

South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011 - 2031: Issues and Scope

Consultation lasts until 23 July 2014

South Oxfordshire District Council has produced a consultation document which looks at how the next quota of housing to be provided by 2031 can be located.

It aims to identify sites for up to 5900 additional dwellings by 2031 in the whole of the District *in addition to* the 5200 outside Didcot which are 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 are identified for consultation:

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

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building>

Option F is to locate the extra housing on the outskirts of Oxford and Reading. It is not difficult to imagine that this might be an attractive option for people living within South Oxfordshire, who are in the process of identifying sites to meet existing housing targets in the current approved local plan.

Issues relating to re-evaluating the Green Belt around Oxford are spelt out in the consultation document. However no comment is made on the constraints which would apply to expanding on the Reading (= Caversham) borders, even though the current approved local plan states clearly that traffic constraints mitigate against development on the Reading boundary.

If the proposals in Option F were to be chosen, and development was split equally between the outskirts of Oxford and Reading, there could be up to 3000 new dwellings on the edge of Caversham.

CADRA will be submitting comments which set out the strong arguments against meeting a large proportion of the South Oxfordshire housing quotas for 2031 by building on the edge Caversham.

Individuals may also wish to comment.

You can do this on line at

<https://consult.southandvale.gov.uk/portal/south/planning/pol/lp2031/is/lp>

or email scott.riley@southandvale.gov.uk