



Rachel Williams  
Planning Policy and Place Manager  
Oxford City Council

Our Ref:

PINS/G3310/429/9

Date:

20 November 2024

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Dear Ms Williams,

**Re: Examination of the Oxford Local Plan 2040 Post Hearings Letter**

1. Thank you for your letter, dated 25 September 2024, regarding the Oxford Local Plan 2040 Post Hearings Letter.
2. The Post Hearings Letter sets out conclusions on the matters considered during the initial hearing sessions held between 11 and 13 June 2024. I have read your letter and I remain satisfied that the Post Hearings Letter is clear and provides an accurate assessment of the situation. In short, I stand by the findings previously articulated.
3. As indicated in the Post Hearings Letter, the Council now has a choice. You can choose to receive a final report, which will bring the examination to a close. Inevitably, however, this report would reflect the findings as set out in the letter, and there will be additional cost considerations for the Council in Inspector time preparing the report. Alternatively, you could withdraw the plan from examination.
4. Whichever path is chosen, I suggest that the Council would benefit considerably from arranging an 'advisory visit' with the Planning Inspectorate once this examination is closed. These are informal discussions chaired by an experienced Inspector on a without prejudice basis. Their aim is to assist Local Planning Authorities to prepare effectively for the examination process. In the interests of impartiality, Inspectors who conduct advisory visits on a plan would not be subsequently appointed to examine it. This would enable the Council to explore the issues falling out of this examination, outside the formal confines of the examination process, and assist with 'resetting' to bring a new plan forward as quickly as possible.
5. I would be grateful if you could confirm the Council's position regarding which of the above options it wishes to pursue via the Programme Officer as soon as practicable.
6. A copy of this letter should be placed on the examination webpage.

Yours sincerely,

*Martha Savage*

INSPECTOR