

Policy and Programmes

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Dear West Oxfordshire District Council

Thank you for the opportunity to engage on your focussed consultation paper.

The focused consultation paper presents eight scenarios for the future pattern of new development, beyond existing commitments.

Scenario 1 – Hierarchal Approach
Essentially a business-as-usual type scenario, whereby the current hierarchal strategy of the adopted Local Plan is rolled forward to 2041. This would see growth continued to be focused primarily at the three main service centres of Witney, Carterton and Chipping Norton followed by the rural service centres and larger villages.

Scenario 2 – Main Service Centre Focus (Witney, Carterton and Chipping Norton)
Under this scenario, there would be a greater focus on development taking place at the three main service centres of Witney, Carterton and Chipping Norton and thus proportionately less growth at the rural service centres and villages.

Scenario 3 – Witney Focus
Here, Witney would be the principal focus for development, with proportionately less growth then taking place at the other main service centres of Carterton and Chipping Norton and at the rural service centres and villages.

Scenario 4 – Carterton Focus
Under scenario 4, Carterton would be the principal focus for development, with proportionately less growth then taking place at the other main service centres of Witney and Chipping Norton and at the rural service centres and villages.

- Scenario 5 – Dispersed Growth Scenario 5 would see a more ‘dispersed’ pattern of growth, whereby there is less of a focus on growth taking place at the main service centres and rural service centres and a more even distribution of development across the District including at the villages.
- Scenario 6 – Village ‘Clusters’ Scenario 6 is similar to scenario 5 insofar as growth would be intentionally dispersed across the District but rather than individual villages being treated in isolation, they would be considered in ‘clusters’ based on the services and facilities they can collectively offer (e.g. education, retail, employment opportunities).
- Scenario 7 – New Settlement Under scenario 7, future growth would be concentrated primarily in a single location in the form of a planned new settlement.
- Scenario 8 – Public Transport Focus The final scenario relates to public transport availability and would see future growth focused along key public transport corridors and hubs.

We believe that Scenarios 1 to 4 and Scenario 8 could all, in principle, successfully align with the aims of the agreed Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.

Scenarios 5 and 6 could be more difficult to align with the Oxfordshire Strategic vision, but this would depend upon the scale of growth for new development which remains to be assessed.

Scenario 7 could align with the strategic vision but because of the scenario being conceptual rather than location specific that is difficult for us to comment upon. Also, without knowing the scale of settlements that you need to propose it isn’t clear yet if this could help promote the strategic visions aims.

We support that the proposed West Oxfordshire Local Plan objectives are aligned closely to the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision. The policy themes that are identified within your consultation document set out how you plan to deliver those objectives and these provide some indication about how the future West Oxfordshire Local Plan will take forward your objectives towards delivery.

South Oxfordshire District Council has no comments to make on the call for sites part of your consultation.

Yours sincerely

