

Strategic and Non-Strategic Policies Table

Officer Note – June 2025

The following table was prepared in advance of the Preferred Options Consultation version of the Joint Local Plan (January 2024, [examination library reference LPP01.1](#)) to determine which policies would be considered strategic or non-strategic. The content has subsequently been updated in June 2025 to reflect the titles and order of policies and chapters in the submission version of the plan ([examination library reference CSD01](#)).

As part of the update, we noted the that the following modifications are needed to ‘Appendix 2. Strategic status of policies’ of the submission version of the plan:

- Policy NH5 – District-valued landscapes, is listed as ‘Strategic’ when it should show ‘Non-strategic’ and Policy NH6 – Landscapes is listed as ‘Non-strategic’ when it should show ‘Strategic’ (these modifications were highlighted in the ‘Schedule of proposed modifications for submission’, [examination library reference CSD01.1](#), MM16, page 7)
- Policy IN6 – Deliveries and freight, is listed as ‘Non-strategic’ when it should show ‘Strategic’.

The listings in the tables below are correct.

Introduction

The [National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#) (paragraph 20) states that strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places and make sufficient provision for, inter alia, housing, employment, retail, leisure, infrastructure, community facilities and preservation of the natural, built and historic environment. The NPPF (Glossary) goes on to define strategic policies as policies and site allocations which address strategic priorities in line with the requirements of [Section 19 \(1B-E\)](#) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This legislation proceeds to set out that each local planning authority must identify their strategic priorities and have policies to address these in their development plan documents (taken as a whole).

The NPPF (paragraph 28) states that non-strategic policies should be used by local planning authorities and communities to set out more detailed policies for specific areas, neighbourhoods or types of development. This can include allocating sites, the provision of infrastructure and community facilities at a local level, establishing design principles, conserving, and enhancing the natural and historic environment and setting out other development management policies.

The Joint Local Plan comprises a combination of strategic policies (which address the priorities for the area) and non-strategic policies (which deal with more detailed matters). [National Planning Policy Guidance \(NPPG\)](#) sets out that where a local plan contains both strategic and non-strategic policies, the non-strategic policies should be clearly distinguished from the strategic policies (please see the [NPPG](#) for further information).

Accordingly, this table sets out current policies in the Joint Local Plan and identifies whether they have strategic or non-strategic status. The strategic or non-strategic status of policies is of relevance for neighbourhood plans. Legislation requires that neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the adopted local plan for the area, and any other strategic policies that form part of the statutory development plan where relevant (please see the [NPPG](#) for further information). Furthermore, a neighbourhood plan should support the delivery of strategic policies set out in the local plan or spatial development strategy and should shape and direct development that is outside of those strategic policies (as outlined in paragraph 13 of the NPPF).

The [Neighbourhood Planning Guidance](#) suggests considerations for reaching a review on whether a policy is strategic:

1. whether the policy sets out an overarching direction or objective
2. whether the policy seeks to shape the broad characteristics of development
3. the scale at which the policy is intended to operate
4. whether the policy sets a framework for decisions on how competing priorities should be balanced
5. whether the policy sets a standard or other requirement that is essential to achieving the wider vision and aspirations in the local plan or spatial development strategy
6. in the case of site allocations, whether bringing the site forward is central to achieving the vision and aspirations of the local plan or spatial development strategy
7. whether the local plan or spatial development strategy identifies the policy as being strategic

These considerations have been used to assign strategic or non-strategic status to the JLP policies. If a policy meets one or more of the considerations listed above then it is considered a strategic policy in the JLP.

Policy Number	Policy Title	Strategic or Non-strategic	Link to Strategic Policy Considerations in Neighbourhood Planning Guidance
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N/A	Chapter 1: Introduction		
N/A	Chapter 2: About the Districts		
N/A	Chapter 3: Vision and objectives		

Chapter 4: Reducing Carbon Emissions and Improving Environmental Quality Climate change and improving environmental quality			
CE1	Sustainable Design and Construction	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5: Addresses district-wide development
CE2	Net Zero Carbon Buildings	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. National carbon neutrality targets, climate emergency
CE3	Reducing Embodied Carbon	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Addresses embodied carbon emissions in new development
CE4	Sustainable Retrofitting	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Overarching policy to encourage retrofitting that links back to environmental sustainability goals.
CE5	Renewable Energy	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Policy supports aim of becoming net zero districts
CE6	Flood Risk	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Aligned to SFRA
CE7	Water Efficiency	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Environment Agency assessment of 'serious water stress'
CE8	Water Quality, Wastewater Infrastructure and Drainage	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. NPPF paras 20(b), 174 (e) and 185 on waste water and water pollution
CE9	Air Quality	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Designated AQMAs, Vale has signed up to UK100, NPPF paras 174, 185 and 186 regarding air pollution
CE10	Pollution Sources and Receptors	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. NPPF paras 185 and 187 regarding reduction of potential adverse impacts of new development to a minimum

Policy Number	Policy Title	Strategic or Non-strategic	Link to Strategic Policy Considerations in Neighbourhood Planning Guidance
CE11	Light Pollution and Dark Skies	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. NPPF para 185 (c) regarding limiting light pollution
CE12	Soils and Contaminated Land	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. NPPF para 174 (a) and (e)
CE13	Minerals Safeguarding areas	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Minerals and Waste Local Plan, NPPF 210 (c)

Chapter 5: Spatial Strategy and Settlements			
SP1	Spatial Strategy	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5, 7. Policy at the heart of the JLP.
SP2	Settlement Hierarchy	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5, 7. Deals with settlement assessments across both districts. High level policy.
SP3	The Strategy for Didcot Garden Town	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 7. Deals with strategic delivery of Didcot Garden Town
SP4	A Strategy for Abingdon-on-Thames	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 7. Establishes strategy for A-o-T neighbourhood plan
SP5	A Strategy for Faringdon	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 7. Establishes strategy for Faringdon neighbourhood plan
SP6	A Strategy for Henley-on-Thames	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 7. Establishes strategy for H-o-T neighbourhood plan
SP7	A Strategy for Thame	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 7. Establishes strategy for Thame neighbourhood plan
SP8	A Strategy for Wallingford	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 7. Establishes strategy for Wallingford neighbourhood plan
SP9	A Strategy for Wantage	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 7. Establishes strategy for Wantage neighbourhood plan

Policy Number	Policy Title	Strategic or Non-strategic	Link to Strategic Policy Considerations in Neighbourhood Planning Guidance
Chapter 6: Housing			
HOU1	Housing Requirement	Strategic	Considerations 1, 3, 5, 7. Identifies housing requirement for JLP, government requirement
HOU2	Sources of Housing Supply	Strategic	Considerations 1, 3, 5. Trajectory for housing delivery as per NPPF para 74
HOU3	Affordable Housing	Strategic	Considerations 1, 3, 4, 5. Sets requirements for developers to provide a proportion of affordable homes
HOU4	Housing Mix and Size	Strategic	Considerations 1, 3, 4, 5. Sets standards for new homes as per para 62 of NPPF
HOU5	Housing for Older People	Strategic	Considerations 1, 3, 4, 5. Overarching approach for housing for older people to meet housing requirements
HOU6	Self-Build and Custom-Build Housing	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Required for Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Act (2015) and NPPF para 62
HOU7	Affordable Self and Custom-Build Housing	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Sets criteria for affordable, removes PDR
HOU8	Replacement Dwellings in the Countryside	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5. Specifies conditions under which replacement dwellings in the countryside are permissible. Defines broad characteristics of development
HOU9	Sub-division of Houses	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Sets criteria for sub-dividing buildings or plots
HOU10	Meeting the Needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Strategic	Considerations 1, 3, 5, 6. Duty under Housing Act 2004, identifies needs for new pitches and plots
HOU11	Safeguarding Existing Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople's Sites	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Overarching development management policy that sets criteria by which proposals for new pitches/plots are assessed against.
HOU12	Rural and First Homes Exception Sites	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 4, 5. Overarching development management policy that sets out criteria for accepting development on rural and first home exception sites
HOU13	Community-Led Housing Development	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Sets out overarching requirements for community-led housing to address locally identified needs

Policy Number	Policy Title	Strategic or Non-strategic	Link to Strategic Policy Considerations in Neighbourhood Planning Guidance
HOU14	Build to Rent Proposals	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Overarching development management policy that sets out criteria that build to rent proposals must satisfy.
HOU15	Houses in Multiple Occupation	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Restricts the conditions under which conversion to HMOs can be granted
HOU16	Residential Extensions and Annexes	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Overarching development management policy setting out requirements for householder extensions and annexes
HOU17	Rural Workers' Dwellings	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Overarching development management Overarching policy for approach on rural worker's dwellings in locations not normally supported for residential development

Chapter 7: Jobs and Tourism			
JT1	Meeting Employment Needs	Strategic	Considerations 1, 3, 5, 7. High level strategy linking to Oxfordshire Strategic Vision and Employment Land Needs Assessment. Designates employment land sites
JT2	Protecting Our Employment Sites	Strategic	Considerations 1, 3, 5, 7. Linked to Employment Strategy in JT 1 Ensures that employment land is retained for employment use
JT3	Affordable Workspace	Strategic	Considerations 1, 3, 5, 7. Linked to Employment Strategy in JT 1 Policy measure to support start-ups and SMEs in the local economy
JT4	Community Employment Plans	Strategic	Considerations 1, 3, 5, 7. Linked to Employment Strategy in JT1. Policy for local community jobs and training
JT5	Supporting the Rural Economy	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5, 7. Linked to Employment Strategy in JT 1 Overarching approach for ensuring sustainable growth and economic resilience in rural areas
JT6	Supporting Sustainable Tourism and the Visitor Economy	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. High level approach for new visitor and tourist related development to grow economy

Policy Number	Policy Title	Strategic or Non-strategic	Link to Strategic Policy Considerations in Neighbourhood Planning Guidance
JT7	Overnight Visitor Accommodation	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5. Overarching policy for hotels, guest houses and other serviced visitor accommodation needed to support local economy.

Chapter 8: Site Allocations and Garden Villages			
LS1	Proposals for Large Scale Major Development	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5, 7. Sets expectations for large scale major developments
AS1	Land at Berinsfield Garden Village	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 6. Establishes delivery requirements for land at Berinsfield Garden Village
AS2	Land Adjacent to Culham Campus	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 6. Establishes delivery requirements for land adjacent to Culham Science Centre
AS3	Land South of Grenoble Road, Edge of Oxford	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 6. Establishes delivery requirements for land south of Grenoble Road, Edge of Oxford
AS4	Land at Northfield, Edge of Oxford	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 6. Establishes delivery requirements for land at Northfield, Edge of Oxford
AS5	Land at Bayswater Brook, Edge of Oxford	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 6. Establishes delivery requirements for land at Bayswater Brook, Edge of Oxford
AS6	Rich's Sidings and Broadway, Didcot	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 6. Establishes delivery requirements for Rich's Sidings and Broadway, Didcot
AS7	Land at Didcot Gateway, Didcot	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 6. Establishes delivery requirements for land at Didcot Gateway, Didcot
AS8	North West of Grove, Grove	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 6. Establishes delivery requirements for North West of Grove, Grove
AS9	North West of Valley Park, Didcot	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 6. Establishes delivery requirements for North West of Valley Park, Didcot
AS10	Land at Dalton Barracks Garden Village, Shippon	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 6. Establishes delivery requirements for land at Dalton Barracks Garden Village, Shippon
AS11	Culham Campus	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 6. Establishes delivery requirements for Culham Science Centre
AS12	Harwell Campus	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 6. Establishes delivery requirements for Harwell Campus

Policy Number	Policy Title	Strategic or Non-strategic	Link to Strategic Policy Considerations in Neighbourhood Planning Guidance
AS13	Berinsfield Garden Village	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 6. Establishes delivery requirements for Berinsfield Garden Village
AS14	Dalton Barracks Garden Village	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 6. Establishes delivery requirements for Dalton Barracks Garden Village
AS15	Harcourt Hill Campus	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 6. Establishes delivery requirements for Harcourt Hill Campus.
AS16	Vauxhall Barracks, Didcot	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 6. Establishes delivery requirements for Vauxhall Barracks, Didcot. [This policy and assessment was added following the Preferred Options Consultation]

Chapter 9: Town Centres and Retail			
TCR1	Centre Hierarchy	Strategic	Considerations 1, 3, 5. Sets hierarchy across the two districts. Ensures consistency on definitions
TCR2	Strategy for Town and Local Service Centres	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7. Sets development mix and approach to site selection
TCR3	Retail Floorspace Provision (Convenience and Comparison Goods)	Strategic	Considerations 1, 3, 5. Overarching policy for retail floorspace provision needed to meet scale and type of development needed and reduce car dependency
TCR4	Retail and Service Provision in Villages and Local Centres	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5. Overarching policy enabling small scale shops to meet day-to-day needs of local communities addressing vitality and viability of villages, maintain appropriate use mix, reduce car dependency and support less mobile residents

Policy Number	Policy Title	Strategic or Non-strategic	Link to Strategic Policy Considerations in Neighbourhood Planning Guidance
Chapter 10: Well-designed places for our communities			
DE1	High Quality Design	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Sets overall approach for design to ensure effective placemaking, protects natural environment and reinforces local identity.
DE2	Local Character and Identity	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Ensures that development adheres to character assessments, conservation area appraisals,
DE3	Delivering Well-designed New Development	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Policy that sets out what developers must do in terms of masterplans and design codes.
DE4	Optimising Densities	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Sets density for new development - NPPF para 124 regarding efficient use of land
DE5	Neighbouring Amenity	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 4. Overarching development management policy to minimise adverse impacts on the amenity of neighbouring uses
DE6	Outdoor Amenity Space	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Overarching design policy to ensure that new homes are provided with outdoor amenity space
DE7	Waste Collection and Recycling	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Overarching design policy to ensure adequate provision of waste and recycling facilities

Chapter 11: Healthy places			
HP1	Healthy place shaping	Strategic	Considerations 1, 3, 5. Sets out relationship between planning and health. Requires Health Impact Assessment
HP2	Community facilities and services	Strategic	Considerations 1, 3, 5. Safeguards essential community facilities. Supports councils' commitment to meeting educational needs through protecting services and facilities
HP3	Health care provision	Strategic	Considerations 1, 3, 5. Supports councils' commitment to meeting health care needs through protecting services and facilities

Policy Number	Policy Title	Strategic or Non-strategic	Link to Strategic Policy Considerations in Neighbourhood Planning Guidance
HP4	Existing open space, sport and recreation facilities	Strategic	Considerations 1, 3, 5. Protection of open space, sport and recreation facilities to meet requirements of para 98 of NPPF
HP5	New facilities for sport, physical activity and recreation	Strategic	Considerations 1, 3, 5. Policy to encourage new sports facilities
HP6	Green infrastructure on new developments	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Supports provision of green and blue infrastructure as per NPPF requirements to enhance the natural and local environment. Supports Green Infrastructure Strategy
HP7	Open space on new developments	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Supports provision of open space as per NPPF requirements to provide social, cultural and recreational facilities
HP8	Provision for children's play and spaces for young people	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Ensures sufficient play space for children of all ages and SEN/sensory/physical disabilities
HP9	Provision of community food growing opportunities	Non-strategic	Detailed design policy regarding health benefits of food growing
HP10	Watercourses	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Environmental protection of watercourses and associated biodiversity

Chapter 12: Nature Recovery, Heritage and Landscape			
NH1	Biodiversity Designations	Strategic	Considerations 1, 3, 5. Protection of habitats and species, many of which have legal protections. NPPF paras 174-179
NH2	Nature Recovery	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Policy response to ecological emergency, NPPF paras 174-179
NH3	Trees and Hedgerows in the Landscape	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Overarching design policy regarding siting of trees and hedgerows
NH4	Chilterns and North Wessex Downs National Landscapes	Strategic	Considerations 1, 3, 4, 5. Policy to protect AONBs
NH5	District-valued landscapes	Non-strategic	Detailed conservation policy for landscapes valued by communities (<i>locally designated</i> valued landscapes)

Policy Number	Policy Title	Strategic or Non-strategic	Link to Strategic Policy Considerations in Neighbourhood Planning Guidance
NH6	Landscape	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Enhance landscapes, countryside and rural areas - key parts of what makes people want to live, work and visit here (strategic importance).
NH7	Tranquillity	Non-strategic	Detailed conservation policy for tranquil areas (<i>locally</i> designated landscape tranquil areas)
NH8	The Historic Environment	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5, 7. Strategy for conservation of historic environment
NH9	Listed Buildings	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Policy to address requirements of NPPF and legislation
NH10	Conservation Areas	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. To preserve conservation areas in line with national policies and legislation
NH11	Archaeology and Scheduled Monuments	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Positive strategy for conservation of historic environment as per NPPF and legislation (Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979)
NH12	Historic Battlefields, Registered Parks and Gardens and Historic Landscapes	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 4, 5. Policy to address requirements of NPPF and legislation
NH13	Historic Environment and Climate Change	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 4, 5. Overarching environmental policy that addresses specifics of climate change in a heritage context.

Chapter 13: Infrastructure, Transport, Connectivity and Communications			
IN1	Infrastructure and Service Provision	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Overarching infrastructure policy to ensure new development has sufficient infrastructure provision
IN2	Sustainable Transport and Accessibility	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Decarbonising transport network to address climate emergency. Links to placemaking and health benefits.
IN3	Transport Infrastructure and Safeguarding	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Ensuring that active and public transport is safeguarded (inc LCWIPs and SATN)

Policy Number	Policy Title	Strategic or Non-strategic	Link to Strategic Policy Considerations in Neighbourhood Planning Guidance
IN4	Wilts and Berks Canal Safeguarding	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 7. Links to strategic active travel infrastructure.
IN5	Cycle and Car Parking Standards	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Overarching design policy specifying cycling facility requirements for new developments
IN6	Deliveries and Freight	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Overarching design policy that focusses on the specifics of deliveries and freight
IN7	South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) Safeguarding	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 5, 7. Potential NSIP. Strategic Reservoir Option. Overarching development management policy safeguarding land for possible future provision of a reservoir
IN8	Digital Connectivity	Strategic	Considerations 1, 2, 3, 5. Policy to meet requirements of NPPF para 117 and OCC Digital Infrastructure Plan

N/A	Chapter 14: Monitoring and Review
N/A	Chapter 15: Local Plan Explainer