

## Cherwell Local Plan Examination 2014

### Inspector's Note No. 2 – 09.06.14

The examination hearings were suspended on 4 June 2014 for six months. This is to enable the Council to put forward proposed modifications to the plan involving increased new housing delivery over the plan period to meet the full, up to date, objectively assessed, needs of the district, as required by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and based on the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2014 (SHMA).

Notwithstanding the above, the tests of legal compliance and in relation to the "duty to co-operate" are considered to have been met by the Council, to date, with no compelling evidence to indicate otherwise.

The proposed modifications, including consequential modifications arising from the increase in new housing, will be subject to a full, six week, period of public consultation, together with an appropriate Sustainability Appraisal (SA)/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), likely to be based on the draft timetable attached, with the hearings currently expected to resume on 9 December 2014.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Council has indicated that it considers the increase in new housing needed to be achievable without significant changes to the strategy, vision or objectives of the submitted plan. There are considered to be reasonable prospects of delivery over the plan period.

This includes that there is no necessity for an immediate strategic review of the extent/boundaries of the Oxford Green Belt in the district for new housing, albeit the plan is likely to require an early review once the established process for considering the full strategic planning implications of the 2014 SHMA, including for any unmet needs in Oxford City, has been fully considered jointly by all the Oxfordshire Councils.

Further information regarding the proposed modifications and the next stages of the examination process will be sent to all representors and published on the examination website as soon as possible.

Nigel Payne – 09.06.14