

## Response to Objectives Review Panel Final Report

By Housing and Green Space Group 2

### Introduction.

Phillip Stearn (for Housing) and Mark Bennis (for Green Space) were asked to address the issues raised by the Objectives Review Panel and provide a response to the Scrutiny Group. This report sets out the responses to each Recommendation.

### **Housing Objective.**

Overall opinion: Fair. **Agreed.**

We agree that overall the process was rational and did identify in a fair and open way options for housing development in Oundle in 2021-2031. We agree that some actions would enhance the clarity of the process, and hence understanding and effectiveness.

### Recommended Action 1.

**Agreed.**

A document setting out all the steps has been prepared. This is based on Maroon Planning's recommended approach. We will also prepare separate documents that contain the detailed evidence for each step to ensure how this has been used is clear.

### Recommended Action 2.

**Agreed in part.**

We have established the overall process and set this out in a single document. We think setting the detailed analysis and results for the whole process in one document is potentially confusing. We therefore propose having a single location for the evidence used for each step in the process. This will make it easier for people to explore what information was used and how it affected different parts of the process and to see how the overall results were reached.

### Recommended Action 3.

**Agreed.**

We will maintain a document setting out the members of Housing Group 2 (and Green Space Group 2) and a list of their interests that could affect this work. We will also record the attendance and any relevant interests in the minutes of each meeting. The minutes will record whether any specific conflicts of interest arose and how these were addressed. The reference document will record which meetings such conflicts occurred in so people can go directly to the appropriate meeting record. No such conflicts have occurred in our meetings to **date**.

### Recommended Action 4.

**Agreed with reservations.**

We do not agree that there were multiple versions of the Housing Objectives – there were two consistent objectives throughout the process. Some presentations included additional issues presented as objectives – these were not new objectives.

However we do agree that the overall process to complete the draft Neighbourhood Plan requires a process led by Oundle Town Council that:

- Identifies the **implications** of the OTC Vision for the **objectives** of each Work stream contributing to the Neighbourhood **Plan**
- including bringing together evidence of how the Council has seen this in recent years

**Commented [NF1]:** It would be sensible at this stage to include a similar register of interests of all parties engaged in this work, the scrutiny and the further development of the Neighbourhood Plan

**Commented [NF2]:** Core or strategic objectives

**Commented [NF3]:** Neighbourhood plan

**Commented [NF4]:** To guide and direct

**Commented [NF5]:** In developing and matching their objectives to those strategic goals

- Ensures the objectives for each Work stream reflect this, incorporates views and preferences of the community, and are mutually compatible and reinforcing
- Produces a final set of objectives, that incorporate the relevant interests of nearby Parishes and other stakeholders, that are ratified by the Scrutiny Committee
- Each Work stream ~~then confirms~~ that their evidence and recommendations are consistent with these ~~final~~ objectives

**Commented [NF6]:** Thereby enabling

**Commented [NF7]:** To confirm

**Commented [NF8]:** styrategic

Recommended action 5.

**Agreed with reservations.**

We do not agree that Parish Councils are statutory consultees. The local Parishes were not engaged directly during the work on the Neighbourhood Plan up to the time the Objectives Review Panel was commissioned. It was not appropriate to do so.

Some of the Working groups did assess the implications on Oundle of the needs of the nearby Parishes, recognising the role Oundle has as a service centre.

The process for completing the Neighbourhood Plan prior to examination needs to include appropriate consultation with relevant Parishes alongside other stakeholders and statutory consultees. The work in response to Recommendation 4 should identify the issues that nearby Parishes have an interest in and define ways of engaging them in developing the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Recommended action 6.

**Agreed.**

This is in place and will be maintained. This must be included in the next step of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan for examination prior to a referendum.

Recommended action 7.

**Agreed.**

This is in place and will be maintained. This must be included in the next step of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan for examination prior to a referendum.

Recommended action 8.

**Agreed.**

There is written guidance from ENC which is being followed.

**Green Space objective**

Overall opinion: unsatisfactory. **Agree with reservations.**

We agree that the process is not adequately set out and explained. The basis for establishing targets and how these contribute to relevant outcomes derived from the OTC Vision is not explained. This could now be developed from work to address Recommended action 4.

Recommended action 9.

**Agreed.**

**This will be taken forward by**

- Identifying the recognised benefits that green space provides that are relevant to Oundle
- Identify the contribution green space makes or could make to other Neighbourhood Plan Work streams
- Identify standards for green space in national and County level policies and evidence and review their relevance to Oundle
- Set out how green space is identified and mapped in Oundle

Much of this can be initiated in work to take forward Recommended action 4.

Recommended action 10.

**Agreed.**

The approach identified in response to Recommended action 9 will be applied to all potential green space sites and summarised in a matrix equivalent to the housing site matrix. This will allow comparison with sites proposed for housing development to ensure conflicts are identified and addressed.

Recommended action 11.

**Agreed.**

This will be included in the action to address Recommended action 3.

Recommended action 12.

**Agreed.**

This will be taken forward by the Council as part of finalising the version of the Neighbourhood Plan for submission for examination.

Phillip Stearn and Mark Bennis

8 February 2016