

Dear Holly & Emma,

The Inspectors thank the Council for the update. They note Scrutiny were due to meet on the 2nd of July, are you able to provide an update as to whether they reached any conclusions?

In terms of the specific queries outlined in your letter, the Inspectors are keen to get on with the hearings for the Oxford City LP. At the moment it is anticipated they might take place in the autumn, but this is dependent on a number of factors including Oxford's responses to the Inspectors' questions and indeed the availability of the Council's team and accommodation.

The hearings into the Oxford City LP are likely to take place before those of South Oxfordshire and we will invite representatives from South Oxfordshire and other authorities in the housing market area to make representations at the hearings.

The Inspectors' preference is normally to hold all the hearings together rather than to separate out housing and issue an interim letter on the subject. However, the approach taken in this instance will depend on a number of factors including the response from Oxford City Council to their initial questions and comments, the complexity of the housing issues involved, and the manageability of the overall process. Even if there is no interim letter, attendees will be able to gain a clear understanding of the Inspectors' preliminary verbal conclusions at the hearings.

As regards the future of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan, way forward is clearly a matter for the Council, but the Inspectors would like to make two very important points in respect of Option 2. Firstly, the changes referred to will presumably not have been subject to Regulation 19 consultation. Secondly, the Inspectors can only recommend main modifications where they are necessary to ensure the soundness or legal compliance of the **submitted plan**. Changes that are considered desirable for whatever reason by the Council and would amount to main modifications but are not necessary to remedy the soundness or compliance of the submitted plan **will not be recommended by the Inspectors as main modifications** and cannot be taken forward.

Regards

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