

Emran Mian
Director General, Decentralisation and Growth
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
4th Floor
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

24 October 2019

Dear Emran,

RE: South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2034 – Temporary Direction

Further to my earlier correspondence, our Inspectors, who are also conducting the examination into the emerging Oxford City Local Plan, have now issued their Matters, Issues and Questions relating to the emerging Oxford City Council Local Plan.

We have made representations at each previous stage of their Local Plan preparation and latterly to the Regulation 19 version of the Plan.

I write as I wish to understand, and then brief our elected members, on whether you consider the temporary direction to mean that the council cannot respond freely on matters relating to the Oxford City Local Plan and its forthcoming examination hearing session, or if you consider that it may do so in an unrestricted manner? Some of the matters relating to housing need and the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal are relevant to both Councils emerging Local Plans.

We have been given a deadline of a reply to the Local Plan Inspectors of 8 November 2019 in respect to the Oxford City Local Plan. You will have seen our request for a two-week extension to that deadline in order for us to discuss the matter further with yourself and colleagues, but I do not know if that request will be granted by the Inspectors.

I therefore look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely



Mark Stone
Chief Executive Officer