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Proposed additional
modification to Policy SP52
Oxford Stadium

SUB.6

POLICY SP52 – OXFORD CITY COUNCIL’S NOTE TO THE EXAMINATION

1. The City Council has proposed policy SP52 in the Local Plan, to allow some housing on the site of Oxford Stadium in order to fund the bringing back into use of the Stadium to its former use for speedway and greyhound racing. The City Council has produced evidence to support that policy which we believe shows that the policy as drafted is viable and deliverable. The hearing on Tuesday 10 December will hear evidence from interested parties on that viability assessment.
2. During the first week of hearings the Inspectors expressed a preliminary view that policy SP52 may need to be modified to address circumstances whereby it was no longer viable for the stadium to be brought back into active use. The council has put produced a modification to try and address the Inspectors’ preliminary view.
3. The revised wording makes clear that the council’s preferred outcome is that the Stadium is brought back into use, which the council consider to be justified and sound approach as set out in their hearing statement for Matter 6.

Suggested modification to address Inspector’s preliminary view expressed at week 1 hearing session

SP52: Oxford Stadium

Planning permission will be granted for revival of the stadium for greyhound racing and/or speedway, with ~~other supporting~~ community or leisure uses. ~~Planning permission will be granted for~~ and enabling residential dwellings on the car park or other areas that will not affect the operation or heritage interest of the Oxford Stadium site. ~~if it is to secure enhancement of leisure uses on the site consistent with preservation and enhancement of heritage significance.~~

~~Planning permission will not be granted for any other use or development, unless further feasibility work shows speedway and greyhound racing not to be viable, in which case planning permission will be granted for an alternative community and leisure use that maintain the heritage interest of the Stadium and its context, with supporting or enabling residential development on the car park if necessary.~~

If it is demonstrated that bringing speedway and greyhound racing back into use is not viable, high quality residential led redevelopment supported by appropriate uses that will benefit the wider community for example complimentary leisure or community uses that include reference to the heritage interest, of the site will be supported.

Planning permission will not be granted for any development that would result in an increase in car parking. It should be demonstrated that there will be adequate accessibility of the site to support ~~the any~~ proposed leisure uses.

~~As part of any planning application a legally enforceable commitment will be required to modernise and to refurbish the existing Oxford Stadium to facilitate recommencement of its former uses or for alternative community and leisure uses, in accordance with this policy.~~