



Full Council	Tuesday, 16 April 2019	Matter for Information and Decision
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Report Title: **Approval and Adoption of New Local Plan (April 2019)**

Report Author(s): **Jamie Carr (Planning Policy Team Leader)**

Purpose of Report:	<p>The purpose of this report is to highlight to Members that the Borough Council has received the Final Report from the Planning Inspectorate relating to the Examination of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan (2011-2031).</p> <p>The Inspector has concluded that with the modifications discussed and agreed at the Examination Hearings and subsequently consulted upon, the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan satisfies the requirements of Section 20(5) of the 2004 Act and meets the criteria for soundness in the National Planning Policy Framework.</p> <p>With Members' approval, the Local Plan can now therefore be formally adopted by the Council.</p>
Report Summary:	<p>The Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan is the overarching policy document for the authority area and sets out the vision and framework for future development for the Plan period 2011 to 2031. Once adopted, the new Local Plan will supersede the Council's Core Strategy Development Plan Document and the Town Centres Area Action Plan Development Plan Document, as well as the Saved Local Plan.</p>
Recommendation(s):	<p>That the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan (as set out at Appendix 1 to this report) and its accompanying Adopted Policies Map (attached at Appendix 2 to this report) be approved and adopted.</p>
Responsible Strategic Director, Head of Service and Officer Contact(s):	<p>Stephen Hinds (Director of Finance & Transformation) (0116) 257 2681 stephen.hinds@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Adrian Thorpe (Head of Planning, Development and Regeneration) (0116) 257 2645 adrian.thorpe@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Jamie Carr (Planning Policy Team Leader) (0116) 257 2652 jamie.carr@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p>
Corporate Objectives:	<p>Building, Protecting and Empowering Communities (CO1) Growing the Borough Economically (CO2)</p>
Vision and Values:	<p>"A Strong Borough Together" (Vision) Innovation (V4) Customer Focus (V5)</p>
Report Implications:-	

Legal:	An up-to-date Local Plan helps to ensure effective and appropriate planning decisions are taken.
Financial:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Regulatory Governance (CR6) Economy/Regeneration (CR9)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. Initial EA Screening (See Appendices)
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	Duty to Cooperate Partners Specific Consultation Bodies General Consultation Bodies; and Other stakeholders held on the Local Plan consultation database
Background Papers:	The background to the Final Report is set out within the Appendices.
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan (2011-2031) 2. The Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan Adopted Policies Map (April 2019) 3. Local Plan Initial EA Screening Assessment (January 2018)

1. Background

- 1.1 At the beginning of 2015, the Planning Policy team began the lengthy demanding process of producing a new Local Plan (Plan).
- 1.2 In total, the Council has undertaken three public consultation events for the Plan, firstly relating to a Key Issues and Challenges document during the winter of 2015, secondly relating to a Preferred Options document during winter 2016, and finally, a Pre-Submission document during winter 2017.
- 1.3 Following the submission of the Plan to the Secretary of State in January 2018, the Plan was subject to Examination by an independent Planning Inspector at Hearing Sessions held in April, May and June 2018, who then, following on from a period of public consultation on the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications in winter 2018, issued their Final Report to the Council on Monday, 25 March 2019.
- 1.4 The Report concludes that, subject to the incorporation of the Main Modifications, the new Plan is sound, legally compliant and capable of adoption by the Council.
- 1.5 In addition to producing the Plan itself, a fundamental element of the Plan's production was the evidence base that supports it. The supporting evidence base was wide ranging and

dealt with a plethora of planning related issues, both cross boundary and those isolated to the Borough.

- 1.6 Cross boundary issues included; housing market area wide housing and employment need; affordability; highway capacity and transport infrastructure requirements; green wedges; population migration flows; healthcare and education; and, flood risk.
- 1.7 The more localised issues included; local housing and employment need; traffic, congestion and highway improvements; protection and provision of open spaces; preservation and enhancement of heritage assets; delivering retail in the town, district and local centres; and, the provision of affordable housing and community facilities.

2. Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan (2011-2031)

- 2.1 Upon the adoption of the new Plan, it will replace the Saved Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan (1999), the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Core Strategy (2010) and the Oadby and Wigston Town Centres Area Action Plan (2013).
- 2.2 Over the Plan period, 2011 to 2031, the spatial strategy within the Plan seeks to deliver at least 2,960 new homes; at least 8 hectares of new employment land; and, up to 2,974 square metres of new additional retail floorspace. To ensure that these levels of growth are fulfilled, the Local Plan identifies and allocates sufficient land within the most appropriate and sustainable locations, to meet all of these identified needs.
- 2.3 Further to the spatial strategy, the Local Plan sets out a number of other strategic and development management style policies that seek to fulfil the Vision and Spatial Objectives of the Council. These include;
 - policies that conserve and enhance the Borough's historic and heritage assets;
 - policies that protect and enhance the Borough's two green wedges as well as the important countryside areas;
 - policies that protect and enhance the more formal open space areas, such as the urban parks; and,
 - policies that seek to improve residents health and wellbeing as well as the design of all new development.
 - Policies that ensure residential conversions comply with the Nationally Described Space Standards.
- 2.4 The Planning Inspector proposed a number of Main Modifications in their Final Report, that can be summarised as follows:
 - Commitment to a full or partial review of the Local Plan should monitoring identify significant or persistent shortfalls in delivery that deviates significantly from the Local Plan strategy; for example, if another Housing Market Area authority cannot meet its own needs; or, should the post-2031 development strategy set out in the Strategic Growth Plan be capable of coming forward earlier;
 - Commitment to release Phase 3 of the Wigston Direction for Growth Area should delivery of other identified or allocated sites be slower than expected or if the Council is unable to demonstrate a five-year supply of housing land;
 - Support small scale sustainable development in Kilby Bridge Settlement Envelope with immediate effect;
 - Include realistic windfall allowances in housing supply calculations;
 - Modifications to wording of heritage related policies to ensure consistency with national policy;
 - Support self-build / custom-build residential developments on all sites;
 - Permit necessary development associated with suitable uses in Green Wedge

designations; and

- Extend the Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge to ensure that the settlement of Wigston and Oadby remain separated by green, undeveloped open space.

2.5 Taking account of the above, the appended Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan (2011-2031) and the Adopted Policies Map represent the most up to date position in relation to the relevant National and Local planning policy, and therefore, these documents are being submitted to Members with the recommendation for them to be adopted and brought into operation with immediate effect.