

CHRIS HARGRAVES

Head of Planning

Tel: 01993 861686

Email: chris.hargraves@westoxon.gov.uk

Council Offices

Woodgreen

WITNEY

Oxfordshire OX28 1NB

Tel: 01993 861000

www.westoxon.gov.uk



**WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

8 August 2025

Inspector Helen Hockenhull BA (Hons) B.Pl MRTPI

Dear Ms Hockenhull

Examination of the Remitted Part of the Salt Cross Village Area Action Plan (AAP)

I am writing in response to your post-hearing letter of 1 August 2025, which, as requested, has now been published on the District Council's website.

May I begin by thanking you for conducting the examination hearing session on 30 June with such efficiency and for providing your conclusions so promptly afterwards.

We are, of course, delighted with your conclusion that our proposed approach to Policy 2 – Net Zero Carbon Development – is consistent with national policy. This endorsement is extremely valuable, both for our ambitions for Salt Cross Garden Village and for other local authorities seeking to advance similar policies.

We note, however, that notwithstanding this finding of consistency, you have identified some soundness concerns regarding aspects of the wording in Policy 2 as submitted in March 2025.

We welcome the opportunity to address these through Main Modifications, building on the initial suggestions set out in our hearing statement, the Statement of Common Ground with Grosvenor (ED14), and the discussions during the hearing session itself.

Regarding timescales, while we are keen to progress matters as swiftly as possible, we recognise that the issues raised in your letter require careful consideration to ensure they are addressed fully and robustly. We are also mindful that the peak holiday period may affect the availability of resources.

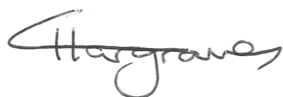
Accordingly, we propose to aim for agreement on the Main Modifications with you - and to complete any necessary technical assessments, including SA/SEA - by mid-September (or sooner, if feasible). This would allow a six-week public consultation to commence shortly thereafter, concluding around the end of October 2025.

Council Offices
Woodgreen
WITNEY
Oxfordshire OX28 1NB
Tel: 01993 861000
www.westoxon.gov.uk



I trust this approach is acceptable, but please let me know if you have any concerns or would like to discuss the timetable further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hargraves".

Chris Hargraves
Head of Planning