



Oxford City Plan 2040
Examination

**Matter 1 Procedural/Legal Requirements
Hearing Statements**

May 2024



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MATTER 1: PROCEDURAL / LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Plan Preparation and Scope

Q1. Has the preparation of the Local Plan been in accordance with the Local Development Scheme in terms of its form, scope and timing?

1.1.1 Gladman consider that this is primarily for the Council answer. However, in terms of timescales the Local Development Schemes (LDS), published since 2022, identified that the Local Plan would undergo examination in 2024, with adoption in early 2025. The submission of the Plan has been delayed slightly, however Gladman consider that the Council has prepared the Plan in accordance with the LDS timescales.

Q2. Have requirements been met in terms of the preparation of the Local Plan, notification, consultation and publication and submission of documents?

1.1.2 Yes.

Q3. Has the preparation of the Local Plan complied with the Statement of Community Involvement?

1.1.3 Yes.

Sustainability Appraisal

Q6. How has the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) informed and influenced the preparation of the Local Plan at each stage and how has it been recorded/reported?

1.1.4 The SA has influenced the plan from the early stages of the plan preparation. The SA Scoping Report accompanied the 'Early Engagement – Issues Consultation' and set out the key objectives and issues for the City and which to test the Local Plan against. Whilst the SA documents supporting the Regulation 18 and 19 Local Plan consultation considered and tested various policy options and reasonable alternatives.

1.1.5 The SA process and reasonable alternatives which have been tested through the Local Plan preparation process are summarised in sections 5 and 6 of the latest SA (CSD.004a).

Q7. How and when were options considered for:

- a) The overall scale of housing and other growth
- b) The distribution of development
- c) Potential site allocations
- d) Policy approaches

1.1.6 As identified, the SA process including policy options and reasonable alternatives considered which has accompanied the plan preparation is set out in sections 5 and 6 of the latest SA (CSD.004a).

Q8. Were all reasonable alternatives considered?

1.1.7 As outlined in Gladman's and Stantec's consortium Regulation 19 consultation responses, Oxfordshire's housing need may be understated within the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (HENA). This may require minor amendments to the SA as part of main modifications and ultimately result in additional unmet housing needs being identified.

Q9. Overall, has the methodology for the SA been appropriate?

1.1.8 Yes.