

Chapter 2: The Policy Context

- 2.1** In producing the Core Strategy for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston, a number of documents were considered in order to provide evidence to underpin policies within the Core Strategy. This chapter provides an overview of the strategic documents referred to and their relevance to the Core Strategy.

National Strategies and Policy

- 2.2** Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance Notes are prepared by national government to explain statutory provisions and provide guidance to local authorities and others on current planning policy and the operation of the planning system. They also explain the relationship between planning policies and other national and European plans and strategies which have an important bearing on issues of development and land use.
- 2.3** The guidance set out in Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance Notes has been taken into account in the preparation of the Core Strategy.

Regional and Sub Regional Strategies and Policy

- 2.4** The East Midlands Regional Plan was revoked on 6 July 2010. However, the evidence base that informed the document is still in existence and relates to some of the Policies in the Core Strategy.
- 2.5** Local Authorities within the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area work together on a number of different strategies, partnerships and processes such as the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Housing Market Assessment. These generally advocate a more 'joined up' partnership approach, allowing the local authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire to tackle pressing issues together, for example, through the preparation of joint evidence base to support Core Strategies.

Spatial Relationship between the Borough of Oadby and Wigston, Leicestershire and Leicester City

- 2.6** Within Leicester and Leicestershire the overall strategy and priorities are set by Leicestershire Together (the Leicestershire Local Strategic Partnership) and One Leicester (the Leicester City Local Strategic Partnership). Priorities are delivered and monitored through Sustainable Community Strategies (one for each Local Strategic Partnership), a Multi Area Agreement and a Local Area Agreement. For example, the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement seeks to deliver the ambitions outlined in the Sustainable Community Strategy, making a measurable difference to inhabitants of Leicestershire.
- 2.7** Although located in Leicestershire, it is important that the Borough of Oadby and Wigston has regard to the spatial policy framework for Leicester City, given the Borough's location immediately adjacent to Leicester City and within the Leicester Principal Urban Area.





- 2.8** The Borough of Oadby and Wigston also has its own Local Strategic Partnership and Sustainable Community Strategy. The Local Strategic Partnership brings together, at a local level, the different parts of the public, private, community and voluntary sectors allowing different initiatives and services to support one another and to work together more effectively.
- 2.9** The Oadby and Wigston Sustainable Community Strategy is based upon the same top-level objectives from the Leicestershire Together Sustainable Community Strategy and derives nineteen priorities from the forty nine priorities contained within the Leicestershire Together Sustainable Communities Strategy. These were determined based upon research carried out by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council through the preparation of a 'State of the Borough' report in 2008 following full consultation with all residents, Councillors, staff and partners. These priorities will be the drivers for delivery to provide tangible outcomes in the Borough, for example, priorities and outcomes relating to issues of strategic housing.
- 2.10** The Local Development Framework, and in particular the Core Strategy, is the process through which priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy with a spatial or land use focus will be delivered, hence the strong relationship with the Local Development Framework and the Core Strategy.
- 2.11** A Local Infrastructure Partnership has been established as a sub group of the Local Strategic Partnership. This provides an example of how provision of new infrastructure will deliver some of the Local Strategic Partnership's priorities as well as supporting growth through the new development that the Local Development Framework aims to deliver.

Local Strategies and Policy

- 2.12** Local strategies and policies are the most detailed and locally specific of all the strategy and policy levels considered. Documents produced by the Borough Council use national, regional and sub regional strategies and policies as the base context to guide local and area specific documentation and agreements. For example, the Oadby and Wigston Economic Development Strategy is very locally specific and deals with particular issues within the Borough itself, but is based upon principles and strategies set out in the National Economic Strategy.
- 2.13** However, locally specific documents to the Borough, as well as using varying levels of governance for guidance, also use locally specific evidence such as the Oadby and Wigston Corporate Plan and the 'State of the Borough' report, in order to reflect the Borough Council's local vision and priorities.

