



**campaigning for
all Britain's rail users**

**Thames Valley Branch
Secretary
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25 October 2023

West Oxfordshire District Council Local Plan 2041 consultation

I write on behalf of Railfuture Thames Valley* to comment on some of the proposals outlined in the new Local Plan Consultation.

Far too many recently approved developments are totally car based such as recent developments on Banbury Road in Chipping Norton which are not served by public transport at all and even have no direct footpath access to services. This is unsustainable.

Option 8 is the most sustainable option. All developments should be adjacent to the rail network and should contribute to rail improvements. For example, at Hanborough additional platforms should be built, enabling increased train frequencies to Oxford, Cowley and beyond which will also deliver improved connectivity to Milton Keynes and the east via EWR. We believe that Oxfordshire County Council's Rail Officer wishes to re-establish the Hanborough Station Task Force in association with the Cotswold Line Task Group. Consideration should also be given to expanding rail services at Shipton, Ascott, Finstock and Combe enabling adjacent sustainable development. Current bus service frequencies from Chipping Norton are too low (with no evening services to Banbury, Witney and Stratford and no Sunday services to Witney) to be sustainable for large scale development.

The new Plan should also immediately protect the potential route for a reopened rail (or tram) route from Oxford to Eynsham, Witney and Carterton and enable its construction by appropriate financial measures and contributions including land value capture.

In summary, we consider that Option 8 is the only process which can establish a sustainable future for West Oxfordshire. All the other basic requirements like affordable housing, health and education provision, sports and recreation, etc will be fully deliverable by taking this approach.

We should be pleased if you would take our comments into consideration as you take the 2041 Plan forward.

Please get in touch should you require any clarification of the points we have raised.

Andrew McCallum

Secretary

Railfuture Thames Valley Branch

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** Railfuture is a national voluntary organisation, campaigning for improved rail services and promotion of the contribution rail can make to sustainable transport. In the Thames Valley we have several hundred members, including the affiliation of most local Rail User Groups. We are independent of the industry, political parties and trades unions, and always seek to put rail users first, be they freight or passengers.*