

Planning and Sustainable Communities

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WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr Simon Emerson BSc, DipTP, MRTPI
C/O Rosemary Morton
Local Plan Programme Officer

Your Ref:
Our Ref: WOLP 39
Date: 18 January 2016

Dear Mr Emerson

West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031

I write in relation to the West Oxfordshire Local Plan and your preliminary findings of 15 December 2015.

In light of the findings we wish to formally request that you suspend the examination in order for the Council to undertake further consultation on main modifications to the plan in accordance with Section 20 (7C) of the Town and Country Planning Act 2004.

Whilst we are naturally keen to minimise delay and get an adopted plan in place as soon as possible, we are conscious of your conclusions in relation to the issue of unmet housing need arising from Oxford City.

Our proposed indicative timetable is therefore as follows:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| • Preparation of evidence base, formulation of Main Modifications: | January – August 2016 |
| • Apportionment of Oxford City's unmet housing needs agreed: | August 2016 |
| • Cabinet/Council meetings to agree Main Modifications consultation: | September 2016 |
| • Consultation on proposed Main Modifications (6 weeks): | October 2016 |
| • Review of consultation responses: | November 2016 |
| • Submission of main modifications to Inspector: | December 2016 |
| • Examination hearings | February 2017 |

Whilst this would necessitate a suspension of the examination for a period of approximately 12 months, this would seem unavoidable given the issue of Oxford City's unmet housing need. In this regard we would ask you to note that whilst the current timetable of the Oxfordshire Growth Board suggests an apportionment figure could be agreed by August 2016, clearly there is a potential risk of some delay.

We would also ask you to note that as part of its evidence base preparation moving forward, the Council is proposing to commission a partial update of the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2014.

This will be a similar exercise to that which was carried out on behalf of the Vale of White Horse District Council, whereby the impact of a lower demographic starting point was considered in relation to the original SHMA recommendations. This independent analysis will help to inform the Council's proposed housing requirement.

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I trust this provides you with sufficient information with which to take matters forward but if you require any additional information or clarification please let me know.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hargraves".

Chris Hargraves
Planning Policy Manager
West Oxfordshire District Council