



Oxford City Local Plan 2040 Examination

Further Written Statement: Matter 1 Procedural/legal requirements
(Representor Ref: 143)

On behalf of **L&Q Estates, Cala Homes, Vistry Group, Peabody, Gladman Developments, Ptarmigan Land and Pye Homes**

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For and on behalf of Stantec UK Limited				

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1 RESPONSE TO MATTER 1

This statement has been prepared on behalf of the following clients:

- L&Q Estates
- Cala Homes
- Vistry Group
- Peabody
- Gladman Developments
- Ptarmigan Land
- Pye Homes

This statement should be read in conjunction with the other statements submitted on behalf of our clients and the representations submitted in response to the Regulation 19 consultation. Our clients are actively involved in the delivery of new housing and mixed use developments across Oxfordshire.

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?

- 6.1 As set out below in response to Q7, the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) at Regulation 18 stage (**CSD.013**) and Regulation 19 (**CSD.004a**) includes consideration of different policy options, where reasonable alternatives could reasonably be identified and assessed.
- 6.2 Whilst it is for the City Council to advise, in relation to the housing requirement and need for the plan period, section 5.2 of CSD.004a provides a summary of how the SA informed and influenced the preparation of the Local Plan up to Regulation 19. A similar approach to other policies is taken elsewhere in section 5 of CSD.004a.
- 6.3 As stated in the Sustainability Appraisal documents, they should be read in conjunction with the background papers prepared by the City Council including its 'Housing need including exceptional circumstances – Background Paper 1' (**BGP.001**).

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

- 7.1 Reasonable alternative options were considered through the Regulation 18 stages of the Local Plan, notably the 'SA of Selected Policy Options Document' (**CSD.013**).
- 7.2 As stated in response to Q6, Section 5 of the 'SA (Regulation 19) Document' (**CSD.004a**) summarises that assessment undertaken at Regulation 19 stage and how the assessment of options were considered.
- 7.3 Section 5 of CSD.004a should be read in conjunction with the City Council's Background Papers which provide more detailed commentary, with reference to the relevant supporting evidence base, which sits alongside the SA.
- 7.4 Section 6 of CSD.004a – Assessing the Local Plan policies and sites – provides an assessment of all policies and proposals contained in the Regulation 19 Local Plan. In the case of policies, the assessment was made against the City Council's SA/SEA Framework.

For site allocations, the assessment was made against a range of criteria for whether sites are suitable locations for development.

Q8. *Were all reasonable alternatives considered?*

- 8.1 Yes. However, as explained in our representations to the Regulation 19 consultation, Stantec considers that the quantum of housing need for Oxford City, and the quantum of unmet housing need up to 2040, have both been under-estimated.
- 8.2 Subject to the Inspectors' conclusions on these issues, to be considered through Matter 3, further updated SA accompanying Main Modifications could be required.

9. *Overall, has the methodology for the SA been appropriate?*

- 9.1 Yes. The methodology is considered appropriate and complies with the relevant legal requirements.

