

Call for Strategic Location Ideas - Guidance Note

This guidance note gives some further information to help you complete the Call for Strategic Location Ideas form.

1. What type of location will the Oxfordshire Plan consider?

We are able to consider a wide range of ideas and welcome creative suggestions.

Proposals for the Oxfordshire Plan can be located anywhere within Oxfordshire – within existing settlements, adjoining settlements or in rural areas.

Locations may be a specific site with clear boundaries or they may be a broader area.

We would ask that you provide as much detail as possible to help us understand where the location you are proposing is. The best way to do this is to show the location on a map.

2. What size of location will the Oxfordshire Plan consider?

The Oxfordshire Plan will be considering strategic opportunities.

The following examples provide an indication of what is strategic:

- **Housing development** – a strategic scale location would generally be expected to deliver around 700 or more new homes, particularly in rural areas. If you feel that a location smaller than this is strategically important then please set out why it should be included within the Oxfordshire Plan rather than a Local or Neighbourhood Plan. If you are proposing a brand-new settlement, it is worth bearing in mind the government's guidance about 'Garden Communities' which indicates that Garden Towns should deliver more than 10,000 new homes and Garden Villages 1,500 - 10,000 new homes.
- **Employment development** – a strategic scale location is difficult to define because different businesses vary so widely in the size and type of location that they need. As an approximate indication, a strategic scale location might deliver around 5,000 new jobs for a typical office type of development or 20 hectares of employment floorspace (such as new business parks/districts). Any type of economic land use could be considered, but proposals should be of strategic importance to Oxfordshire.
- **Infrastructure projects** – a strategic infrastructure project would provide benefits beyond its immediate area. For example, it could be a scheme that would help to improve connectivity between different areas or to improve Oxfordshire's resilience to climate change. A strategic infrastructure project could also help to unlock development opportunities, for example by creating a new public transport hub such as a railway station or by increasing the capacity of the energy network.
- **Environmental schemes/designations** – this could be a location that it is important to protect (for example due to its existing ecological or recreational value). It could also be location where there is potential to create something new (for example new woodlands or a new country park). Proposals should be of strategic importance to Oxfordshire.

What if my proposed location is smaller than this?

- We don't want to ignore smaller locations. If your location is below these sizes or your idea is more local in scale then it will remain a matter for the more local-level Local Plans or Neighbourhood Plans, and you should contact your local district or city council or Neighbourhood Plan group if you'd like to discuss the proposal. For example, if your proposal is for fewer than 700 homes or 5,000 jobs, or for local-scale designations such as a new children's play area or a new Town Green. If you submit a smaller location, we will, with your permission, pass on your information and contact details to the relevant district/city council for consideration in future Local Plans.
- Alternatively, if your location is smaller than the examples provided above, then it may be that it could come forward together with others to be considered as a collective group or broader area. We would encourage those with smaller options to work with neighbours to see if there is the potential to work together.

3. Reasons for suggesting your location

We want to know why you think this is a good location for your proposed idea.

There are many reasons why you might be proposing a location for a particular use and these reasons will be closely linked to the type of idea that you are proposing. For example, it would not be a good idea to build new homes in an area of high flood risk, but this might be a good location for an infrastructure scheme that would help to manage flood risk or an environmental designation to protect and enhance biodiversity.

Some examples for choosing a location might include:

- Is it easy to get to by walking, cycling and public transport?
- Is it close to other areas that help to make it a good location? (For example, providing homes near to employment sites or creating new habitats where they might connect or enhance existing ones.)
- Is the land vacant or in poor condition and your idea would help to improve the quality of area?

4. Fit with the Oxfordshire Plan's Policy and Spatial Options

If you can, it would be helpful to highlight how your idea might fit with the Oxfordshire Plan's policy and spatial options – available to view here: www.oxfordshireopenthought.org.

You might want to consider whether your proposal would help to support one or more of the Oxfordshire Plan's key themes. The Oxfordshire Plan's key themes are:

- Addressing climate change
- Improving environmental quality
- Creating strong and healthy communities
- Planning for sustainable travel and connectivity
- Creating jobs and providing homes

You might also want to think about which spatial options your location might fit into. The spatial options are:

- Focus on opportunities at larger settlements & planned growth locations
- Focus on Oxford-led growth
- Focus on opportunities in sustainable transport corridors & at strategic transport hubs
- Focus on strengthening business locations
- Focus on supporting rural communities

5. Challenges

Challenges might include improving access to the location by walking, cycling and/or public transport, being unsure who the landowner is or if the land is already being used for another purpose which would need to be moved.

6. Other information that might be helpful

Please include any other information that we should consider when assessing your idea. You may wish to provide links to websites or to attach additional supporting information.

If you have any other questions about the Call for Strategic Location Ideas, please contact the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 team by emailing: info@oxfordshireplan.org.