

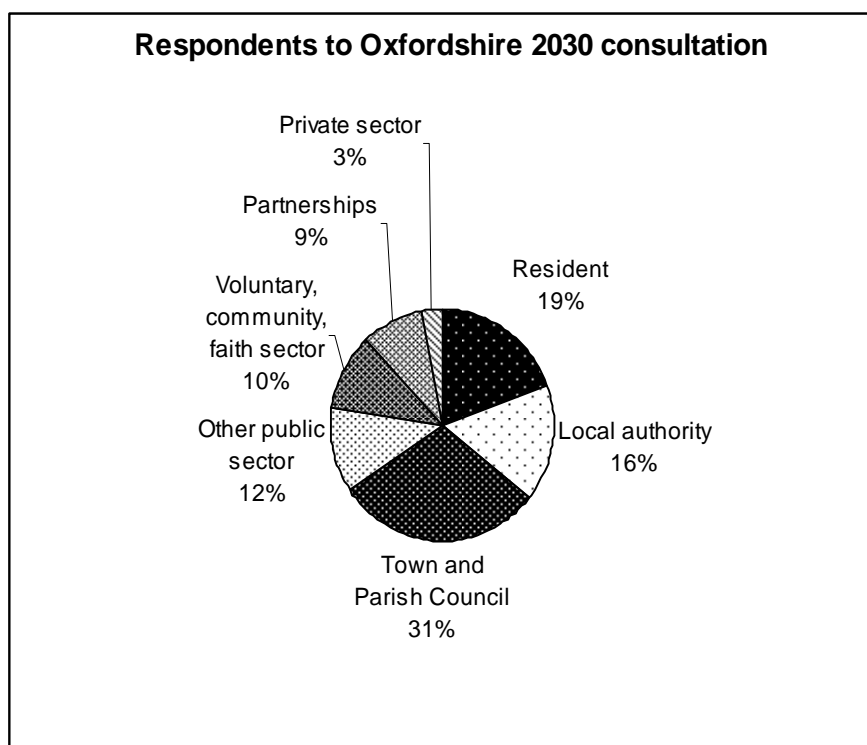
Oxfordshire Partnership Meeting – 26 November 2008

Oxfordshire 2030

A partnership plan for improving quality of life

Consultation on the draft strategy:

The Oxfordshire Partnership consulted with the public on its draft vision and strategy, *Oxfordshire 2030* between 7 July 2008 to 22 September 2008. Response to the consultation was very positive. A total of 67 responses were received from individuals and organisations through consultation surveys and written responses.



Findings from the consultation showed that respondents were broadly supportive of the strategy's vision, objectives and priorities however:

- Minor changes were proposed to the text, language, and design to improve clarity.
- Additions to the text were proposed on issues respondents felt were either not included or considered insufficiently clear
- Clarification of how respondents could get involved in the work of the partnership

A summary of the consultation was produced and also a detailed version (90 pages) which details all of the consultation responses and whether these were included/not included.

Summary of amendments to the strategy following consultation comments

General issues and introductory sections

- We have explained what a sustainable community strategy is because a number of respondents were not clear why we have this strategy

- The 'How you can get involved' section has been developed to give more detail about how you can contribute to the strategy and partnership.
- We have changed the layout to be more consistent across the document because it was noted that it did not read the same for every section.
- We have included more detail about how we will be delivering results and measuring our strategy
- We received many comments about the spatial planning section and we have addressed these by adding more detail about the South East Plan and current eco-town debate. Also more specific references to areas of the county affected by particular issues have been included.
- We have strengthened the sustainability issue throughout the document because this is a guiding principle of the strategy that was suggested did not come through clearly enough.
- Many responses to the consultation raised specific local issues or calls for more emphasis on certain areas of the county. Where these are considered important to the overall priority they have been incorporated and forwarded to the relevant district for information.

World Class Economy

- We have given a stronger emphasis on the role of the military who are a major employer in the county particularly at this time of expansion in the county.
- We have strengthened the priority of Tourism to reflect Oxford city and market towns and rural attractions across the county because it was felt these were not adequately reflected in the consultation draft.
- Congestion across the county was raised as an issue by a number of respondents and is a key challenge for the future. We have tried to reflect this priority further in the strategy.
- The issue of affordable housing and the implications of an ageing population in a predominantly rural area have been emphasised following comments through the consultation.

Healthy and Thriving Communities

- Further to comments about challenges facing rural communities not being adequately addressed we have strengthened this in the strategy.
- We have strengthened the role of the voluntary, community and faith sector in community life
- The pledge on crime and anti-social behaviour has been strengthened to include the impact of alcohol and drugs

Environment and Climate change

- We have included more detail about the challenges facing our environment and the impacts of climate change
- We have added the potential benefits of renewable energy sources following feedback that the Partnership should be encouraging this.
- We have emphasised protection over preservation of biodiversity having received many comments about the importance of our outstanding environment.
- Demand for focus on energy consumption and an aim to influence the behaviour of organisations and individuals has been strengthened

Delivery Plan

Comments on the delivery plan centred around the duplication of targets between sections and the timescales for the delivery of targets. Considerable work has been done on the delivery plan to make proposed targets smarter and reduce duplication where it existed. Thematic Partnerships are leading on the development of appropriate actions to measure progress against our pledges.

All respondents have been contacted thanking them for their response and a summary version of the consultation has been circulated for information. Once the Oxfordshire Partnership has agreed Oxfordshire 2030 we will alert respondents to the website where the strategy and delivery plan and the detailed responses to the consultation will be posted.

Amended strategy circulated for comment:

Following the 12 week consultation period the amended strategy and delivery plan was circulated for one week for final comment to the members of the Partnership. The aim was to ensure that at the meeting on the 26th November, the Partnership is able to formally approve the final strategy and delivery plan. I have attached a summary of the feedback received during this additional period for comment and our response to them (annex A). The main changes have been highlighted within the strategy and delivery plan in **red font**, but it should be clear from the responses paper what has been included.

Local Area Agreement re-refresh:

It is important to note that although we officially agreed our Local Area Agreement 2008-11 with Government in June this year, it was not possible to agree three year targets for all our chosen indicators. It was agreed that these gaps would be filled during the first year of the agreement through the review and refresh process. We are currently scoping the indicators that will be refreshed and are having regard to the current economic situation in doing so. This will in turn be reflected in the *Oxfordshire 2030* delivery plan.

Next steps:

Communications:

- Following the agreement of the strategy a summary version will be produced – this along with the agreed strategy and delivery plan will be available from our website – www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk. We will also make available a number of printed copies and circulate a partnership newsletter to all those who responded alerting them to the agreed strategy. A press release will also be issued
- We will be developing a Communications and engagement plan. The objectives of the communication and engagement plan will be to promote the Oxfordshire Partnership and its activities to partners, local organisations and local people so that they:
 - Can access and use information about Oxfordshire Partnership, its activities and resources
 - See Oxfordshire Partnership as a central resource for community planning information in Oxfordshire and a gateway to other relevant resources
 - Are more aware of, and engaged in, Oxfordshire Partnership activities

- Facilitate and promote communications between Oxfordshire partners, their representatives and staff.

- Spring conference to be held that will include
 - A report on progress, achievements, aspirations and developments during the year
 - Opportunities to get involved, contribute and input into the work of the Oxfordshire Partnership
 - A greater understanding of partnership and joint working
 - A strategic overview of the county, its needs and priorities
 - Ideas for future action

Detailed proposals will be brought to the February meeting for discussion and agreement.

Reporting on progress:

- The six monthly review of performance against targets in the delivery plan will take place in June and November 2009. This will be aligned with the Local Area Agreement monitoring process.

- An annual update on the quality of life indicators and the review of evidence will be presented to the partnership for discussion in November 2009

- The Partnership will receive regular updates from key thematic partnerships in term of progressing the targets in the delivery plan which will start in February 2009 with the Children and Young People's Trust and the Health and Wellbeing Partnership

Recommendation:

Oxfordshire Partnership members are asked to formally approve Oxfordshire 2030 and the delivery plan

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Annex A:

Summary of the feedback received during the additional period for comment

Oxford City Council

Cherwell District Council

Robin Buxton, Environment Partnership

Banbury Town Council

Linda Watson, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council

South Oxfordshire District Council

Comment	Who from	Response – included/not included
<p>Add a comma in - pg 10 Environment and climate change: To respond to the challenges of climate change by minimising the effects of flooding, looking after our environment, reducing waste and use of energy, to improve the quality of life for all</p> <p>The following words should be deleted as none of the other aims has a compromising qualifier – “while balancing this against the needs of a thriving economy and the impact of climate change”</p> <p>There is no mention in the plan of investigating other measures such as whole river basin management</p> <p>Longer term actions are missing namely – Maintain and enhance status of UK biodiversity Action Plan habitats/species in the county Implement conservation target area and habitat action plan objectives, and help accommodate to the consequences of climate change</p>	<p>Robin Buxton, Chairman Environment Partnership</p>	<p>This will be amended.</p> <p>This is not intended as a compromise and we feel it is important to keep this balance.</p> <p>This did not come through the consultation as a key issue to be added – however, there is the opportunity to investigate further options in the annual review of the delivery plan.</p> <p>These will be added in</p>

Comment	Who from	Response – included/not included
<p>Document still needs to have a stronger statement of rural need</p> <p>‘Housing has become unaffordable particularly for many young people’ – at least in Oxford City there is a mix of properties that do provide some options – and if we are including rent as well as purchase in this statement, there is no doubt that Oxford and other urban areas provide opportunities for cheaper properties that cannot be accessed at all in rural areas.</p>	<p>Linda Watson, ORCC</p>	<p>We have strengthened the wording in this section.</p>
<p>Joint District Response The revised version will need to be given further consideration by the district Leaders and Chief Executives. However, our initial view is that the links between the District Strategic Partnerships and the delivery of the Oxfordshire 2030 Pledges and targets are still not clear or strongly enough represented in the Strategy.</p> <p>General observations previously made Although improvements have been made on the documents format and presentation there are still not clear links between the statistical evidence, pledges and actions. However, on the whole the Pledges and Actions set out in the Delivery Plan are strongly supported.</p> <p>Understanding Oxfordshire We did request that a short section on the main industrial sectors also be included in this section.</p>	<p>Oxford City Council</p>	<p>There is further work to be done by district colleagues in terms of strengthening the local distinctiveness section and the delivery plan, which will then ensure that this is represented in the strategy.</p> <p>We feel that the current position section makes this link – a website link has been added within the strategy if further information is required on the evidence base.</p> <p>This will be reviewed.</p>

Comment	Who from	Response – included/not included
<p>Delivering results It was suggested that a model be included showing the links between the Oxfordshire Partnership, Thematic Partnership and the District Local Strategic Partnerships. It is disappointing that this has not been included as we believe that this would help clarify the relationships between the different partnerships.</p> <p>Planning for better places to live, earn and work We previously requested that Paragraph 4 (in the previous consultation document) be significantly revised and a factual statement made in relation to the South East Plan. The paragraph has not been amended.</p> <p>The City does not support the contents or the inclusion of this paragraph in the Strategy. “In the draft South East Plan the maintenance of the green belt around Oxford was proposed to preserve the city’s special character and landscape setting, prevent ribbon development and urban sprawl, prevent the coalescence of settlements, protect the countryside and assist in urban regeneration by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land. The government has indicated that it wants to allow development south of oxford and is proposing a review of the green belt south of the City.”</p>		<p>A model has not been included as the review of partnerships is still underway and recommendations will not be made to the Public Service Board until February 09. We will include a diagram when this has been agreed.</p>

Comment	Who from	Response – included/not included
<p>It is a matter of fact that the Secretary of State proposed changes to the earlier SEERA Draft South East Plan to propose a review of the greenbelt south of the City in order to facilitate an urban extension of at least 4,000 homes. The South East Plan has identified this as a ‘Strategic Development Area’, or SDA.</p> <p>Therefore a sentence should be included in the document to the effect of:</p> <p>‘The Government has firmly proposed a review of the greenbelt south of the City in order to facilitate an urban extension of at least 4,000 homes’.</p> <p>We suggested that the wording of paragraph 6 in the previous consultation document be amended to strengthen the role of the Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) in delivery the pledges and targets. The paragraph refers to the LDFs as a ‘collection of policies and plans to guide building development’. In fact LDFs are essential tools to shaping communities and ensuring that services are delivered to meet local needs. This paragraph should therefore be amended accordingly.</p> <p>A world class economy Paragraph on the current position. Please include Oxford as being strong in tourism, alongside West Oxfordshire.</p>		<p>We have deleted this paragraph and replaced with: These included a review of the greenbelt south of Oxford in order to facilitate an urban extension of at least 4,000 homes. The Secretary of State’s final decision following consultation is awaited.</p> <p>The sentence on LDF’s has been included.</p> <p>Reference to the county has a whole being strong in tourism has been added.</p>

Comment	Who from	Response – included/not included
<p>Rather than just a reference to the University Chemistry Department this paragraph should set out that there is a critical triangle of universities, hospitals and medical research leading to high technology spin offs.</p> <p>Healthy and Thriving Communities We previously asked that this section be strengthened by explaining where the key areas of deprivation area and to clearly state that these would be specifically targeted in relation to skills, community safety and health. This still is not apparent from the rewording of this section.</p> <p>The environment and climate change This section still needs to strengthen reference to the cleaner greener agenda. It is only mentioned as a bullet point at the end of the section, although there are a number of LAA targets relating to it.</p>		<p>This has been included</p> <p>The wording has been strengthened. However we will not be naming the communities as we do not want these communities to feel stigmatised.</p> <p>Within the current position section we have mentioned that we want to keep Oxfordshire clean and green – and that improving street scene and environmental cleanliness is a priority.</p>
<p>General comments: The links between the District LSPs and the delivery of the Oxfordshire 2030 Pledges and Targets are still not clear or strongly enough represented in the Strategy.</p> <p>There are still not clear links between the statistical evidence, pledges and actions.</p>	<p>Cherwell District</p>	<p>There is further work to be done by district colleagues in terms of strengthening the local distinctiveness section and the delivery plan, which will then ensure that this is represented in the strategy.</p> <p>We feel that the current position section makes this link – a website link has been added within the strategy if further information is required on the evidence base.</p>

Comment	Who from	Response – included/not included
<p>The links between Oxfordshire Partnership, Thematic partnerships and District LSPs needs to be clearly set out.</p> <p>Specific comments:</p> <p>Page 15 – current position – first para – last sentence amend to read ‘...motorsports (Banbury is a sub regional hub and other areas in North Oxfordshire), and publishing industries.’</p> <p>Page 24 – first para very Oxford centric. Include reference to historic market towns, Cotswold and ironstone villages.</p> <p>Ask for Bloxham to come off the map on p8.</p> <p>Page 9 -Inward migration to Cherwell is significant. In 2001 7.5% of the population considered themselves to belong to a group other than white British, by 2006 this had grown to 10.7%. Our research and experience demonstrates that this growth has come and continues to come from migrant workers from Polish and other Eastern European communities.</p> <p>This also needs to be reflected on page 20 – current position – second para – need to include the % in Banbury and Didcot (Banbury Grimsbury ward has 10.9%). But white non</p>		<p>A model has not been included as the review of partnerships is still underway and recommendations will not be made to the Public Service Board until February 09. We will include a diagram when this has been agreed.</p> <p>Reference to Banbury has been included</p> <p>This has been included</p> <p>We suggest that this detailed information is included in the Cherwell section in the local distinctiveness section.</p> <p>We suggest that this detailed information is included in the Cherwell section in the local distinctiveness section.</p>

Comment	Who from	Response – included/not included
<p>British are also a significant community in Cherwell.</p> <p>Page 17 – ‘we pledge to’ – change last bullet point to read ‘Tackle traffic congestion across Oxfordshire, particularly on trunk roads and around market towns, Oxford City and other hotspots’.</p> <p>Page 15 – ‘key issues include’ – first bullet point add in reference to mid tech industries so read ‘...our mid and high technology businesses..’</p> <p>Make clearer that delivery plan includes measures and that the targets and resources are detailed in separate action plans that can be found on the Oxfordshire Partnership website (assuming this is the case).</p> <p>Need to include reference to the fact that within north Oxfordshire there are a large number of people not registered with a G.P. This is evidence by the PCT reasons for the new health centre in Banbury.</p> <p>Page 30 – first line to read ‘...Cherwell covers an area of 590km2 (228 square miles)...’</p> <p>Page 6 contact - Helen Couperthwaite, Community and Corporate Planning Officer, 01295 221751, community.planning@cherwell-dc.gov.uk</p>		<p>This has been included.</p> <p>This has been included.</p> <p>The detailed action plans are currently in development and once these are finalised they will be available on the Oxfordshire Partnership website.</p> <p>We suggest that this detailed information is included in the Cherwell section in the local distinctiveness section.</p> <p>This has been included</p> <p>This has been included</p>

Comment	Who from	Response – included/not included
<p>Page 6 – Find out more about your LSP – second sentence – amend to read ‘ The local ambitions of the five District LSPs have fed ...’</p> <p>Page 16 – last bullet point before ‘workforce skills’ add ‘Banbury traditionally has a manufacturing base and needs to attract mid and high tech industries’.</p> <p>Page 21 – para starting ‘Participation in culture...’ – last word on second line needs to read ‘identity’.</p> <p>Second to last line needs to put ‘VCS’ out in full.</p> <p>Last para before ‘democratic change’ not clear what it means. In Banbury there have been large numbers of immigrants who have integrated well in schools and in the town.</p> <p>Page 22 – additional pledge to read ‘ensure local provision of key health services’.</p> <p>Page 15 – managing the impact of climate change – para 3 – line 6 – make clear that Oxfordshire Waste Partnership includes the 5 Oxfordshire Districts and the County Council. Also recognise that whilst recycling rates matched the best in Europe this was largely because of Cherwell.</p>		<p>This has been included</p> <p>Reference to Banbury has been included</p> <p>Amended</p> <p>Amended</p> <p>We suggest that this detailed information is included in the Cherwell section in the local distinctiveness section.</p> <p>We feel that this is included within the pledge on: defend access to local services particularly in rural communities.</p> <p>This has been included</p>

Comment	Who from	Response – included/not included
<p>Page 28 – first bullet point – in Cherwell white working class males tend to be the lowest performers and some BMEs are actually very high performers. The point needs to better reflect the diversity of the county.</p> <p>Page 31 – bullet point starting ‘make it easier for you to get..’ – change second sentence to read ‘It should be noted that whilst those in the southern end of the district look towards Oxford most in the north look towards Banbury.’</p> <p>Delivery Plan - Page 7 – bottom of the page – make reference to junction 10 as well as junction 9 on M40 so reads ‘...including improvements to M40 Junctions 9 and 10, East-west...’</p> <p>Delivery Plan - Page 12 – pledge 8 – more information needed here, need to include the importance of Town and Parish Councils in delivering this pledge.</p>		<p>We suggest that this detailed information is included in the Cherwell section in the local distinctiveness section.</p> <p>This has been included</p> <p>This has been included</p> <p>We will note the importance of the town and parish councils in delivering this pledge.</p>
<p>The County also has strong tourism (in West Oxfordshire), motorsports (in North Oxfordshire), and publishing industries. “ It should be stressed within the yellow highlighted area that Banbury in particular is a sub regional hub for motorsports.</p>	<p>Banbury Town Council</p>	<p>This has been included</p>

Comment	Who from	Response – included/not included
<p>“In some areas of the City and our market towns there is a need to better join up activity as well as requirements for more active engagement to break the cycle of deprivation.”</p> <p><u>Comments:</u></p> <p>In Banbury there have been large numbers of immigrants who have integrated well in schools and in the town.</p> <p>Given the enormous effort expended by the County; District and Town Council, along with those neighbouring Councils that fall within the Horton Hospital catchment area, to keep health services local, we feel this section needs to include an additional pledge to read ‘ensure local provision of key health services’</p>		<p>We suggest that this detailed information is included in the Cherwell section in the local distinctiveness section.</p> <p>We feel that this is included within the pledge on: defend access to local services particularly in rural communities.</p>
<p>We are still, as stated in our formal response to the consultation, very concerned that the strategy includes targets which are unrealistic. We believe the strategy should set out long-term aspirations but use the shorter term delivery plan/LAA to set targets to achieve these ambitions. We also have a responsibility to partners and the community to be realistic and not promise things we know we can never deliver. We would therefore like to remove any targets from the main strategy document. We</p>	<p>South Oxfordshire District Council</p>	<p>The targets in the delivery plan are largely of interest to partners – more so than the public. In the SCS we are making statements and pledges to help the public understand what we are trying to achieve in plain English. The pledges were agreed with partners after detailed consultation and they aim to be balanced between realism and ambition for our communities.</p> <p>The section on: How we measure success refers to our aspirations for what we would like Oxfordshire to be like in 2030 – so this is not an absolute commitment to have achieved this – but an aspiration for what we are aiming for it to be like – so for</p>

Comment	Who from	Response – included/not included
<p>have commented below on a few examples of SCS targets in the main strategy document.</p> <p>Page 23 - Crime and antisocial behaviour target</p> <p>The draft SCS includes a target for ‘crime and antisocial behaviour [ASB] to be lower than in the rest of the country’.</p> <p>All partners have very clear aspirations and concrete plans to reduce crime and ASB in the county. However, this target is unrealistic for three reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the nature of our area, while we have low crime rates, we are highly unlikely to ever have the lowest crime rate in the country because some areas will by nature always be safer. If we look at the crime rates in other areas we can see it would be difficult to reach their levels (see graph below). • As we reduce crime, other areas are taking similar steps so are also likely to see a reduction. Our position in our statistical family rarely changes as others are also improving. • We have not bench marked our levels of ASB across the country as there is no consistent measure so not only can we not measure this indicators, we do not know if this is a realistic target. 		<p>example, we would like crime and antisocial behaviour to be lower than in the rest of the country – but this obviously depends on the targets being achieved in the delivery plan.</p> <p>Please see above.</p>

Comment	Who from	Response – included/not included
<p>page 26 - Energy use and greenhouse gas emissions targets</p> <p>The draft SCS includes targets for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘public sector and domestic energy and water use will be below the UK average by 2030’ and • ‘Oxfordshire’s greenhouse gas emissions reduced to levels comparable with the best in the UK – a 50 per cent reduction in CO₂ on 2008 levels by 2030’. <p>We are fully committed to reducing our energy consumption and CO₂ levels. However, we can't sign up to the specific targets for a number of reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The energy and water use target is a very stretching target given that most of Oxfordshire (particularly South) is way above the national and south east average at present. • We don't have the resources to make a significant difference to greenhouse gas emissions level across the district - we try to do so by setting our own house in order and by publicising good practice. We may want to set an aspiration to look towards this in the future once we have got own house in order but we are unable to set a target at this time. 		<p>Please see response above.</p>

Comment	Who from	Response – included/not included
<p>Understanding Oxfordshire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Page 9 - the population projections are quite out of date; the ONS (2006-based) ones are 139,900 for South Oxfordshire. <p>Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Page 12 - the paragraph on the green belt is confusing as it jumps from draft the south east plan wanting to preserve green belt and then the government wanting to build to the south. Suggest adding 'however' to last sentence before 'the Government'. Page 13, housing paragraph – need to be clear about where the 2360 dwellings per year are for, we assume Oxfordshire not the whole of the South East. <p>World class economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Page 15 - under "current position" - "the county has strong tourism (in West Oxfordshire)" - unsure why only west is highlighted here. Surely the whole county has strong tourism potential? Page 16 - under "economic regeneration" - Quadrant needs to change to "Science Vale UK" Page 18 - measures - GVA - this seems fairly achievable (although many of these indicators are outside our control and depend on global 		<p>This will be updated.</p> <p>The section on the green belt has been amended</p> <p>This does refer to Oxfordshire and we shall ensure this section is clearer.</p> <p>The whole county does have strong tourism potential and we shall amend this.</p> <p>This has been amended</p>

Comment	Who from	Response – included/not included
<p>economic factors). The Oxfordshire Partnership website says that Oxfordshire already ranks within the top 10 per cent so the target may need to be tougher (depending on whether we think that would be achievable). It may be that we would be better benchmarking against the SE average.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 18 - measures - I have concerns on the deliverability of the journey times on Oxfordshire roads to be within the most reliable 10 per cent in the country as it is unlikely to be achievable. <p>Healthy and thriving communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 23 - not all local communities will want/need a parish/community plan so suggest an aspiration for ‘many communities to have developed and implemented a community led plan.....’. This is more in line with the targets in the delivery plan. <p>Reducing inequalities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an outstanding change remaining from our consultation response - change ‘divert <u>young</u> people from antisocial behaviour’ to ‘divert people’ 		<p>The GVA statement is backed up by an amended target in the delivery plan</p> <p>See the response above.</p> <p>See the response above.</p> <p>This shall be amended.</p>

Comment	Who from	Response – included/not included
<p>General comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 6 - remove officer names as these could change; include a web link. • Page 6 - talk to your councillor section – need to tell people how to contact their district councilors too (refer them to the district council websites?) • Page 10 – change ‘market towns’ to ‘towns’ as this could be seen to exclude Didcot (and other references throughout the strategy) • Page 20 – current position repeats text in box at top of page 19 <p>Draft delivery plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 6 - pledge 1 - the longer term objectives NI 171 should read ‘new business vat registration rate’ and partners should include district economic development officers/enterprise and economy delivery group • Page 17 – the delivery plan sets a medium term target to achieve code level 3 of the code for sustainable homes – does this mean for affordable housing or all housing? 		<p>This will be included</p> <p>Reference to district council websites will be included</p> <p>This will be amended</p> <p>This will be amended</p> <p>This will be amended</p> <p>This is intended to apply to all housing.</p>