WODC’s RESPONSE TO FURTHER SUBMISSIONS ON THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

1. The Council has carefully considered the further representations submitted in response to EXAM008 and the criticisms of the SA which are maintained therein, along with additional criticisms of the SA raised during the hearing sessions. The Council remains confident that the approach taken in the existing SA is proportionate and lawful. However in order to address the concerns over the SA expressed by some parties to the examination the Council proposes to undertake the following further SA work which is intended to address the principal outstanding criticisms.

   i. Reconsideration and assessment of reasonable alternatives to the Eynsham Garden Village;
   ii. Reconsideration and assessment of reasonable alternatives to the West Eynsham SDA;
   iii. A reappraisal of the Woodstock and AONB site allocations taking into account the heritage and landscape assessments of these sites which the Council has agreed to commission; and
   iv. A comparative assessment of the sustainability of all strategic sites at the Three Main Centres.

2. This additional work will run in parallel to the other work which the Council has already undertaken to produce, namely the SA of a number of other non-strategic allocations (“the Grey Sites”) which will be appraised against the existing allocations.

3. The timetable for the preparation of this additional SA work and subsequent consultation will be agreed in liaison with the Inspector.