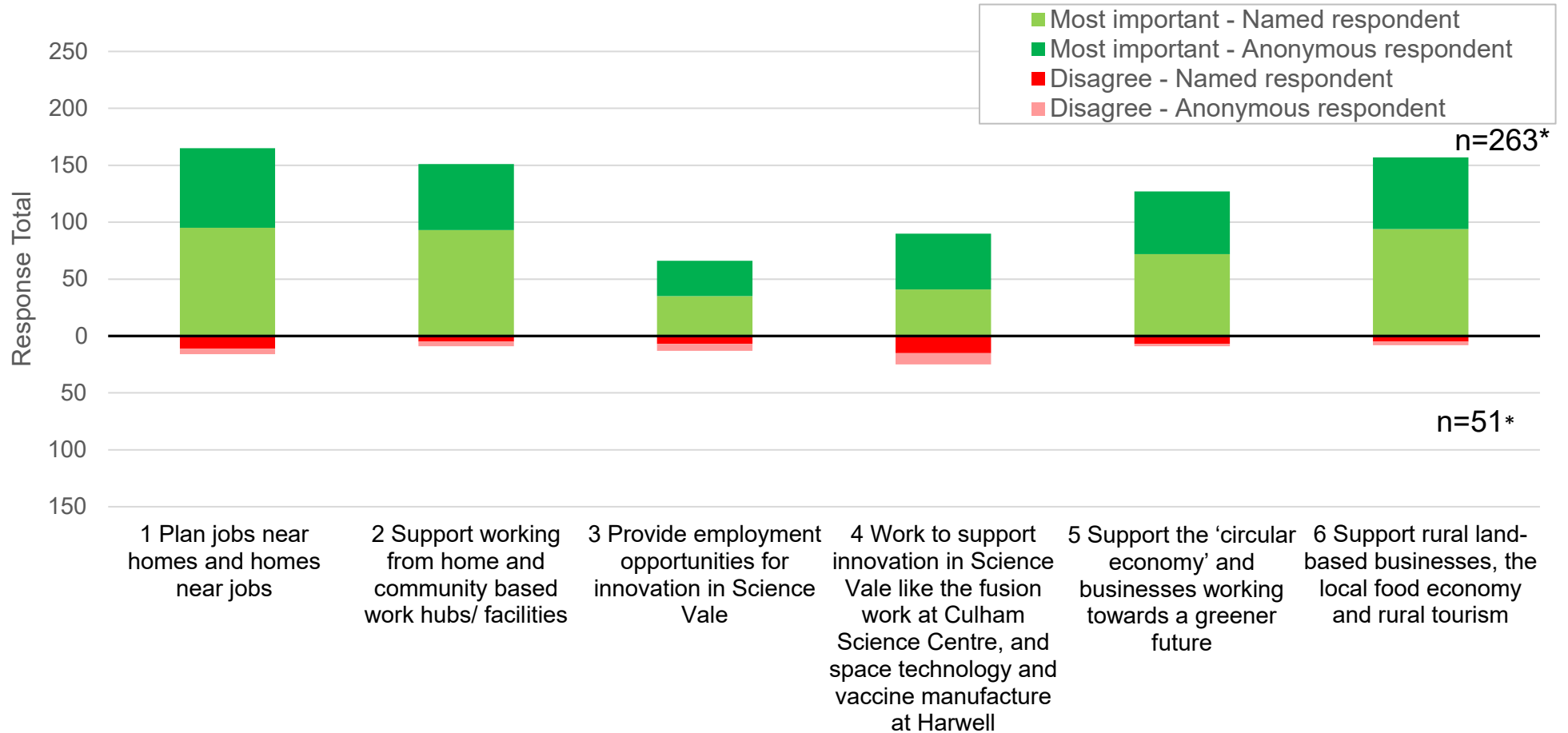


Q30. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to help ensure there are valuable and rewarding jobs in the districts, please write them here.

The number of responses to these questions varied by question and method of responding:



Question 27. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.
 Question 28. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.



*n = the number of times this question was answered (combining named responses and anonymous responses)

Figure 17 - Responses to Question 27 and Question 28 (Named and Anonymous respondents)

Question 27. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

Again, good levels of responses were received on this question. The top three opportunities selected as most important were: opportunity 1 – ‘plan jobs near homes and homes near jobs’, opportunity 2 – ‘support working from home and community-based work hubs/ facilities’ and opportunity 6 – ‘support rural land-based businesses, the local food economy and rural tourism’.

Question 28. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

There were no opportunities in this chapter where the number of times respondents disagreed with an opportunity outweighed the number of times the opportunity was selected as most important. Opportunity 4 – ‘work to support innovation in Science Vale like the fusion work at Culham Science Centre, and space technology and vaccine manufacture at Harwell’ was the opportunity which was disagreed with more times than any other opportunity in this chapter, but we noted that almost four times as many people selected this opportunity as one of the three most important opportunities than disagreed with it.



“The emphasis on employment in Science Vale means more commuting from Faringdon and the Western Vale. There is also a need for well-paid jobs that do not depend on the type of employment offered by Science Vale and for those to whom this type of employment would not be accessible.”

Question 29. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to cater for future working styles and patterns, please write them below.

Summary of any other thoughts raised:

- Several respondents thought that having high speed, reliable broadband was vital.
- Providing community hubs (either in existing buildings such as community centres, or in new buildings) was seen to be important to support hybrid working.
- Several respondents also felt that providing community hubs would help with people’s well-being, by allowing social interaction.
- Improving transport links between where people live and where people work was a common issue raised.
- Support for homeworking. Several respondents thought that homes could be better equipped for home working by allowing extensions and by building homes with enough space for a home office.
- Some respondents felt that there was an overconcentration and too much focus on growth in the Science Vale area. It was felt that the plan needs to recognise the wider economy including lower paid jobs.
- Some people felt that the plan should support the growth of the rural economy and that local jobs should

be created in rural areas, as well as in towns and villages. This included supporting local food production.

- There were some mixed views on rural tourism – some respondents support tourism as a way of supporting the rural economy whilst some respondents raised concerns over the impact of tourism, for instance traffic problems.

“Opportunities for home-working and a recognition that people are not travelling into their places of work everyday demands a focus on decent sized homes with sustainable travel links to employment hubs”

“Support for new employment opportunities in rural areas, close to dormitory villages, can reduce the need for rural residents to travel long distances and so contribute to reducing car travel. Greater opportunities for residents to work close to their homes can also contribute to the vibrance of rural communities”

Question 30. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to help ensure there are valuable and rewarding jobs in the districts, please write them here.

Summary of any other thoughts raised:

- A frequently raised point was that more provision is needed for start-up businesses and small businesses in the districts. The provision of affordable, and shared space was also raised.
- People also commented on the benefits of community hubs in providing shared, flexible space for businesses and for hybrid workers
- Several respondents felt that it was important to provide local job opportunities in the towns and villages. It was felt that this would reduce the need to commute by car, as well as improving the vibrance of local communities.
- Providing job opportunities in rural areas was a point raised by several respondents, and that job growth shouldn't just be focussed on urban areas.

“The provision of flexible offices in rural areas will provide opportunity for rural workers to have a workspace within walking/cycling distance of home offering a work-life balance whilst removing need for longer commutes to their ‘main’ office.”

“Promote the up and coming zero carbon industry within the district. Avoid focusing all efforts on Science Vale to promote employment close to where people live elsewhere in the Vale as well.”

- Some respondents commented that it was necessary to improve connectivity and infrastructure to support new jobs. The need for sustainable transport links was raised, as well as broadband.
- There was a range of responses around the type of jobs that should be provided in the districts. Some respondents thought there should be a focus on green

and clean jobs and technologies. Others thought the focus should be on science and tech jobs, and logistics and warehousing were also mentioned.

ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

We propose to: look into the amount and type of employment space that is needed in the districts, and plan for the right amount in the right locations.

We propose to: develop policies in the Joint Local Plan that support the local economy, including rural tourism and the visitor economy.

Chapter 13

Any other thoughts?



Overview

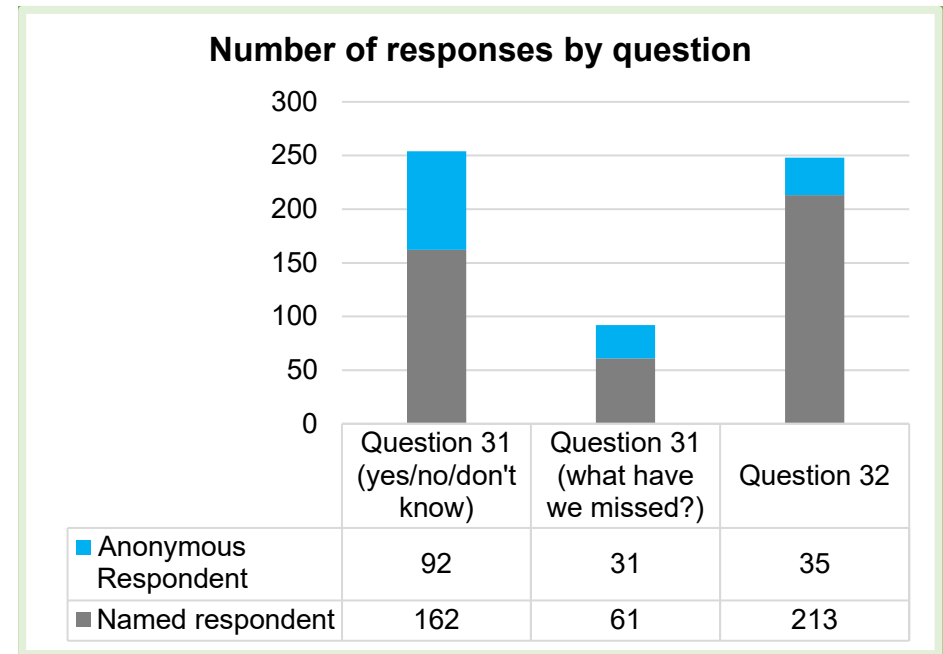
We asked two questions in the ‘Any other thoughts?’ section of the consultation:

Q31. Have we correctly summarised the issues, challenges and opportunities for the Joint Local Plan? If you’ve said no, what do you think we’ve missed?

Q32. Finally, do you have any other comments?



We’ve analysed this section slightly differently from the rest of the consultation. We received a large and unexpected number of responses which did not directly answer the questions asked through the survey, particularly those sent in as emails, letters or attachments. We processed 134 responses of this nature under the ‘any other comments’ question (Question 32) and categorised them as ‘named respondents’.



Question 31. Have we correctly summarised the issues, challenges and opportunities for the Joint Local Plan? If you've said no, what do you think we've missed?

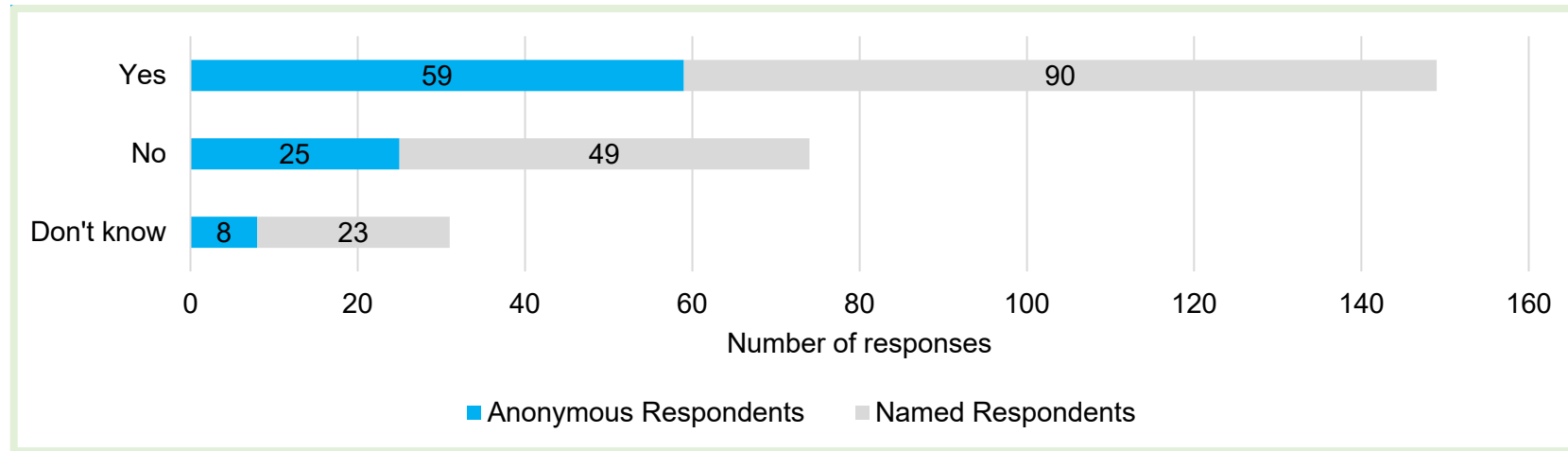


Figure 18 - Have we correctly summarised the issues, challenges and opportunities for the Joint Local Plan?

- There was a high level of agreement that the Issues Consultation correctly summarised the issues, challenges and opportunities for the Joint Local Plan, with almost 60% of the 254 responses selecting 'Yes'.
- 29% of responses selected 'No' and further comments were submitted to the second part of the question to expand on these answers.

- The remaining responses selected 'Don't know'. This answer made up just over 12% of the responses to this question.

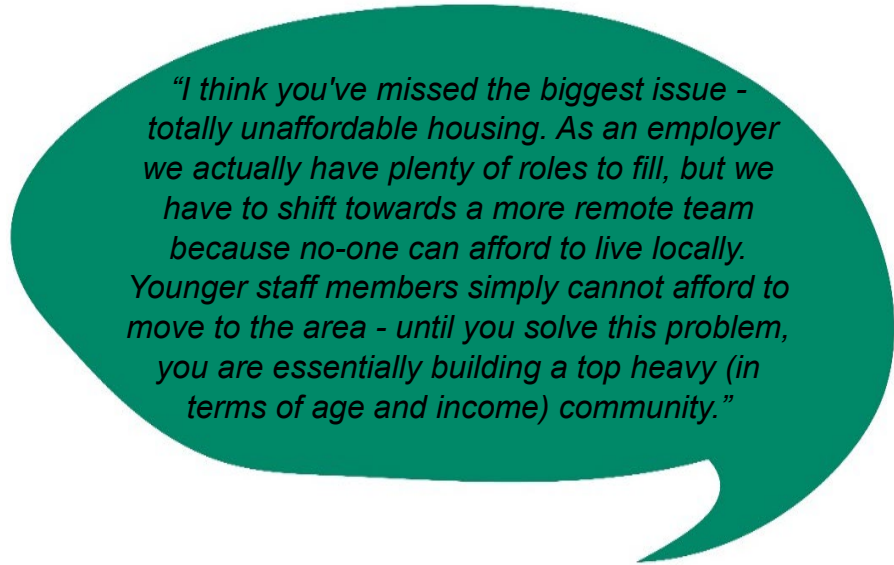
Summary of anything we missed:

- In terms of anything the Issues Consultation missed, one of the most common categories of response was around housing numbers, housing need and the location of housing.

- Many responses felt that the biggest challenge for the Joint Local Plan is how to overcome excessive housing numbers from Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and the growth plan. There were requests for less housing.
- Related to the above points, concerns were raised that the survey assumes that development will take place so the questions asked were geared towards this assumption of growth in the districts.
- Some felt that the population projections presented in the consultation are an overestimate and there were concerns that they go beyond the Office for National Statistics projections.
- There were also responses which highlighted that Green Belt protection and enhancement had not been addressed through the consultation.
- A need for more infrastructure was mentioned in the responses, in particular adequate health care provision to serve the existing and future populations.
- Some responses felt that the Western Vale had been overlooked, particularly around Faringdon. Specific mention was made relating to employment in

Faringdon, as it was felt that there was too much focus on the Science Vale.

- Some respondents again raised concerns that housing affordability is the greatest issue facing the districts.



ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

Now that the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 is not progressing, the Joint Local Plan will need to consider the housing needs for the area and what needs to be done to address this.

The government is consulting on changes to the way housing need is calculated through proposed amendments to the

National Planning Policy Framework. We will continue to monitor any changes to national policies or legislation, and respond to these accordingly.

We propose to: address the matters of housing requirements and Green Belt through future engagement on the Joint Local Plan.

We propose to: continue with our focus on the main issues raised through the Issues Consultation and commission evidence to explore the issues in greater detail.

We propose to: utilise the most up to date data we can access, including the Census data which is being released in stages at the moment.

Question 32. Finally, do you have any other comments?

Here, people could share any other thoughts with us through an open text box. In addition to responses to this question specifically, we have summarised the large number of responses which were sent in via email and as attachments within this section. We have read and analysed all responses received, but for reporting purposes we felt the best approach was to summarise those responses that did not specifically answer the survey questions here.

Respondents took various approaches in writing to us which did not align clearly with the questions set out in the consultation. For example, some respondents chose to respond by theme/chapter, or they combined multiple questions into a text response which would not clearly be assigned to one particular question.

Where it was clear which question the respondent was answering, we have made every effort to capture this under the relevant question. However, in some cases this was not possible, for example where a written text answer was provided to answer a question which was multiple choice,

where multiple questions were combined into one written response, or where more than one option was selected but the survey would allow just one option to be selected.

Therefore, to avoid us assigning responses to a particular question in error, we have analysed the more complex or free flowing responses under ‘Question 32. Finally, do you have any other comments?’.



Summary of any other thoughts raised:

- Many of the responses in this section touch on themes and issues which have been raised in earlier sections of the consultation.
- As multiple responses to this consultation acknowledged, many of the main issues facing the districts are linked and therefore points overlap between the themes. We have grouped the summaries of responses to Question 32 under 21 themes for reporting, noting that many of these comments could be grouped under multiple themes:

1. Responses relating to **housing and development** mentioned:

- Potential conflicts between development and climate emergency and sustainability concerns around developments
- Requirements needed for high sustainability standards:
 - Introducing requirements for more solar panels/heat pumps/insulation/water re-use

- Making use of the existing built environment
- Support for zero-carbon buildings and supporting infrastructure
- Limiting developments with high emissions
- All buildings to be energy efficient
- Preventing Green Belt developments and strengthening the Green Belt
- Opposition to building on greenfield sites and support for minimising greenfield use
- Disagreement with part/all of the development strategy



- Concerns with previous housing requirement calculations and opposition to the number of homes planned
- Concerns that growth is due to political decisions
- Recognising limits to growth and a request to limit future growth/housing numbers
- A request to use the latest population projections
- Statements that there should be/there is no further unmet need

“...The Issues consultation document notes that: 75% of CO2 emissions emanate from two sources: transport – 48.7%; and homes – 26.4%. The Plan should, therefore: (a) concentrate new development in high density schemes in towns which, with a full range of facilities, reduce the need to travel and the loss of essential countryside...”

- A request that communities with recent development get a break from future developments
- Concerns about development volume in Wantage
- Concerns that Vale is becoming suburban
- Concern that higher density within rural areas can be harmful
- Support for high density development
- A need to minimise development on agricultural land
- A request that the councils focus on improving existing developments
- Higher standards of design needed than is currently the case
- Encouragement for developers to work together
- The following comments tended to come from developers/landowners:
 - A need for ambitious housing provision
 - Highlighting the benefits of development in smaller villages/towns
- Comments were received on the topic of Oxford, including:

- Disagreement with Oxford City unmet need approach
- Concerns that Oxford urban area is at threat of overexpansion
- Allocations meeting Oxford City's unmet need must be carried forward (comment from Oxford City Council)
- Disagreement with Oxford University development approach
- Ensuring that housing and development considers/ enhances the wellbeing of communities
- Suggestion for better/more strategic planning/join up with existing communities and a need for coherent communities, not a series of housing estates
- Concerns that houses are not sold to locals, that large housing is often bought by commuters and that current housing is less likely to get local families on housing ladder
- Concerns that current large houses built negatively impact the community
- Concerns with builders/developers targeting purchasers
- Support for affordable and/or social housing
- Concerns that the concept of affordable housing is too 'woolly'
- Queries as to how forever-affordable housing will be achieved
- Disagreement that increasing housing leads to decrease in price
- Disagreement with the opportunity: support affordable housing on sites normally protected from development
- Importance of providing housing for a diverse population
- Support for considering the needs of Gypsies and Travellers
- A need to have policies that support provision of older people's specialist housing
- A need to protect family housing from HMO conversion
- Support for community-led housing

- A suggestion to prioritise self-build housing
- A suggestion that self-build should be on particular sites
- Concerns that multiple small developments impact infrastructure
- Support for an increase in car-free developments
- Ensuring cycling/walking paths on new development
- Support for 20-minute neighbourhoods
- Concerns that 20-minute neighbourhood development only would be restrictive
- Making provision for cemeteries

2. Responses relating to **towns and villages** mentioned:

- Stop development encroachment around villages
- Village developments must fit into their surroundings
- Concerns regarding the potential impact of development in specific locations e.g. Benson, Faringdon, Kennington, Wantage

- Concern with lack of development land progress (particular site)
- Concern about the decline of town centres

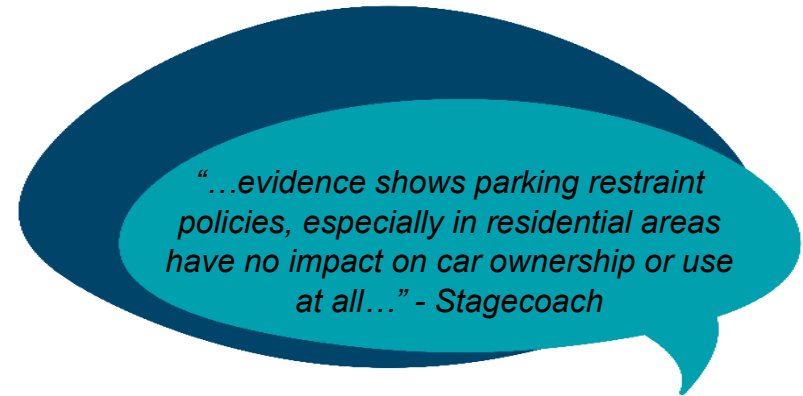
3. Responses relating to **communities** mentioned:

- Making provisions for community growth
- Ensuring healthy and/or safe communities
- Ensuring direct access to healthy foods
- Doing more to support farmers



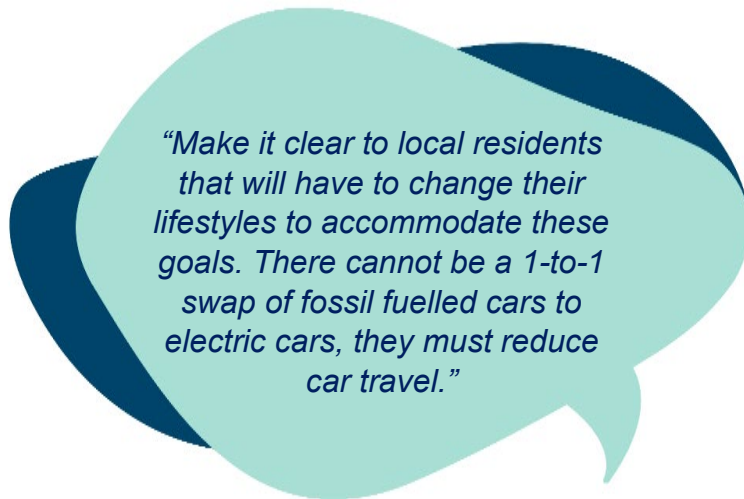
4. Responses relating to **transport and travel** mentioned:

- Existing traffic issues/ traffic pollution/ roads at maximum capacity and concerns that population increase will mean more cars
- National Highways: agree with most points in consultation regarding transport – highlights need for no material increase in traffic on Strategic Road Network
- Support for an increase in car free developments
- Comments that car travel will continue and concerns with limiting new developments' parking:
 - rural communities rely and will continue to rely on cars and some services are only accessible by car
 - Stagecoach raised concerns around restricting parking
 - Suggestion of addressing public/alternative transport first before reducing parking



- Request to increase town parking (Wantage specifically mentioned)
- Improvements to public transport needed to reduce car journeys e.g. reliability, increased services (particularly in to and from towns for rural areas), increased frequency of services
- Disagreement with 20-minute neighbourhoods over risks to smaller villages
- Support for sustainable transport
- Focus should be on sustainable transport corridors/ strategic transport hubs

- Concerns that swapping fossil fuelled cars to electric is not enough as lifestyle changes are needed



- Encouragement for consideration of alternative eco-transport improvements
- Electric vehicle charging needed in tourist villages
- Addressing local delivery of goods (including last mile) as a specific target for the reduction of emissions
- Concern with HGVs in villages
- A need to improve quality and quantity of cycle/walk ways, and links between areas

- Comments relating to design and connectivity
- Concerns with cycle path locations and cycling safety and support for prioritising off road cycle routes
- A need to consider equestrians alongside cyclists/pedestrians (e.g. as vulnerable road users and part of active travel)
- A need to protect/ enhance/ reconnect rights of way network
- A need to work closely with Oxfordshire County Council for road maintenance/improvements
- A need to improve roadbuilding/quality
- A need to deliver infrastructure before/ at pace with developments
 - Stagecoach commented on the weakness of existing policy on delivery of bus penetration and provision of bus stop infrastructure across both districts, and a need for a substantially higher level of attention
- Concerns that no transport evidence appears to have been commissioned

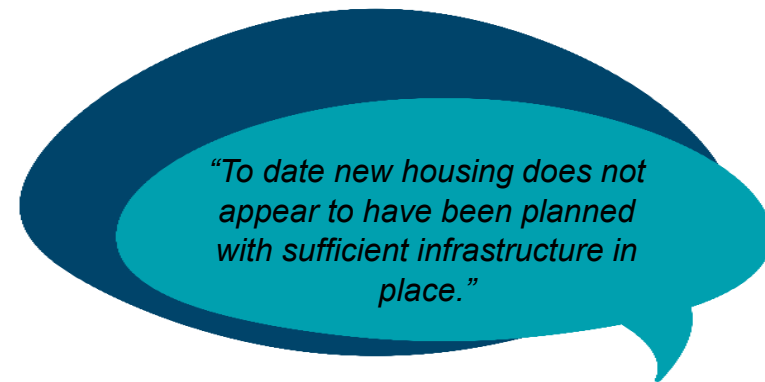
- Comments relating to specific routes, facilities or locations:

- Abingdon needs A34 southbound junction
- A need for increased transport safety measures (A4074)
- Faringdon/Great Coxwell: concerns with A420 junction
- Support for Grove Station
- Support for reopening Wallingford branch line
- A request to safeguard the Wilts & Berks canal route

5. Responses relating to **infrastructure, facilities and leisure** mentioned:

- Needing a requirement to safeguard shops/ services/community facilities
- Concerns that:
 - there is a need for infrastructure/ services to match level of development
 - there are not enough existing services/utilities/shops to serve communities

- there is a delay in delivery of community facilities
- infrastructure has been lost in specific areas



- A need for:
 - increased healthcare services
 - school places
 - improvements to broadband/ electricity provision
 - increased open space, leisure pursuits and entertainments facilities
- The consultation was missing reference to improving education facilities to provide greater equality and opportunities

- A need to enforce developer agreements
- Support for the area's technical advancement

6. Responses relating to **the climate emergency** mentioned:

- Emphasis of the importance of the climate emergency and a need to enforce climate policies
- A need to adopt policies with high sustainability standards for new and retrofit development, including policy for all new builds to be zero carbon
- Query as to how the districts' carbon budget will be described and monitored in policy
- Concerns over projected population growth

"You can't pretend to be concerned about the climate emergency whilst allowing tens of thousands of houses to be built on green fields increasing population, pollution, traffic growth."

- Concerns that the approach to growth could have a negative effect on climate
- Concerns over carbon emissions and support for reducing emissions
- Support for climate emergency/ carbon reduction content in the consultation document

"Thank you for treating the climate emergency with the gravitas it merits. We have the opportunity to create a better future and we need to seize it with both hands."

- Concerns that too much focus is given to the climate emergency which is part of a wider environmental challenge
- A need to acknowledge the countryside's role in carbon removal, capture, contribution to food production/biomass

- Emphasis that the climate emergency is a global issue and that there is a need to consider external factors (beyond the districts)

7. Responses relating to **energy** mentioned:

- A need to not burn fossil fuels
- Need for a countywide renewable strategy
- A request for openness regarding current renewables ambitions
- Support for increasing renewables and for higher standards of efficiency
 - Requiring solar panels on all new roofs
 - Maximising passive energy capture
 - Encouragement to permit wind generation
 - A need for new homes to have the highest levels of insulation
- Concerns that obtaining solar panels/air source heat pumps is currently difficult
- Concerns regarding fusion energy



8. Responses relating to **landscape** mentioned:

- A need to protect landscape character and/or dark skies including suggestions for a positive/proactive dark skies policy
- A need for more sensitivity
- Opposition to solar panels in countryside
- Concerns that light pollution increases with large development
- Concerns around loss of greenspace/calmness
- Emphasis that countryside is not just AONB

- A need for greater recognition of AONB status and support for more designation of valued landscapes and AONB

9. Responses relating to **nature and environment** mentioned:

- Support for protecting/ safeguarding countryside/ hedgerows/ trees and encouragement to create new hedgerows
- Prioritising growing food and improving food security

“Put emphasis on prioritise growing our own food in the district, to improve our food security, and consequently minimise new housing on agricultural land.”

- Recycling improvements and reducing resource use
- Requests for inclusion of:
 - Lowland fen irreplaceable habitat policy
 - Policy for Biodiversity net gain

- Other environmental policies

“We consider that a bespoke Policy is required to ensure protection of one particular habitat that both South Oxfordshire District Council and the Vale of White Horse have a special responsibility to, and that is the alkaline spring-fed lowland fens found within the Districts.”

- Concerns about wildlife displacement (e.g. deer); developers to find solutions
- Concerns that rural area attraction is being lost
- Concerns that density is a blunt tool and that green open space/biodiversity should come first
- A need for increased emphasis on nature recovery network
- A need for greater recognition of importance of green space and more and improved green areas
- Ensuring town biodiversity is considered

- Acknowledgement of biodiversity/carbon capture related to peat land
- Acknowledgement of the role of trees/nature recovery/flood mitigation (Forest Commission)

10. Responses relating to **heritage and character** mentioned:

- Protecting and safeguarding rural character
- Being consistent with protecting visual aspect of developments in places like Didcot, as much as in villages. Acknowledging that all settlements have value / distinctive identity (i.e. not just historic)
- Protecting and enhancing local heritage
- Support for retaining/re-using historic buildings
- Having flexibility with older building restoration applications, to ensure that buildings are used



11. Responses relating to **employment and economy** mentioned:

- A request for the plan to facilitate opportunities for jobs/innovation
- A need for policies to address employment needs in larger villages and towns
- Support for:

- encouraging business
- investment in small businesses/innovation
- strengthening business locations
- innovation (e.g. fusion/space/vaccine tech) but let market decide
- circular economy
- inclusion of Community Employment Plans (CEPs)
- Concerns that economic strategy conflicts with Levelling Up agenda

“...we do not support the housing growth numbers which are driven by political decisions rather than local need, including: a) the economic strategy which seeks to create jobs to attract tens of thousands of people from elsewhere to live and work in Oxfordshire. This is inconsistent with the government levelling up agenda which seeks to create jobs where people already live and transforms our precious green spaces to urban concrete...”

- Concerns it may not be possible to locate jobs near homes

12. Responses relating to **water and wastewater** mentioned:

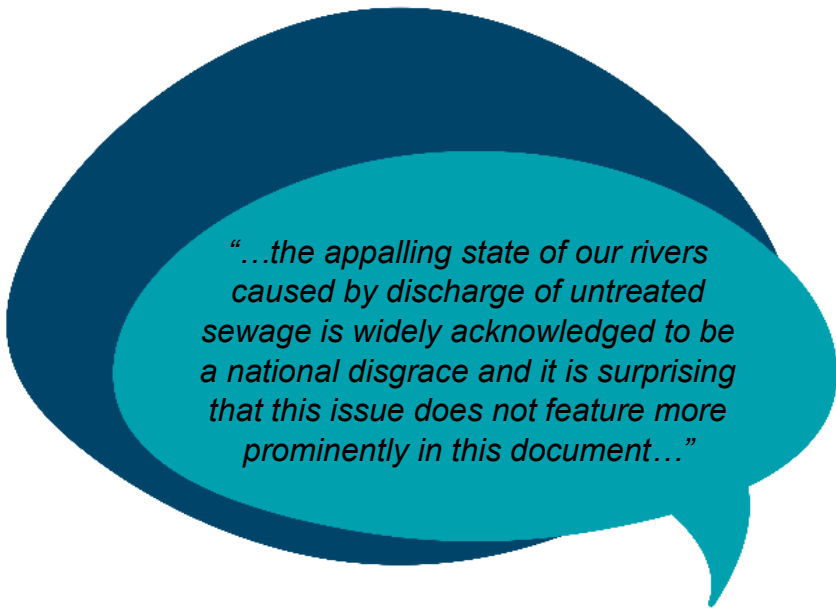
- A lack of policy protection on water catchments
- A need to care for, maintain, promote and improve waterways - highlighting the importance of waterways/courses for nature/ecology, connectivity, wellbeing, economies, history/culture and activity/tourism
- A need to make rivers safe for people/wildlife
- Restoring/safeguarding Wiltshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire canal network
- Using CIL/S106/funding for restoring canals
- Comments regarding SESRO, including future water supply resilience, safeguarding land and overall water resources strategy
- Opposition to the Steventon reservoir for environmental and social impact

- Support for Chinnor reservoir, as it could create opportunities for water sports/ restaurants/ employment
- Requests for sewage infrastructure to feature more strongly, including acknowledgement of the poor state of rivers/sewage issues and a need to improve capacity to water/sewage system

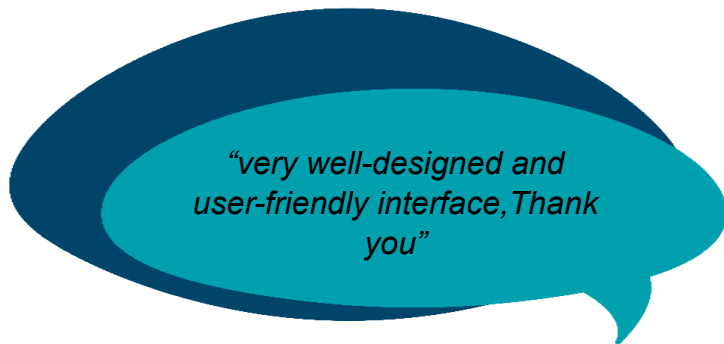
- Specific comments regarding Sandford/ Garsington with a request for no more development without sewage treatment works upgrade
- Comments on the groundwater risks of development

13. Responses relating to **the consultation and consultation document** mentioned:

- A request to continue to involve the public and to listen to and be for the people
- Comments that people are awaiting policies/ evidence to provide further comments



- Support for the consultation document/consultation/team’s work, including:
 - Support for the survey approach which allowed extensive answers
 - feedback that this plan feels more inclusive
 - feedback that the consultation was well-designed, user-friendly and/or comprehensive

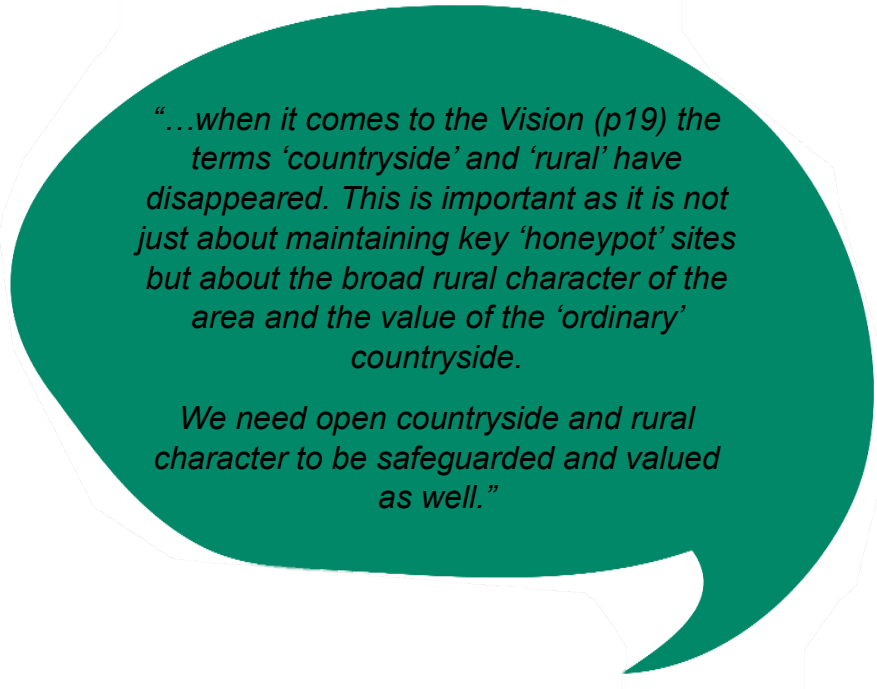


- Concerns with the survey/structure/questions including:
 - access to and the design of the consultation, with a specific request to make language more accessible
 - consultation too lengthy
 - needed an email option

- General feedback on the content of the consultation:
 - the issues seem reasonable
 - concerns that the document is vague and needs practical proposals/action
 - concerns that the message is inconsistent regarding who decides growth/ housing numbers and upon what basis and a need for a statement regarding how changing requirements for setting/ agreeing housing numbers will be made
 - the strategy may change dependent upon housing numbers so this needs to be addressed early on
 - survey needed a housing numbers question
- A need to address the present
- A need to acknowledge that huge changes are coming, including changes due to the Levelling Up Bill
- Requests to carry out visits/meetings to discuss the Joint Local Plan

14. Responses relating to **the vision** mentioned:

- Support for the aspirations of the vision
- Concerns that the vision is far from the current reality
- Queries around how the vision will be brought to fruition
- Requests that the vision specifically mentions (open) countryside and/ or rural



15. Responses relating to **general comments on the Joint Local Plan and/or evidence base** mentioned:

- Encouragement for the councils to push boundaries, try new approaches, be ambitious and imaginative
- General opposition to the JLP/ consultation
- Disagreement/concerns with the proposed timescales for the Joint Local Plan in terms of production of plan and plan period
- A need to align with/ have flexibility with Oxfordshire Plan/timescales
- A need to align with /have flexibility with Oxfordshire/Cambridge Arc timescale
- A need for the Joint Local Plan to respond to any wider Central Government policies and a need for flexibility in plan-making process (e.g. due to impact of Levelling Up Bill)
- A need for more joined-up thinking
- A need for all sections to complement one another
- Encouragement for sharing of ideas/good practice and exploring opportunities for further joint working

- Support for the plans with a request to not allow them to be watered down and to ensure policies are enforced
- Queries as to how goals will be achieved cross-district
- Highlighting that small communities are very different to large towns (approach needs to be tailored with actions for each community)

“In principle, the areas you have included appear to be comprehensive- at this high level. I'm more interested in how you will achieve the goals across the district. Especially how you will apply the principles in small communities- so very different to large towns. I hope the what happens next section describes how you will break this strategy down into projects and actions for each community”

16. Responses relating to **cross-boundary planning** mentioned:

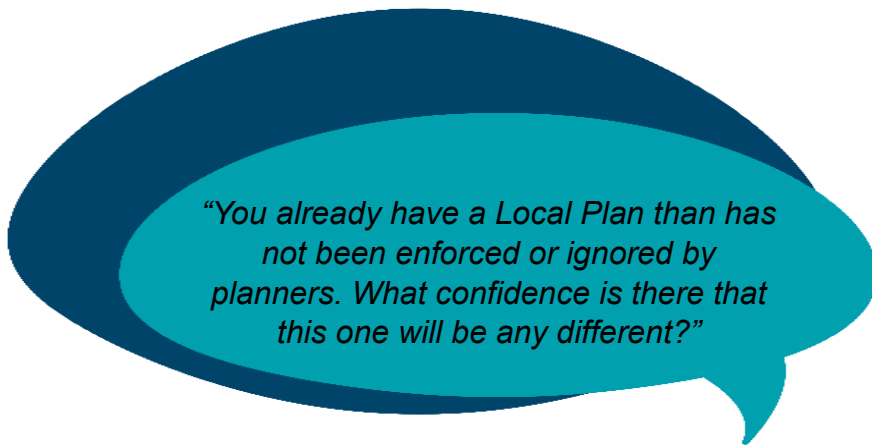
- A need for better joined up/ strategic planning
- A need for clear demarcation between the urban character of Reading and the rural character of South Oxfordshire and no overspill of development
- Meetings were requested from multiple respondents to discuss their views prior to the next stage of the Joint Local Plan

17. Responses relating to **national policy and central government** mentioned:

- Concerns that Government prioritises urban over rural and a request that MPs must defend rurality
- Reference made to drawing upon paragraph 60 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - Delivering a sufficient supply of homes, paragraph 79 – Rural Housing and paragraph 105 – Promoting sustainable transport in response to restricting development away from locations which could function as 20 minute neighbourhoods.

18. Responses relating to existing Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans mentioned:

- Concerns that the existing Local Plan feels unenforced, overridden or ignored and that aspirations are not delivered
- Being unsupportive of current Local Plan(s) and a lack of confidence in the Joint Local Plan due to being unhappy with ‘track record’



- Specific planning permissions/sites causing community concerns
- A need to make neighbourhood plans enforceable and ensure recognition of these

- A need to keep neighbourhood plans up to date
- Concerns with short validity period of neighbourhood plans

19. Responses relating to the technical documents (which were provided in response to Q32 rather than the specific questions) mentioned:

- Settlement Assessment Methodology:
 - A need to recognise Oxford/Reading's conveniently accessible facilities
 - Concern that the Methodology underplays the flat landscapes convenient access
 - A need to retain smaller/larger village/town/AONB distinctions
 - A need to address efficiency/ accessibility of places
- Sustainability Appraisal Report:
 - Disagreement with the little weight given to the nature recovery network (NRN)
 - Concern that the NRN approach differs to the Oxfordshire Plan

20. Responses relating to the Growth Deal mentioned:

- Unsupportive of/ unhappy with Oxfordshire growth deal



21. Site Promotion Material

- 97 of the responses promoted a particular site/sites through this question. Typically, these responses came in via email from agents, landowners or developers, with documents attached providing further details of their sites and supporting evidence or reports.
- Many of these responses also provided comments on the issues and themes of the consultation document. The following provides a summary of

comments which were mentioned alongside the promotion of a site:

- Housing/development:** support providing housing for a diverse population, affordability issues raised, welcome housing choice, welcome recognition of housing shortfall, emphasise housing need challenge, housing requirements will/should be higher, large sites prone to delays/delivery delays, Oxfordshire Plan suggests ambitious targets, need ambitious housing provision, support development in existing/established settlements, identify new housing sites, scale to ensure supply throughout plan period.



- b. **Transport/travel:** support sustainable transport, support Grove Station idea, concern with limiting new developments' parking, all development to be 20-minute neighbourhoods is an unrealistic idea.
- c. **Local plan:** need for flexibility in plan-making process (e.g. due to Levelling Up Bill), timescales/plan period are optimistic and/or should be extended, all sections need to complement one another.
- d. **Consultation:** next stage of JLP consultation needs more evidence, awaiting policies and evidence to provide further comments,

- consultation was steered towards community, not development industry
- e. **Climate:** support the theme of reducing carbon emissions, buildings to be energy efficient, viability needs to be considered, increasing renewables is supported

“...we note that there is no supporting viability analysis of the consultation material, or specifically the potential opportunities included on page 29...”

Chapter 15

Technical documents



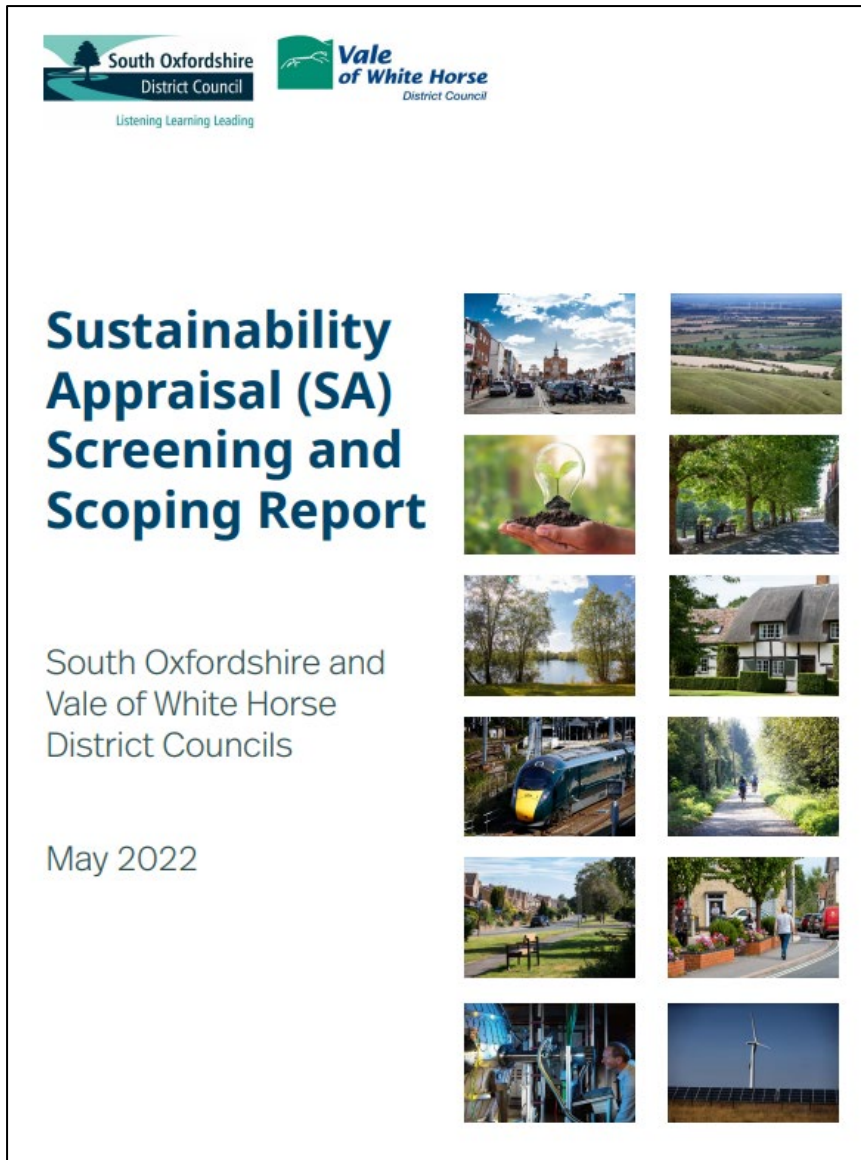
Technical documents

Respondents who wished to answer questions on the four technical documents were directed to the full survey so that we could record who had responded to these documents.

Therefore, all responses in this chapter are from ‘Named respondents’.

Where attachments received referred to the technical documents, we have recorded these under the survey questions for the relevant technical document and counted them towards the number of responses to that question.





Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Screening and Scoping Report

We published a Sustainability Appraisal Screening and Scoping Report, and then invited any comments on the report. We received 40 responses to this question.

We are required by Regulations to consult Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency on the scope and level of detail of information to be included in the sustainability appraisal report. We received responses from Historic England and Natural England with comments on the SA Screening and Scoping Report. The Environment Agency did not submit a response at this stage.

Question 1: If you have any comments on the Sustainability Appraisal Document, please provide them below.

- Respondents requested more emphasis on infrastructure capacity and provision (especially utilities, and the consequential impact on water quality and biodiversity from overflowing sewers). Comments also raised a need for information on NHS capacity such as

GPs, dentists, primary care, and community health services.

- Multiple responses highlighted sewerage infrastructure capacity as a critical issue for our districts. It was proposed that there should be a new objective on the prevention of sewage discharge into rivers/streams.
- There was a question surrounding whether housing need will outweigh other factors such as sewerage systems and a request for transparency on how this is balanced.
- There was a recommendation for testing emerging policies/site allocations firstly against the climate and ecological objectives, so that any which have a negative impact are red flagged as unsustainable and automatically ruled out.
- Some respondents provided feedback on specific objectives in the sustainability appraisal:
 - Objective SO1 covering pollution is too vague and could be broken up.

- General support for Objective SO3 which seeks to reduce the need to travel by car and to reduce emissions from all forms of transport.
- Green/Blue infrastructure provision should be added to Objective SO2.
- Objective SO5 should include a commitment to have regard to the emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).
- Objective SO17 should make reference to the preservation of soils, in particular those of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land (Grades 1- 3a).
- Objective SO11 should be amended to read: 'To protect and manage the character and appearance of the landscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place, the countryside, the function of the Green Belt and landscape quality.'
- Objective SO7 could usefully be amended to include the words 'and adaptable (where appropriate)', to ensure that certain types of

development are constructed in a manner that can be modified in the future.

- As flooding can sometimes be beneficial to biodiversity, it would be helpful to clarify in Objective SO19 that it relates to damage from flooding ‘to properties and key infrastructure’.
- Additional linkages should be highlighted between the climate change and health and wellbeing objectives (e.g. in relation to climate anxiety).
- Respondents noted upcoming potential changes to the SA process, acknowledging that the scoping appeared to be appropriate, but that (as the legislative framework was likely to change) it needed to remain flexible.
- It was suggested that there was a need for an environmental audit and production of a map of all rare and endangered species, to inform the plan. In addition, the need to be stronger on biodiversity net gain was raised.
- The following were also raised by respondents as elements that were missing from the SA Scoping document:

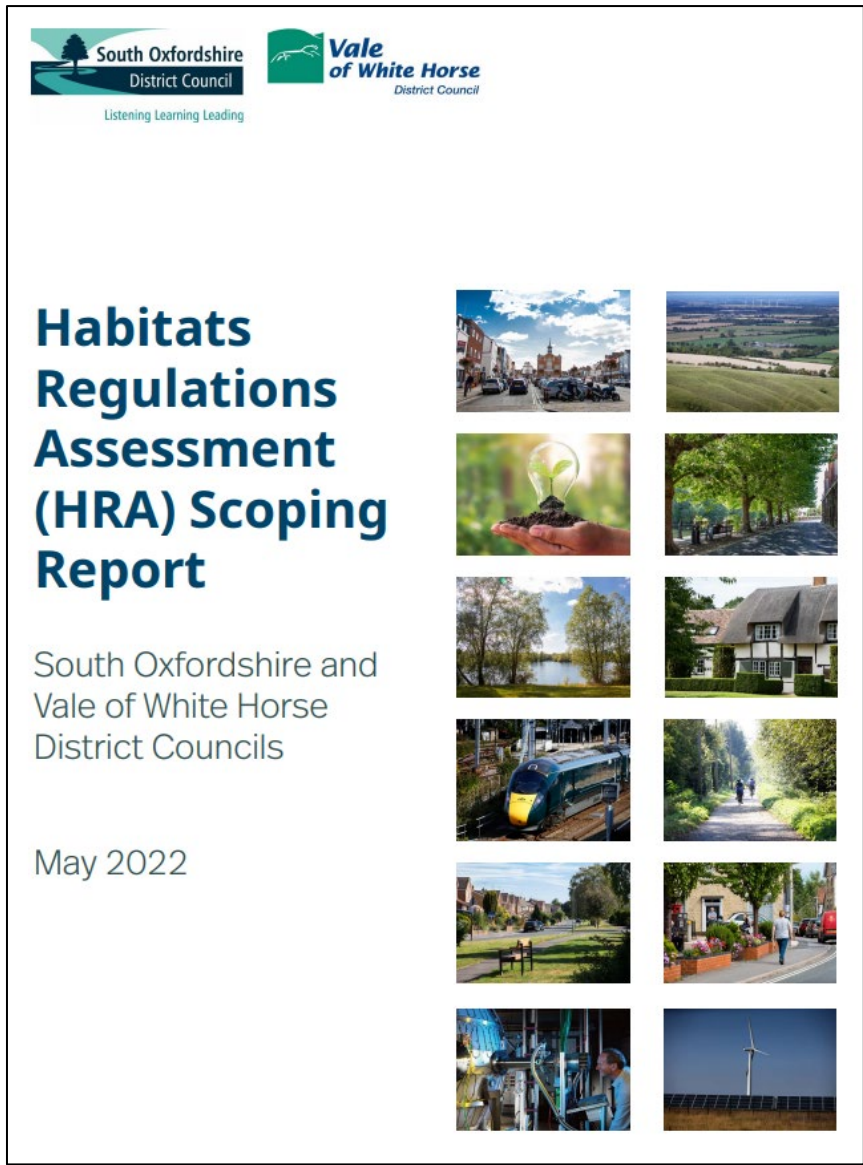
- Reference to air quality
- Grade 3A missing from the agricultural land quality map
- Drawbacks of EV charging points on domestic properties, in terms of cost
- Reference to a number of important historic landscape areas (as identified in the Historic Landscape Characterisation), which will need to be taken into account.
- Inclusion (in para 7.47) to all the recorded archaeological monuments and archaeological findspots in South and Vale and how these remains will need to be taken into account in relation to any proposed development.
- Consideration of the impact of the Covid pandemic on bus route networks and reduction in local bus services.
- New sustainability objectives were proposed for inclusion in the Framework to cover: nature recovery, priority species, human health benefits of nature and maintaining best quality soils in agricultural production.

- One respondent commented that if Plan policies are to be truly sustainable, the SA Framework requires more ambitious targets (based on current research and baseline information) for air, water and soils.
- The validity of the population projections used in the document was queried.
- Several respondents noted that Figure 5 (Nature Recovery Zones) was not clear and required amendment so that the reader could identify which zones fell within which areas.
- There was a request for more detail on the methodology used to apply the SA framework, in particular the way that mitigation will be applied consistently.
- One respondent felt that it needs to be made explicit that users of the SA Framework cannot aggregate the + or – scores to determine relative sustainability of the policy options. The same respondent explained that there also needs to be clarity that assessment against any two or more objectives cannot be combined to obscure significant negative impacts.

- One respondent felt that the framework lacked clarity on how timeframes of significant impacts (e.g. long term, short term, temporary) will be applied to ensure there is certainty over the effects and consistency.
- The same respondent suggested that the SA should include a section setting out the methodology used to determine cumulative effects. They also felt it was unclear how the SA had taken the ‘Key Challenges’ for the Plan area and chosen the corresponding Sustainability Objectives.
- Concern was raised about some ambiguity in terminology (e.g. net zero and climate resilience).

ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

The Sustainability Appraisal of our emerging Joint Local Plan will be an iterative process and the next stage of reporting will form an important part of our Preferred Options (Regulation 18 Part 2) consultation. At this next stage, we will include details of all the comments made at the scoping stage and how these have influenced the way in which we have undertaken the appraisal of our emerging policy options.

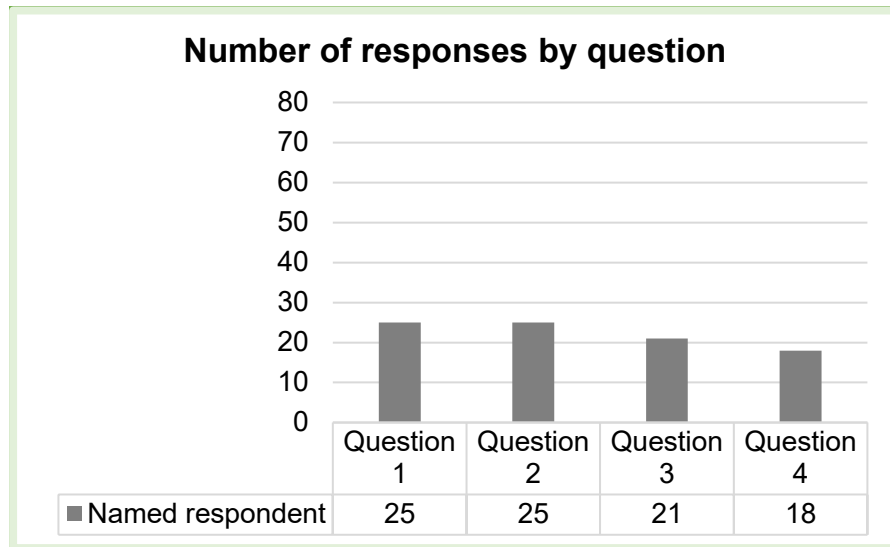


Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Scoping Report

We published a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Scoping Report, and then asked four questions:

- Q1. Have we correctly identified the designated and candidate habitats sites that should be considered through the HRA of the Joint Local Plan?
- Q2. Have we correctly identified the other plans and projects that should be considered in the assessment of potential in-combination effects?
- Q3. Do you agree with the proposed next steps for the HRA process?
- Q4. If you have any other comments on the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Scoping Report, please provide them below.

We received the following number of responses to these questions:



We received a response from HRA statutory consultation body, Natural England. The section of their response on the HRA can be found to the right.

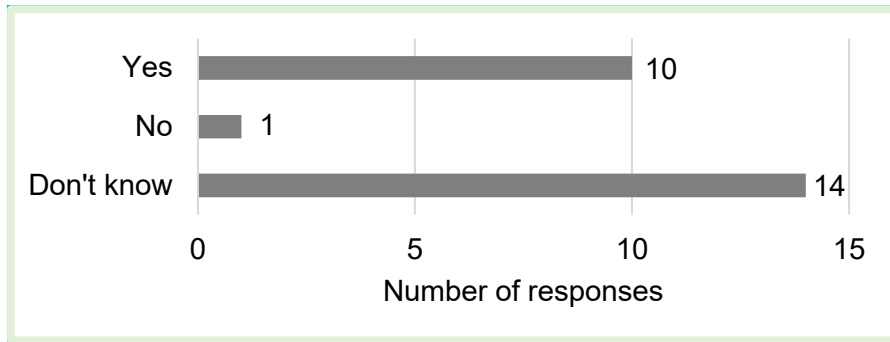
Natural England Comment:

“We would expect the SA/HRA to address the impacts of air quality on the natural environment. In particular, it should address the traffic impacts associated with new development, particularly where this impacts on European sites and SSSIs with specific regard to Oxford Meadows SAC.

Natural England advises that one of the main issues which should be assessed in the plan and the SA/HRA are proposals which are likely to generate additional nitrogen emissions as a result of increased traffic generation, which can be damaging to the natural environment.

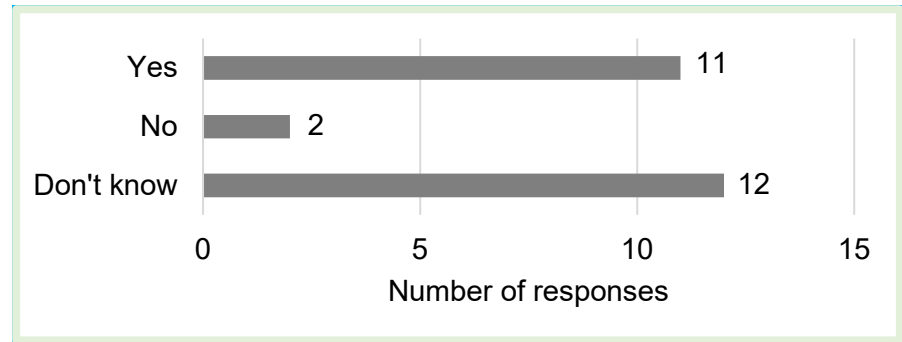
In addition to air quality we would expect the SA/HRA to address the emerging issue of nutrient neutrality and to adequately assess the impacts of the plan on nutrient enrichment within the River Lambourn SAC.”

Question 1: Have we correctly identified the designated and candidate habitats sites that should be considered through the HRA of the Joint Local Plan?



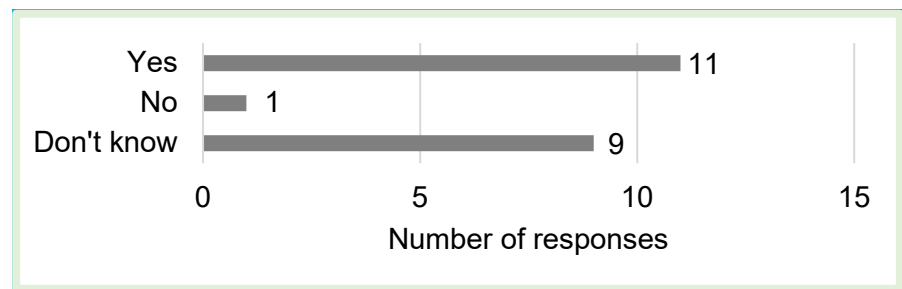
- A number of respondents highlighted the value of other habitats in the districts, with some suggesting specific locations for biodiversity enhancement.
- We received the following comments on specific habitats sites:
 - It was suggested that mineral extraction and dog walking are having effects on Cothill Fen SAC.
 - It was highlighted that there is significant recreational pressure on Little Wittenham SAC. It was suggested that alternative facilities should be provided to help relieve this pressure.

Question 2: Have we correctly identified the other plans and projects that should be considered in the assessment of potential in-combination effects?



- It was suggested that local plans are likely to have the most significant effects.
- It was suggested that the in-combination assessment should give consideration to the quality of watercourses.

Question 3: Do you agree with the proposed next steps for the HRA process?



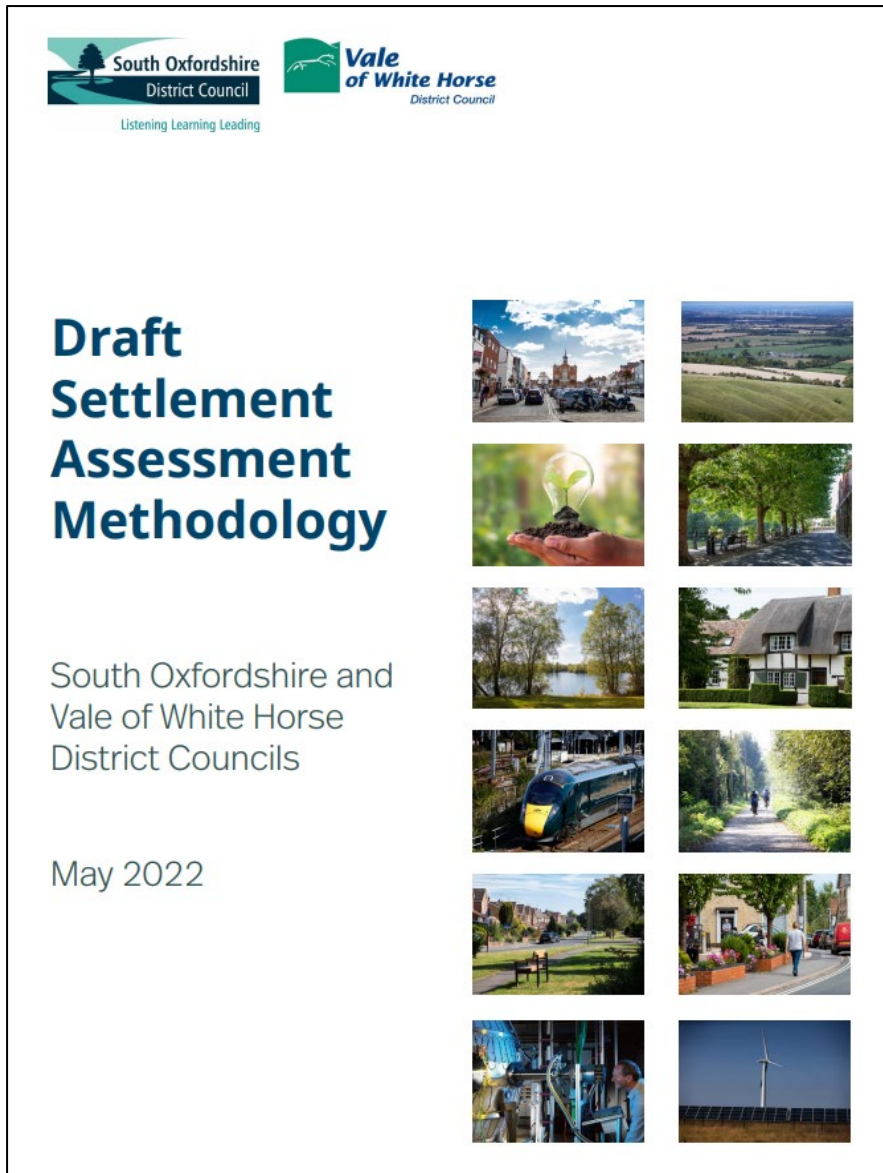
- It was suggested that the impacts of the proposed reservoir should be assessed.

Question 4: If you have any other comments on the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Scoping Report, please provide them below.

- Some respondents felt that the HRA Scoping Report was too complicated.
- It was highlighted that the legal requirements for undertaking HRAs may change whilst the joint local plan is being prepared.
- It was suggested that engagement should be undertaken with the Earth Trust, Sylva Foundation, river authorities and smaller conservation bodies as part of the HRA process.
- Some site promoters highlighted the proximity of promoted sites to habitat sites.

ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

The HRA of our emerging Joint Local Plan will be an iterative process and the next stage of reporting will form an important part of our Preferred Options (Regulation 18 Part 2) consultation.

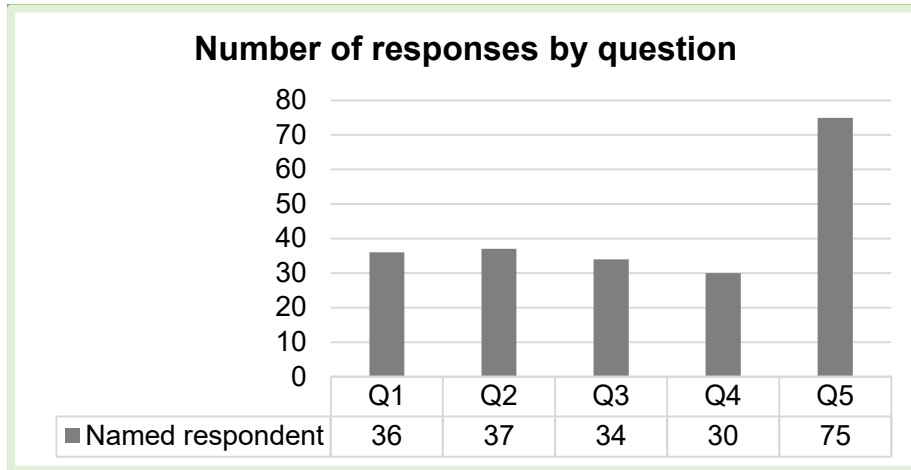


Draft Settlement Assessment Methodology

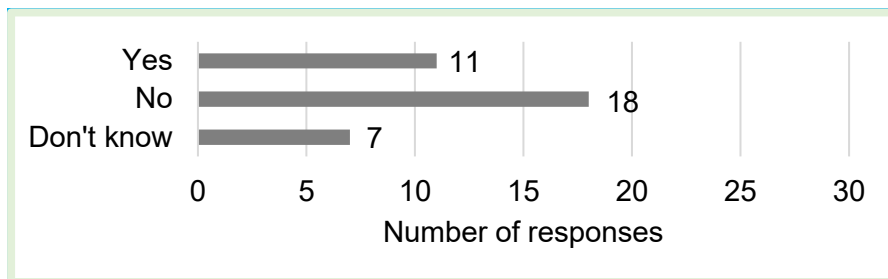
We published a Draft Settlement Assessment Methodology report, and then asked five questions:

- Q1. Are there any services or facilities missing from the list of services and facilities proposed to be assessed? If yes, please provide a list of the services or facilities we have missed.
- Q2. Do you consider that any services or facilities should be removed from the assessment? If yes, please provide a list of the services or facilities you think should be removed from the assessment.
- Q3. Looking at the proposed scoring identified in tables 1 to 6 do you consider that the scoring reflects the weight/importance of each service or facility? If you have any comments on the scoring, please provide them below.
- Q4. What do you consider to be a reasonable distance to walk, cycle or use public transport to access key employment sites or to access services and facilities?
- Q5. If you have any other comments on the Draft Settlement Assessment Methodology, please provide them below.

We received the following number of responses to these questions:

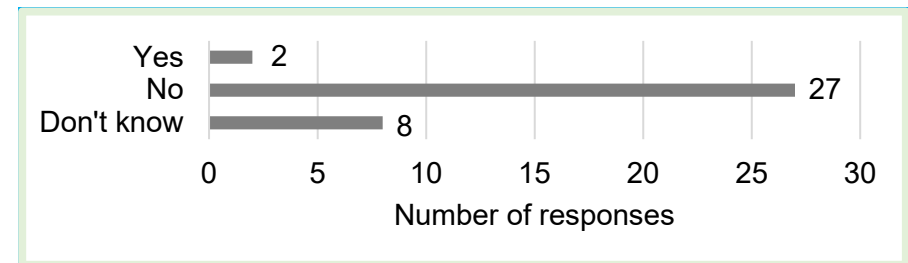


Question 1: Are there any services or facilities missing from the list of services and facilities proposed to be assessed? If yes, please provide a list of the services or facilities we have missed.



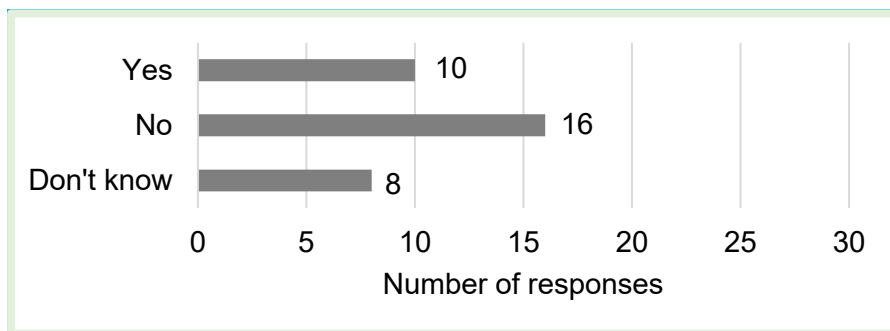
- The majority of respondents felt that there were no services or facilities missing from the list of things to assess.
- Of the respondents who felt there were services missing, the thing most often mentioned (eight times) was employment and work locations, petrol stations and barbers and hairdressers/beauty salons (twice each).
- While most of the suggested additions were already included within the intended methodology, the new suggestions of cemeteries and public electric vehicle charging points were added to the questionnaire we subsequently sent out to town and parish councils.

Question 2: Do you consider that any services or facilities should be removed from the assessment? If yes, please provide a list of the services or facilities you think should be removed from the assessment.



- The majority of respondents felt that all of the listed services or facilities should be assessed.
- The facilities and services respondents considered should be removed were private dentists, subsidised bus services and volunteer run services; as it was felt they may be lost in the future.
- It was also felt that the scoring for ultra-fast broadband should be removed as this can be provided as part of any new development.

Question 3: Looking at the proposed scoring identified in tables 1 to 6 do you consider that the scoring reflects the weight/importance of each service or facility? If you have any comments on the scoring, please provide them below.



- There were a number of responses to this question, of which some simply responded that they support the scoring as it is. The suggested changes to the scoring included:
 - Due to the reduction in the number of high street banks over recent years this facility should be scored higher. It was also stated that the same could be applied to petrol stations.
 - An increase in the weight of scoring for entertainment facilities as these facilities are not readily available in lower tier settlements.
 - Hospitals should be scored higher due to the number of services they provide, with community hospitals included in this definition. Clarity should be provided on what is included under the category of hospitals.
 - Another suggestion was that only commercially viable bus services should be taken into account when scoring. So those bus services that currently have some form of subsidy, for example subsidy

provided by a S106 agreement for a new residential development, should not be included in the scoring.

- There were a number of other suggestions with some including specific scoring changes.
- A criticism raised was that the assessment does not consider that many people might access facilities that are close by but outside of the district, or the use of facilities in the district from those who live outside the district. It was also raised that the assessment does not take account of transient populations such as those on Ministry of Defence postings.

Question 4: What do you consider to be a reasonable distance to walk, cycle or use public transport to access key employment sites or to access services and facilities?

- A range of distances were thought to be reasonable, as it “would depend on fitness, weather conditions, time of year” and the facility they are traveling to. Answers ranged from between 1km to 5km (walking) taking anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour journey time.

- However, the majority of respondents would want to walk no more than 2km or cycle no more than 7km with a maximum journey time of 25 minutes.
- A number of respondents raised that guidance available from the Chartered Institute of Highways and Transport (CIHT) and the guidelines they provide on reasonable walking distances.
- In terms of public transport, people are willing to travel for an average of 40 minutes, but respondents identified that public transport usage is highly dependent on other factors such as “frequency, integration between service providers & cost and ease of understanding of ticket options”

“Clearly, the distance people are prepared to walk or cycle to access services, facilities and employment opportunities will vary, depending upon their age and health, and the purpose of the trip. For commuting purposes, where someone may spend a full working day in their destination, they are likely to be prepared to walk or cycle further”

Question 5: If you have any other comments on the Draft Settlement Assessment Methodology, please provide them below.

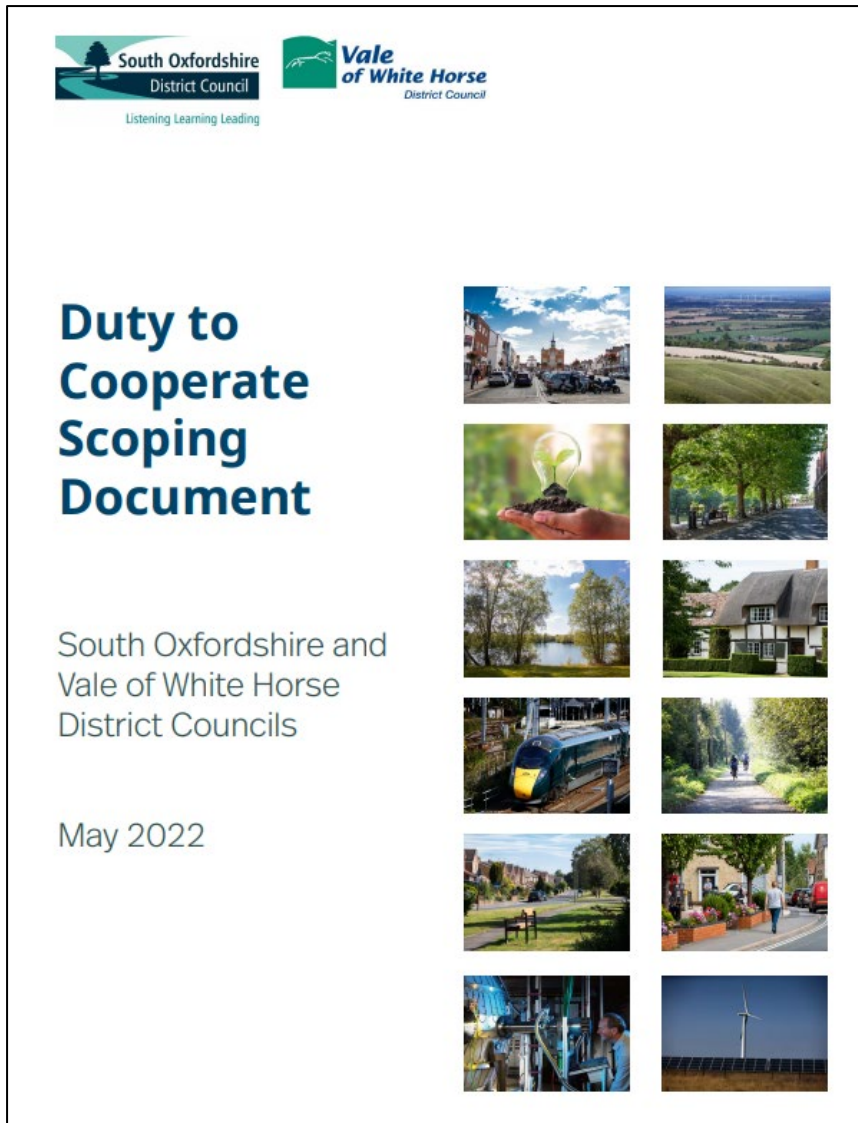
- Some respondents made generally supportive comments about the proposed methodology.
- There were multiple comments where the response reiterated points from previous questions such as weighting of scores and missing facilities.
- There were also some constructive responses which identified areas where the methodology is missing considerations or identified ways to further strengthen the methodology. These included:
 - Taking into account the current usage of the facilities scored and trend data to see what facilities have been lost
 - Reviewing the existing settlement boundaries
 - Incorporating information from neighbourhood plans
 - Requesting further consultation on the settlement hierarchy

ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

After the consultation we reviewed all the feedback to help finalise the right set of services and facilities to include in the Settlement Assessment. We then developed a questionnaire and invited all town and parish councils to participate actively in the process. We asked them to sense check against the results of the previous settlement assessment to ensure that the categorisation is appropriate, and help us ascertain if services have been lost.

We are grateful to all those who have taken time to reply and share their detailed on the ground knowledge. The settlement assessment is a snap-shot in time and is looking to better understand the current services and facilities within the districts.

We are in the processing of collating and analysing their replies. We will consult on the results of the settlement assessment in the next consultations on the Joint Local Plan.



Duty to Cooperate Scoping Document

We published a Duty to Cooperate Scoping Document, and then asked four questions.

Q1. Have we identified all the strategic planning matters?

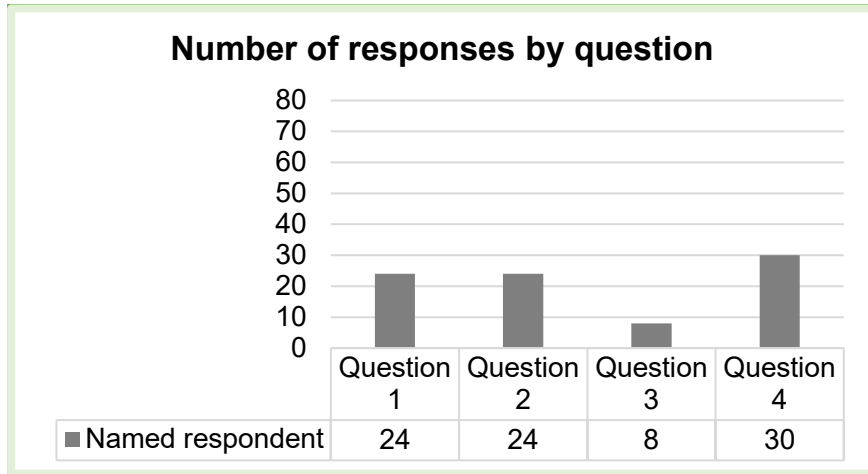
If no, please tell us what matters we have missed.

Q2. Have we identified all the local authorities and organisations that we need to engage in the plan-making process? If no, what local authorities and organisations have we missed?

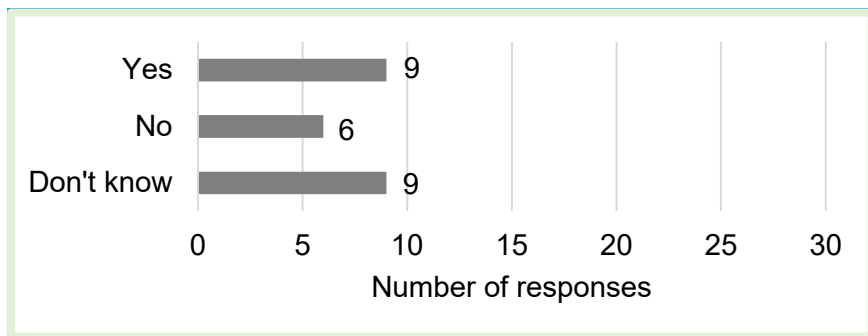
Q3. Do you have any comments on the table regarding which strategic matters we intend to engage neighbouring authorities and prescribed bodies on?

Q4. If you have any other comments on the Duty to Cooperate Scoping document, please provide them below.

We received the following number of responses to these questions:

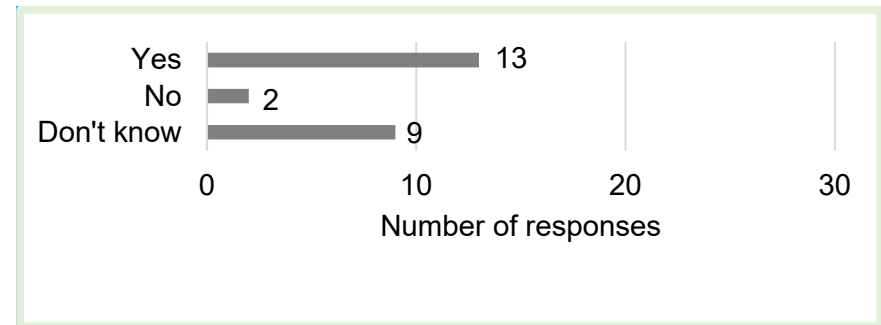


Question 1: Have we identified all the strategic planning matters? If no, please tell us what matters we have missed.



- There were suggestions to further address the impact of development on infrastructure and transport links and there was some unhappiness expressed regarding taking on fellow council's unmet housing or growth in general.

Question 2: Have we identified all the local authorities and organisations that we need to engage in the plan-making process? If no, what local authorities and organisations have we missed?



- We received a number of suggestions for additional organisations to engage with, such as CPRE, environmental action groups and community groups.

Question 3: Do you have any comments on the table regarding which strategic matters we intend to engage neighbouring authorities and prescribed bodies on?

- Oxford City was a key topic, with respondents commenting on locations for development that border Oxford City.
- Other respondents addressed general cross-boundary impacts, including those related to transport, retail/employment and environmental elements.

Question 4: If you have any other comments on the Duty to Cooperate Scoping document, please provide them below.

- Of the Duty to Cooperate questions, this one received the highest number of responses.
- Engagement with Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City was supported most often, as well as having a joined-up approach to infrastructure within and outside of the County.
- Support was expressed for sites that addressed climate change, reducing carbon emissions, and the use of sustainable transport.

- There were a number of cross-border air quality concerns raised, with requests to address sources of poor air quality as well as points raising the fact that emissions are not contained by administrative boundaries.
- There was support for engaging with authorities on the borders of the districts such as West Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, particularly on transport and housing need issues.
- A few respondents suggested there should be a postponement or revision to Duty to Cooperate documents linked to the Government’s Levelling Up Bill and its future plans.
- National Highways requested that we change references to them to their new name of National Highways (previously Highways England).

ACTIONS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK

We propose to: keep addressing the following strategic matters in order to ensure that the districts meet the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate:

- Housing need and supply, including affordable housing, and the provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers
- The supply of retail and employment land
- The provision of infrastructure, including health, education, utilities, flood risk and strategic sustainable transport links
- Conserving and enhancing our natural and historic environments
- Addressing climate change

and, where appropriate, engage with the additional, non-prescribed, bodies suggested (that are not subject to the legal Duty to Cooperate) during the plan-making process. We will also change references to the new name of National Highways (previously Highways England).

We propose to: ensure that the districts meet the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate by preparing and maintaining Statements of Common Ground that document the progress made during the process of planning for strategic cross-boundary matters. This will document where effective cooperation is and is not happening throughout the plan-making process and is a way of demonstrating at examination that plans are deliverable over the plan period and based on effective joint working across local authority boundaries.

We note that: the Duty to Cooperate could potentially change with the forthcoming government reforms. We will monitor this and respond to the details of any reforms and then update our approach accordingly.

Chapter 16

Conclusion



Final thanks and keep up to date

We would like to say a final thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to this consultation. We really appreciate your feedback which is helping to shape the draft of the Joint Local Plan for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. We will continue to consider the responses as we develop our policies and evidence base.

If you would like to know more about the timetable for preparing the Joint Local Plan and when we will be consulting you again, please take a look at our Local Development Scheme on our websites:

[Joint Local Development Scheme – South Oxfordshire](#)

[Joint Local Development Scheme – Vale of White Horse](#)

You can also look out for news of our next consultation on the Joint Local Plan webpages:

[Joint Local Plan 2041 – South Oxfordshire](#)

[Joint Local Plan 2041 – Vale of White Horse](#)

If you're not already on our consultation database and want to be, please follow this link to register and we'll keep you up to date with when our next consultation is:

[Consultation Sign-up](#)

We look forward to engaging with you as work on the Joint Local Plan progresses.



Appendix 1

Social media messages



South Oxfordshire DC  @SouthOxon · 12 May 2022

...

We're *planning* something soon and need your help....Watch this space!



South Oxfordshire DC  @SouthOxon · 13 May 2022

...

It's LAUNCH DAY! Find out about our new Joint Local Plan and have your say using our new interactive website. It's easier than ever to help shape our future. storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/54...





South Oxfordshire DC @SouthOxon · 19 May 2022



We're asking your views as we begin creating a new Joint Local Plan – but what is the plan about? Watch this video to find out!

Our councils have come together to prepare a new local plan that covers our two districts.

A new joint Local Plan for South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse

1:56 130 views



South Oxfordshire DC Retweeted



South Oxfordshire DC @SouthOxon · 1 Jun 2022



Have you seen our new interactive website for our Joint Local Plan?
storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/54...



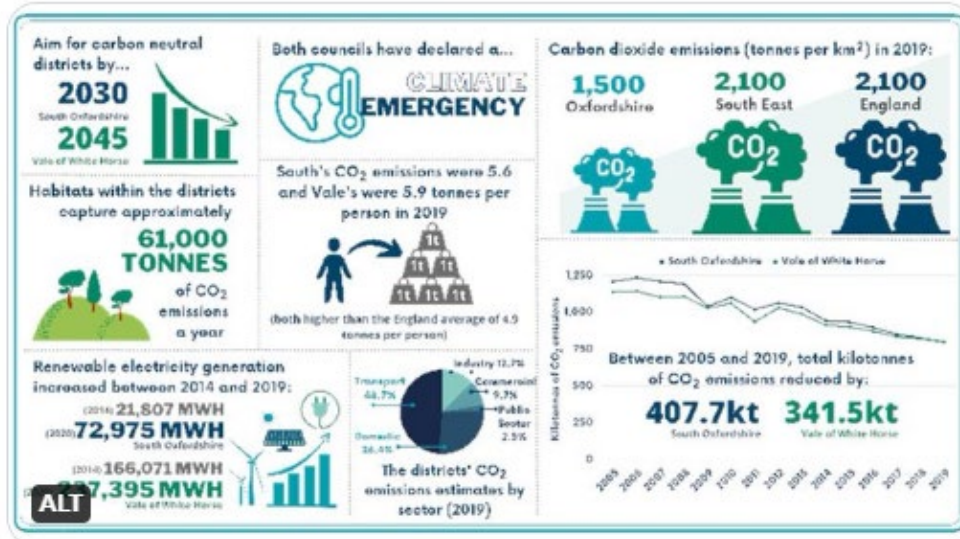


South Oxfordshire DC @SouthOxon · 7 Jun 2022

...

Tackling the climate emergency is one of our main priorities. Find out how we want to use our new Joint Local Plan to help fight climate change:

storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/54...



Appendix 2

Poster

H A V E Y O U R S A Y

Tackling the climate emergency
Sustainable transport
Affordable housing
The future of our town centres
High quality job opportunities
Community facilities

We want to know what you think are the most important issues facing your local area that we could tackle with our new Local Plan

You can read the documents and fill in a response form in this library or online at:

[SOUTHOXON.GOV.UK/JOINTLOCALPLAN](https://southoxon.gov.uk/jointlocalplan)
[WHITEHORSEDC.GOV.UK/JOINTLOCALPLAN](https://whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointlocalplan)

A NEW JOINT LOCAL PLAN



Appendix 3

Email notification

Dear (NAME)

We'd like your views on our new Joint Local Plan

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils have come together to work on a new Joint Local Plan. The Joint Local Plan will guide the kinds of new housing and jobs needed and where they should go, informing planning application decisions for the districts.

While development has been allocated up until 2031 for the Vale and 2035 for South Oxfordshire in our current Local Plans, councils must cover a 15-year period so this new plan will cover the extra years to 2041.

We want to hear your thoughts on the main issues facing our districts and how we could use the Joint Local Plan to address them.

We're also consulting on other supporting documents alongside the Joint Local Plan Issues consultation - these are:

- Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Screening and Scoping Report
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Scoping Report
- Draft Settlement Assessment Methodology
- Duty to Cooperate Scoping Document

You can comment on our consultation from **Thursday 12 May until 11.59pm on Thursday 23 June 2022**.

How to view the consultation documents

All the consultation material can be viewed on the [South Oxfordshire](#) or [Vale of White Horse](#) planning webpages.

How to take part

We're offering a few different ways for you to respond.

1. **Answer on an interactive website**, which includes maps, a video and images to provide an easy way for you to explore the Issues consultation, which you can access via the webpages above. There are questions embedded throughout, so you can quickly and easily answer as many or as few questions as you like as you go. You don't have to register your name to answer like this. Please note that if you choose to answer the questions via the interactive website, we will not be able to link your response to your name/organisation/client when processing the consultation responses. Your comments will appear as anonymous when reported upon.

2. **Answer via survey** (link below). With this option everything you need to know is within the survey, and you can simply fill out all the questions in a single online

survey form. Please also use this survey to comment on the other supporting documents. By using the following link, your response will be linked to your name or organisation.

(LINK TO SURVEY)

Please note that this link is unique just for you and is tied to your email address. If you would like to forward this message to anybody else, please refer them to the [South Oxfordshire](#) or [Vale of White Horse](#) planning webpages to comment instead.

3. **Alternative formats.** If you're unable to take part in this survey online, you can answer on paper. You can find details on how to do this below. We'd prefer you choose option 1 or 2 if possible, as this saves paper and reduces admin costs for the taxpayer.

What happens next

We'll review all the comments we receive and summarise the main issues in a consultation statement. Your views will then help shape the draft of the Joint Local Plan for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. In early 2023, we expect to publish a Joint Local Plan 'Preferred Options' document that will set out proposed policies and sites for development. You will then have the opportunity to give your views on these 'Preferred Options'.

We look forward to hearing from you, thank you for your time.

Kind regards

Harry Barrington-Mountford

Head of Policy and Programmes

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils

The consultation documents are also available to view in alternative formats (e.g. large print, Braille, audio, email, Easy Read and alternative languages) on request. Please contact us on **01235 422425** or email haveyoursay@southandvale.gov.uk for support to access the consultation materials.

You can view hard copies of all the consultation documents at the district council offices on Milton Park (by appointment), at the districts' libraries and The Beacon in Wantage, Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot, and the Great Western Park District Community Centre in Didcot. You can fill in a paper comment form at these locations or you can request one by calling **01235 422425**. It can be returned by post to: Freepost SOUTH AND VALE CONSULTATIONS (no stamp needed) or email to: haveyoursay@southandvale.gov.uk. You can also use the form to comment on the other supporting documents.

Data protection

If you submit a comment on the Joint Local Plan Issues consultation (or a comment is submitted on your behalf), it may be published in full or as a summary alongside your name (where provided). If you submit a comment on behalf of a business/organisation or client, it may be published in full or as a summary alongside your name and the name of the business/organisation/client it is on behalf of (where details are provided). No other personal contact details will be published. If your comment relates to matters outside the scope of planning but falls within the remit of another team at the Councils, we may share your comments with these internal teams where relevant.

To find out how your personal data is used for these consultations and for information on how the council holds, uses and stores your personal data, please refer to our Privacy Policy available on our website at southoxon.gov.uk/haveyoursay or whitehorsedc.gov.uk/haveyoursay

Opt out: If you do not wish to receive further emails from us like this, please [click here](#) and you will be removed from our consultation mailing list. Please note, we may still need to contact you for certain consultations if we have a legal obligation to do so.

Appendix 4

Survey

Comment form

Joint Local Plan: Issues Consultation

A new Joint Local Plan for our area

A Local Plan is a document which sets out planning policies and proposals for new development. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have come together to prepare a new Joint Local Plan that covers our two districts.



We're working together because our districts are quite similar and our councils have shared ambitions about how to make our areas better. Planning challenges like climate change, traffic congestion and shortage of affordable housing don't stop at district boundaries.

What's happened so far?

We're at the early stages of creating this plan, and it's very important to us that you're part of the process from the very beginning. We're currently trying to understand the main issues facing our districts and how we might be able to use the Joint Local Plan to address them - you're the best people to help us understand this.

We welcome your views on the issues we need to tackle in the new Joint Local Plan. The consultation period runs from Thursday 12 May to 11.59pm on Thursday 23 June 2022.

You will have the opportunity to comment on the following documents in this comment form:

- Joint Local Plan Issues Consultation

Supporting documents

- Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Screening and Scoping Report
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Scoping Report
- Draft Settlement Assessment Methodology
- Duty to Cooperate Scoping Document

Alternative formats

If you need any of the information in an alternative format, please email haveyoursay@southandvale.gov.uk or call the consultation team on **01235 422425**.

Please return this comment form to: **Freepost SOUTH AND VALE CONSULTATIONS**
(no other address information or stamp is needed).

If you submit a comment on the Joint Local Plan Issues consultation (or a comment is submitted on your behalf), it may be published in full or as a summary alongside your name (where provided). If you submit a comment on behalf of a business/organisation or client, it may be published in full or as a summary alongside your name and the name of the business/organisation/client it is on behalf of (where details are provided).

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This comment form is separated into the following sections. You do not have to comment on all the sections, you can comment on the sections/documents that interest you:

Section 1

- A little bit about you

Section 2

- Joint Local Plan Issues Consultation

Section 3: Supporting Documents

- Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Screening and Scoping Report
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Scoping Report
- Draft Settlement Assessment Methodology
- Duty to Cooperate Scoping Document

Section 1

A little bit about you

i. Are you responding as:

- An individual/member of the public
- An agent, developer or landowner
- A district, county or town/parish councillor
- A town/parish council
- A Neighbourhood Planning Group
- A community or interest group
- A statutory body (Environment Agency, Highways England, Natural England etc.)
- A utility company or infrastructure provider
- A business/organisation
- Another planning authority
- Other (please specify): _____

ii. To help us understand the geographic spread of the responses we receive, please tell us your postcode in the box below. - required

iv. Please provide your name and email address (or postal address if you prefer), which will be recorded alongside your responses with your consent.

We would like to keep your details in our consultation database so we can stay in touch about the Joint Local Plan and other planning policy consultations. We will not use your details to contact you about anything else.

If you would like to join, please confirm below. You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time.

- I confirm that I consent to my details being added to the consultation database.
- I do not consent to my details being added to the consultation database

For further information about how we use your data below, please refer to our privacy policy which also explains how to exercise your rights over your personal data.

If relevant, please provide the details of the organisation, business or council you're representing. If relevant, please also give the details of the client your business is representing (EG if you're a planning agent responding on behalf of another organisation).

Title

First name

Last name

Town/village name

Your business or organisation (if relevant)

Business or organisation you're representing (if relevant)

Email address

Postal details

If you do not have an email address, please provide your postal details below.

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

Address Line 3

Postal Town

Postcode

Section 2

About the districts

This section of the comment form is about the districts. Please view Chapters 1 and 2 of the *Joint Local Plan – Issues Consultation* document available alongside this comment form to find out more information and help you answer the questions below.

1. What three things do you value most about where you live?

1

2

3

2. In fewer than 50 words, if you could make one change to improve where you live, what would it be? Include the name of the town, village or area you're talking about.

How things are right now



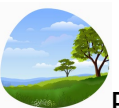




This section of the comment form is about how things are right now. Please view Chapter 3 of the *Joint Local Plan – Issues Consultation* document to find out more information and help you answer the questions below.

3. Overall, how much do you agree that these are the main issues that the Joint Local Plan should consider?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

If you think there are other issues the Local Plan should consider, please let us know in this box:

4. Which of these issues do you think is the most important?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Climate | <input type="checkbox"/>  Traffic and transport |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Protecting our countryside | <input type="checkbox"/>  Employment |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Our towns and villages | <input type="checkbox"/>  Development and Infrastructure |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Quality of life and affordability | |

Our Vision

Our vision is for **carbon neutral districts**, for current and future generations.

For this to be a place where **nature** is thriving, and nature reserves are no longer isolated pockets. A place where **history** is still visible, where heritage and landscape character are safeguarded and valued, and the beauty and the distinctive local identity of our towns and villages have been enhanced.

A place where **people can thrive**. Where people have housing choices they can afford, where villages, market towns and garden communities are diverse and inclusive places where people of all ages and backgrounds can live together.

A place where local residents can reach the **facilities** they need for everyday living on foot, bicycle or by zero-emission and low carbon transport choices.

Where residents and visitors can live **healthy lifestyles** and access greenspace. Where **people are safe** from pollution, flooding, and the effects of climate change.

Where there are valuable and rewarding **jobs**, embracing clean technologies and growing the opportunities in Science Vale for the districts to contribute on a national and international scale to solving pressing global issues.

5. How much do you agree with this vision for the Joint Local Plan?

Please view Chapter 4 of the *Joint Local Plan – Issues Consultation*.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

If there is anything you disagree with in particular, or you have any other thoughts let us know here:

Reducing carbon emissions

This section of the comment form is about reducing carbon emissions. Please view Chapter 6 of the *Joint Local Plan – Issues Consultation* to find out more information and help you answer the questions below.

6. Please select the **THREE** opportunities that are most important to you.

- Plan for a move away from fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions
- Require new homes and buildings to minimise energy use through their layout and design, and have the highest standards of fabric efficiency
- Transition to renewable forms of energy and support the districts in playing an international role in fusion energy power plant research and deployment
- Ensure the amount of development taking place stays within the districts' carbon budget
- Plan for new development in locations that enable sustainable lifestyles (20 minute neighbourhoods)
- Limit parking in new developments
- Require electric vehicle charging points
- Encourage carbon sinks and increase tree cover
- Limit developments with high greenhouse gas emissions e.g. intensive indoor livestock farming

7. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

- Plan for a move away from fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions
- Require new homes and buildings to minimise energy use through their layout and design, and have the highest standards of fabric efficiency
- Transition to renewable forms of energy and support the districts in playing an international role in fusion energy power plant research and deployment
- Ensure the amount of development taking place stays within the districts' carbon budget
- Plan for new development in locations that enable sustainable lifestyles (20 minute neighbourhoods)
- Limit parking in new developments
- Require electric vehicle charging points
- Encourage carbon sinks and increase tree cover
- Limit developments with high greenhouse gas emissions e.g. intensive indoor livestock farming

8. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to reduce carbon emissions, please write them here.

Nature recovery and landscape

This section of the comment form is about nature recovery and landscape. Please view Chapter 7 of the *Joint Local Plan – Issues Consultation* to find out more information and help you answer the questions below.

9. Please select the **THREE** opportunities that are most important to you.

- Respect landscape character, dark skies and the natural beauty of the countryside in development decisions
- Research and map effective nature recovery networks
- Restrict the amount of development in and around our top biodiversity areas
- Require developments to generate a net gain in biodiversity
- Ensure a net gain in biodiversity takes place where it's most effective
- Require improvements to air and water quality
- Protect trees and recognise the value of nature, giving us clean air, flowing water, soils to grow food in, and enjoyment
- Support farmers, foresters and landowners committing to restore nature
- Minimise the use of greenfield land by increasing the density of developments

10. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

- Respect landscape character, dark skies and the natural beauty of the countryside in development decisions
- Research and map effective nature recovery networks
- Restrict the amount of development in and around our top biodiversity areas
- Require developments to generate a net gain in biodiversity
- Ensure a net gain in biodiversity takes place where it's most effective
- Require improvements to air and water quality
- Protect trees and recognise the value of nature, giving us clean air, flowing water, soils to grow food in, and enjoyment
- Support farmers, foresters and landowners committing to restore nature
- Minimise the use of greenfield land by increasing the density of developments

11. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to protect the natural environment, please write them here.

Protecting and enhancing local heritage

This section of the comment form is about protecting and enhancing local heritage. Please view Chapter 8 of the *Joint Local Plan – Issues Consultation* to find out more information and help you answer the questions below.

12. Please select the **THREE** opportunities that are most important to you.

- Protect heritage assets from harm or loss
- Empower communities to research and protect their own heritage through Conservation Area Character Appraisals
- Utilise enabling development where this can secure heritage assets and their settings
- Plan development at a scale appropriate to market towns and villages
- Require beauty in design for new buildings and places
- Keep alive traditions of local building materials, palettes and building styles
- Encourage retention and reuse of historic buildings/ heritage assets as a sustainable resource
- Embrace our cultural heritage
- Ensure energy efficient and renewable energy measures for historic buildings adequately safeguard their heritage significance

13. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

- Protect heritage assets from harm or loss
- Empower communities to research and protect their own heritage through Conservation Area Character Appraisals
- Utilise enabling development where this can secure heritage assets and their settings
- Plan development at a scale appropriate to market towns and villages
- Require beauty in design for new buildings and places
- Keep alive traditions of local building materials, palettes and building styles
- Encourage retention and reuse of historic buildings/ heritage assets as a sustainable resource
- Embrace our cultural heritage
- Ensure energy efficient and renewable energy measures for historic buildings adequately safeguard their heritage significance

14. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to protect and enhance local heritage please write them here.

Thriving inclusive communities

This section of the comment form is about thriving inclusive communities. Please view Chapter 9 of the *Joint Local Plan – Issues Consultation* to find out more information and help you answer the questions below.

15. Please select the **THREE** opportunities that are most important to you.

- Plan for housing that is genuinely affordable for our communities
- Require developers to build a mixture of housing types to help first time buyers, key workers, and those on lower incomes to live in the districts
- Retain a proportion of homes that will remain affordable forever, not just for the first buyer
- Support affordable housing on sites we'd normally protect from development
- Promote alternative housing models like self-build, custom and community-led housing
- Continue to support neighbourhood plans so housing meets local needs
- Require high quality, beautiful and sustainable design for new buildings and places
- Plan new developments, town centres and buildings to be accessible for those with disability or dementia, be places for children and young people to enjoy, and to be gender neutral
- Include plans for communities with specific needs including older people, those needing supported living, students, and Gypsies and Travellers

16. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

- Plan for housing that is genuinely affordable for our communities
- Require developers to build a mixture of housing types to help first time buyers, key workers, and those on lower incomes to live in the districts
- Retain a proportion of homes that will remain affordable forever, not just for the first buyer
- Support affordable housing on sites we'd normally protect from development
- Promote alternative housing models like self-build, custom and community-led housing
- Continue to support neighbourhood plans so housing meets local needs
- Require high quality, beautiful and sustainable design for new buildings and places
- Plan new developments, town centres and buildings to be accessible for those with disability or dementia, be places for children and young people to enjoy, and to be gender neutral
- Include plans for communities with specific needs including older people, those needing supported living, students, and Gypsies and Travellers

17. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to tackle housing inequality and affordability, please write them here.

18. We'd like to hear your ideas for how we could adapt our town centres and high streets to meet our changing needs. Are there any improvements, new facilities or uses that you would like to see in the locations listed in the question below?

Which location(s) does your answer above apply to?

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abingdon | <input type="checkbox"/> Faringdon | <input type="checkbox"/> Thames |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Botley | <input type="checkbox"/> Grove | <input type="checkbox"/> Wallingford |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Didcot | <input type="checkbox"/> Henley | <input type="checkbox"/> Wantage |

Transport and facilities

This section of the comment form is about transport and facilities. Please view Chapter 10 of the *Joint Local Plan – Issues Consultation* to find out more information and help you answer the questions below.

19. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

- Focus new development in settlements where the facilities for everyday living are available within 20 minutes' walk or cycling distance
- Restrict development in locations which are not able to function as 20 minute neighbourhoods
- Safeguard shops, community facilities and services from redevelopment to new uses
- Plan for new infrastructure alongside development, especially in Garden Communities at Didcot, Berinsfield and Dalton Barracks and on strategic allocation sites
- Plan a transition to sustainable transport modes by walking and cycling, shared transport, electric and alternative fuel cars, driverless cars, and plan for enhanced public transport including re-opening of the Cowley Branch line and a station at Grove
- Plan for safe routes for walking and cycling, new quietways, new routes between settlements, secure bike parking, cargo bikes, electric bikes and scooters, electric vehicle charging
- Plan for sustainable travel that is reliable, integrated and accessible
- Plan for new technological innovation in transport and communications technologies

20. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

- Focus new development in settlements where the facilities for everyday living are available within 20 minutes' walk or cycling distance
- Restrict development in locations which are not able to function as 20 minute neighbourhoods
- Safeguard shops, community facilities and services from redevelopment to new uses
- Plan for new infrastructure alongside development, especially in Garden Communities at Didcot, Berinsfield and Dalton Barracks and on strategic allocation sites
- Plan a transition to sustainable transport modes by walking and cycling, shared transport, electric and alternative fuel cars, driverless cars, and plan for enhanced public transport including re-opening of the Cowley Branch line and a station at Grove
- Plan for safe routes for walking and cycling, new quietways, new routes between settlements, secure bike parking, cargo bikes, electric bikes and scooters, electric vehicle charging
- Plan for sustainable travel that is reliable, integrated and accessible
- Plan for new technological innovation in transport and communications technologies

21. If you currently drive, what would encourage you to drive less and/or walk, cycle or take public transport more?

22. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to ensure people have easy access to the services they need to use on a day-to-day basis, please write them here.

Healthy lifestyles and safe communities

This section of the comment form is about healthy lifestyles and safe communities. Please view Chapter 11 of the *Joint Local Plan – Issues Consultation* to find out more information and help you answer the questions below.

23. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

- Provide opportunities for active travel, exercise, social interaction and recreation
- Enhance opportunities for exercise and enjoying high-quality open spaces and the countryside
- Places for people to grow their own food
- Avoid inappropriate development in flood risk areas
- Limit and control new sources of air, water, noise and light pollution
- Require building designs to be adapted to be resilient to climate change impacts like overheating

24. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

- Provide opportunities for active travel, exercise, social interaction and recreation
- Enhance opportunities for exercise and enjoying high-quality open spaces and the countryside
- Places for people to grow their own food
- Avoid inappropriate development in flood risk areas
- Limit and control new sources of air, water, noise and light pollution
- Require building designs to be adapted to be resilient to climate change impacts like overheating

25. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to give residents and visitors the opportunity to live healthy lifestyles, please write them here.



26. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to keep residents and visitors safe from pollution, flooding and the effects of climate change, please write them here.



Jobs and opportunities for innovation

This section of the comment form is about jobs and opportunities for innovation. Please view Chapter 12 of the *Joint Local Plan – Issues Consultation* to find out more information and help you answer the questions below.

27. Please select the **THREE** opportunities that are most important to you.

- Plan jobs near homes and homes near jobs
- Support working from home and community based work hubs and facilities
- Provide employment opportunities for innovation in Science Vale
- Work to support innovation in Science Vale like the fusion work at Culham Science Centre, and space technology and vaccine manufacture at Harwell
- Support the 'circular economy' and businesses working towards a greener future
- Support rural land-based businesses, the local food economy and rural tourism

28. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

- Plan jobs near homes and homes near jobs
- Support working from home and community based work hubs and facilities
- Provide employment opportunities for innovation in Science Vale
- Work to support innovation in Science Vale like the fusion work at Culham Science Centre, and space technology and vaccine manufacture at Harwell
- Support the 'circular economy' and businesses working towards a greener future
- Support rural land-based businesses, the local food economy and rural tourism

29. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to cater for future working styles and patterns, please write them below.

30. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to help ensure there are valuable and rewarding jobs in the districts, please write them here.

Any other thoughts on the Issues Consultation document?

Please view the *Joint Local Plan – Issues Consultation* document to find out more information and help you answer the questions below.

31. Have we correctly summarised the issues, challenges and opportunities for the Joint Local Plan?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

If you've said no, what do you think we've missed?

32. Do you have any other comments?

Section 3

Technical Documents

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Screening and Scoping Report

We are required by law to prepare a sustainability appraisal alongside the Joint Local Plan. Sustainability appraisals look at a wide range of environmental, social, and economic characteristics and provide plan-makers with a set of objectives to assess their emerging proposals against. The first step of a sustainability appraisal is the screening and scoping report, which identifies these objectives.

Each subsequent time we consult on our plan, we will publish a sustainability appraisal report, which will identify the options we have considered, and the mitigation measures needed to offset any harmful effects. The sustainability appraisal does not dictate the direction of the plan but is a useful tool for identifying and mitigating any potential adverse effects that a plan might otherwise have.

We are currently at the Screening and Scoping Report stage, where we set the context and objectives, establish the baseline and decide on the overall scope.

33. If you have any comments on the Sustainability Appraisal Document, please provide them below.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Scoping Report

We have produced an HRA Scoping Report, which identifies the habitats sites that could be affected by the Joint Local Plan and their protected characteristics, current condition and main threats. The HRA is tasked with considering the habitats sites that sit at the top of the hierarchy of biodiversity designations in England and include Special Areas of Conservation for habitats and/or terrestrial/marine species and also Special Protection Areas for birds.

We have also identified the other plans and projects that have potential to give rise to in-combination effects. This information will feed into the HRA, which will be undertaken at a later stage in the plan-making process.

A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), available alongside this comment form refers to the several distinct stages of assessment which must be undertaken to determine if a plan or project (such as new development) may affect the protected features of a habitats site before deciding whether to undertake, permit or authorise it.

34. Have we correctly identified the designated and candidate habitats sites that should be considered through the HRA of the Joint Local Plan? (See Chapter 4 and Appendices A, C & D.)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Comments

35. Have we correctly identified the other plans and projects that should be considered in the assessment of potential in-combination effects? (See Chapter 5 and Appendix E.)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Comments

36. Do you agree with the proposed next steps for the HRA process? (See Chapter 6.)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Comments

37. If you have any other comments on the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Scoping Report, please provide them below.

Draft Settlement Assessment Methodology

Having a strong understanding of the nature of the towns and villages in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse is a key part of our evidence base and essential to forming a successful strategy for the future of our districts in our Joint Local Plan.

The Settlement Assessment will look at settlements in the districts to determine their profile and the level of services each has. This assessment will therefore look at each place's population, households, employment, shops, schools and public transport, as well as other services.

The Draft Settlement Assessment Methodology, available alongside this comment form proposes how we'll undertake the settlement assessment, which will eventually result in a settlement hierarchy.

38. Are there any services or facilities missing from the list of services and facilities proposed to be assessed?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

If yes, please provide a list of the services or facilities we have missed:

39. Do you consider that any services or facilities should be removed from the assessment?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

40. If yes, please provide a list of the services or facilities you think should be removed from the assessment

41. Looking at the proposed scoring identified in tables 1 to 6 do you consider that the scoring reflects the weight/importance of each service or facility?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

If you have any comments on the scoring, please provide them below.

42. What do you consider to be a reasonable distance to walk, cycle or use public transport to access key employment sites or to access services and facilities?

43. If you have any other comments on the Draft Settlement Assessment Methodology, please provide them below.

Duty to Cooperate Scoping Document

The district councils have a legal ‘Duty to Cooperate’ with other local planning authorities and organisations on strategic planning matters that are driven by larger than local issues – these are issues that are likely to have an impact beyond the immediate Local Plan area.

The strategic matters that need to be addressed through cross-boundary cooperation should be identified at the beginning of the Local Plan making process.

A strategic matter is defined as ‘sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, including, in particular, that in connection with strategic infrastructure.’

Our Duty to Cooperate Scoping document, available to view alongside this comment form identifies the strategic matters relevant to the districts. These matters will be further refined, based on Duty to Cooperate discussions over the coming months.

44. Have we identified all the strategic planning matters? (see paragraph 3.7 of the Duty to Cooperate Scoping Document)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

If no, please tell us what matters we have missed:

45. In respect of the Duty to Cooperate, have we identified all the local authorities and organisations that we need to engage in the plan-making process? (see paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 and the table starting on page 8 of the Duty to Cooperate Scoping Document)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

If no, what local authorities and organisations have we missed?

46. Do you have any comments on the table regarding which strategic matters we intend to engage neighbouring authorities and prescribed bodies on? (See the table starting on page 8 of the Duty to Cooperate Scoping Document).

47. If you have any other comments on the Duty to Cooperate Scoping Document, please provide them below

Our commitment to equal access for all

We are committed to making sure that residents have equal access to all council services. Please help us to keep track of how successfully we are achieving this by ticking the appropriate boxes below. All questions are optional. All information is confidential and will only be used to help us monitor whether views differ across the community.

We are especially interested in knowing whether we are hearing from younger people and other groups that don't often engage with us, so please do share this survey with anyone who might be interested (there's a link at the end you can use).

48. Which of the following describes how you identify yourself?

- Male
- Female
- Neither of the above (specify below if you would like to)
- Prefer not to say
- I identify as:

49. How old are you?

- 16-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+
- Prefer not to say

50. What is your ethnic group?

White

- English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British
- Irish
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Any other white background

Asian or Asian British

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background

Black or Black British

- Caribbean
- African
- Any other black background

Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other mixed background

Other Ethnic Group

- Arab
- Other (please specify):

51. Are your day to day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted or is expected to last 12 months or more?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

If yes, please specify:

52. How did you hear about the Joint Local Plan Issues consultation?

- District council social media accounts (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
- Other social media accounts
- Poster
- Newsletter
- Email
- Letter
- Our website
- Another website
- Word of mouth
- Read it in the newspaper
- Radio/TV
- Parish Council
- Other (please specify):

53. How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the way in which you have been able to provide feedback on the Joint Local Plan?

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neutral
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

Our aim is to continually improve the ways in which we engage, so it would be useful if you could highlight any parts of the engagement process that you were particularly satisfied or dissatisfied with?

Thank you for your comments.



Alternative formats of this publication, a summary of its contents or specific sections, are available on request.

These include large print, Braille, audio, email, easy read and alternative languages.

Please contact customer services to discuss your requirements on 01235 422422.

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