

South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011 - 2031: Refined Options February 2015

South Oxfordshire District Council has produced Refined Options in response to the Issues and Scope consultation last year which looked at how the next quota of housing to be provided by 2031 could be located.

Option F, which was to locate 6,000 homes on the outskirts of Oxford and Reading, has been rejected.

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan-2031/local-plan-2031-refined-op>

The Local Plan will now plan for between 3,100 and 5,100 additional new homes by 2031 in the whole of the District *in addition to* the 5200 outside Didcot which are already included in the approved Core Strategy covering the period 2006-2027.

Unless local authorities identify sites for future development, the 'assumption in favour of sustainable development' clause - which is included in all approved local plans - will mean the chances of inappropriate, and unplanned, speculative development gaining approval are high. This has already happened in West Oxfordshire, in the absence of an approved local plan.

7 potential strategies for locating the additional housing were identified in the Issues and Scope consultation during 2014, including Option F. The current approved SODC Local Plan states clearly that traffic constraints mitigate against development on the Reading boundary. CADRA submitted comments which set out strong arguments against meeting a large proportion of the South Oxfordshire housing quotas for 2031 by building on the edge Caversham.

http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2014-06-05_SODC%20LP2031%20ISSUES%20&%20OPTIONS%20LEAFLET-Final.pdf

Page 18 of the Refined Options document states that Option F is not the most appropriate way to deliver the new homes required for South Oxfordshire, though it could help accommodate unmet need from Oxford. The Refined Option proposes splitting housing between the Science Vale area (Didcot, Harwell, Milton Park and Culham) and the Market towns and larger villages. Policies in smaller villages and the smallest settlements are also to be reviewed to encourage small-scale growth.

A new consultation, which closes on 2 April 21015, will now look at where the new homes should be provided. Specific sites for development are shown in the Refined Option document.

CADRA will respond to this consultation.

Documents are available to view at SODC council offices, all local libraries in South Oxfordshire and online at www.southoxon.gov.uk/newlocalplan

Responses can be made to:

www.southoxon.gov.uk/newlocalplan or via email to (planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk)