



**Hearing Statement  
Respondent Reference: 176  
Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies**

**EXAMINATION INTO THE OXFORD  
LOCAL PLAN 2040**

**May 2024**

Introduction

1. This statement is submitted to the Examination into the Oxford Local Plan 2040 on behalf of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies (The Centre).
2. This statement is focussed on the Council's introduction of a new definition of 'campus sites' in the Glossary to Chapter 2 of the proposed Local Plan (CSD.001, p27-28) as a main modification (CSD.009) which has not been the subject of prior consultation. The definition is significant to policy H3.

Word count: 500

## Matter 1- Procedural/legal requirements

Issue- whether the Council has complied with relevant procedural and legal requirements

1. This statement relates to procedural issues arising from the absent consultation on the definition of 'campus sites' in the Glossary to Chapter 2 of the proposed Local Plan (Matter 1, Questions 2,3). We limit our comments to the Matters the Inspectors have identified for examination at this stage.
2. Local Plan policy H3 consulted upon at Regulation 19 stage and submitted for examination (CSD.001) states:

*"Contributions towards affordable housing provision from new student accommodation will not be sought where:*

- a) *The proposal is within an existing or proposed university or college campus site, as defined in the glossary..."*

However, the consultation document contained no definition of 'campus sites' in its Glossary.

3. The Council now seek to insert a new definition as a main modification which has a fundamental bearing on policy H3. The proposed definition significantly differs from that contained in the current Local Plan potentially excluding sites, including allocated sites, meaning development upon them would now be liable to contribute to affordable housing.
4. The introduction of a new definition of 'campus sites', fundamental to policy H3's application, at this stage is deficient in consultation. Respondents to the Regulation 19 consultation were not aware of the full detail of policy H3 (and other policies affected by the definition) and so could not fairly consider and comment upon the policy's impact upon specific sites, the City, or the soundness of the Plan.
5. If the Local Plan is to be accepted as sound and legally robust it is imperative that there is proper and fair opportunity for all parties to scrutinise and comment upon the proposed new definition of 'campus sites' and associated policies, including H3, during this examination.

6. The proposed new definition is significant to the effectiveness of the Local Plan as it may impact the delivery of allocated sites, including SPE1. It must be scrutinised as part of assessment of policies in order that its effect on the Plan's soundness can be considered.
  
7. The Centre wishes to participate in any consultation and discussion related to the proposed new definition and policy H3 as it considers it raises issues with the soundness of the Plan. In line with the Inspector's instructions we do not set these out in this statement, we will though be pleased to elaborate at the appropriate stage.