

## **Divisions Affected – All**

### **CABINET**

**16 December 2025**

### **Movement and Place Plans**

### **Report of Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. The Cabinet is **RECOMMENDED** to —
  - a) Note the recommendations contained in the body of this report and to consider and determine its response to the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and
  - b) Agree that relevant officers will continue to update Scrutiny for 12 months on progress made against actions committed to in response to the recommendations, or until they are completed (if earlier).

## **REQUIREMENT TO RESPOND**

2. In accordance with section 9FE of the Local Government Act 2000, the Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee requires that, within two months of the consideration of this report, the Cabinet publish a response to this report and any recommendations.

## **INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW**

3. The Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered an update on the Council's Movement and Place Plans, which implement the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) requirement to replace the area strategies adopted in 2016, at its meeting on 12 November 2025.
4. The Committee would like to thank Cllr Judy Roberts, Cabinet member for Place, Environment and Climate Action, for presenting the report as well Hannah Battye, Head of Place Shaping, and Ashley Hayden, Transport Policy and Strategy Team Lead, for attending to answer the Committee's questions.

## SUMMARY

5. The Cabinet Member reported that the Movement and Place Plans were ongoing, building on the LTCP. These documents were intended to detail completed projects, forthcoming funded schemes, and future priorities identified through community input.
6. The Head of Place Shaping noted that these plans update the older 2016 versions, were not yet finished, and would continue to be developed with input from communities to ensure appropriate measures are included.
7. The Transport Policy and Strategy Team Lead explained that the plans were designed to be updated annually, with consultations currently taking place for the Science Vale and Bicester & Mid Cherwell areas, and mentioned scheduled public engagement events.
8. The Committee discussed Milton Park, its significant and ongoing growth and the need for cycling infrastructure; the boundaries proposed in the place plans; town and parish councils and other stakeholders; how to ensure there was sufficient engagement.
9. The Committee made three recommendations: two about proactive engagement to understand local need and one about geographical boundaries and the sense of place.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

10. The Committee recognised the importance of having geographical boundaries for the various Movement and Place Plans but was keen to understand how they had come to be. Concern was raised, in particular, about the proposed boundaries impacting on the towns of Wantage, Wallingford, and Henley-on-Thames. It was suggested that the boundaries did not seem to take account of local concerns and that local sense of community and place which the Plans were surely intended to meet.
11. Some of the boundaries, members argued, appeared either to be simply arbitrary or failed to encompass adjacent communities with which they were naturally allied. The edge of Wantage, for example, falls within the current conurbation. It was also contended that the Henley one should include more of the area towards Goring and that it did not make sense for it cut off at Sonning Common.
12. Whilst the Committee was assured that these were initial proposals that would be further reviewed and refined – not least through collaboration with colleagues and additional engagement. There would also subsequently be formal consultation with stakeholders and local communities so what was proposed was not necessarily the final mapping.

13. The Committee was pleased to be advised of this and considers it would well behove the Council to do a thorough 'sense check' of the boundaries to ensure that they are truly reflective of the areas they are deemed to encompass.

**Recommendation 1: That the Council should review the proposed geographical boundaries for the Place plans to ensure they pass the 'sense check'.**

14. Input from local members had already shaped aspects of the Plans – indeed, the Committee's Transport Working Group reviewed them during its work in the spring of 2025 – and the Committee was glad that there would be further engagement as part of the process leading to adoption of them.
15. County Councillors have a particular democratic mandate that means they have a responsibility to their divisions to understand them and to speak on their behalf. Their input into these Plans, therefore, is invaluable and the Committee strongly believes that it is important for the Council to proactively engage with members on this matter so that needs across divisions are understood.
16. Similarly, town and parish councils are also key tools for the Council to understand local need at a very detailed level. It will be necessary for the Council to proactively engage with them, too, so that parochial needs are both understood and stand a chance of being met.

**Recommendation 2: That the Council should engage proactively with local members to ensure that local needs are understood.**

**Recommendation 3: That the Council should engage proactively with parish and town councils to ensure that local needs are understood.**

## **FURTHER CONSIDERATION**

17. The Committee does not anticipate revisiting this topic again during this municipal year.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

18. Under Part 6.2 (13) (a) of the Constitution Scrutiny has the following power: 'Once a Scrutiny Committee has completed its deliberations on any matter a formal report may be prepared on behalf of the Committee and when agreed by them the Proper Officer will normally refer it to the Cabinet for consideration.
19. Under Part 4.2 of the Constitution, the Cabinet Procedure Rules, s 2 (3) iv) the Cabinet will consider any reports from Scrutiny Committees.

Anita Bradley, Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Annex: Pro-forma Response Template

Background papers: None

Other Documents: None

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