

Response ID ANON-M2Q4-48JZ-M

Submitted to Oxford Local Plan 2045 Submission Draft (Regulation 19) Consultation
Submitted on 2026-03-11 21:23:38

Contact Information

1 Name

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5 Organisation Name (if applicable)

Organisation:

6 In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?

Individual/Member of the public

7 If you are commenting on behalf of someone else, please state their name here. If you are representing more than one person or group we suggest making a separate submission for each.

acting as agent?:

Data Protection Notice and Notification Options

8 Are you happy for the first line of your address and postcode to be published with your response(s)?

I do NOT want my address and postcode to be published with my response.

9 Do you wish to be notified when:

the Council submits the Oxford Local Plan 2045 to the Government?, the Inspector's report is published?

10 If your representation is seeking a modification to the plan, do you consider it necessary to participate in examination hearing session(s)? Please note: while this will provide an initial indication of your wish to participate in hearing session(s), you may be asked at a later point to confirm your request to participate.

No

11 If you wish to participate in the hearing session(s), please tell us why you consider this to be necessary. Please note: the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate in hearing session(s). You may be asked to confirm your wish to participate when the Inspector has identified the matters and issues for examination.

reason to attend hearings:

Policy G1: Protection of Green Infrastructure

119 Do you consider that policy G1 is sound?

Yes

120 If you do NOT consider policy G1 to be sound, please select your reasons why from the choices below. Please give precise details for your reasons in the box below - if you wish to support the soundness of the policy please also use this box to set out your comments.

g1 comments:

121 Do you consider that policy G1 is legally compliant? If you do NOT consider policy G1 to be legally compliant, please give precise details for your reasons in the box below - if you wish to support the legal compliance of the policy please also use this box to set out your comments.

Yes

g1 legal compliance comments:

122 Please set out, as precisely as possible, what change(s) you consider necessary to make the policy legally compliant and sound, in respect of any legal compliance or soundness matters you have identified above. You will need to say why the suggested change will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text.

suggested changes to make policy g1 sound:

I support the aim of protecting Oxford's green infrastructure. Playing fields and sports grounds, including cricket facilities, form an important part of the city's green infrastructure network. As the Local Plan progresses, it will be important to ensure that existing community sports grounds are protected wherever possible, as they provide both recreational opportunities and valuable open space within the urban environment.

Policy SPN4: Oxford University Press Sports Ground, Jordan Hill

311 Do you consider that Policy SPN4 is sound?

No

312 If you do NOT consider policy SPN4 to be sound, please select your reasons why from the choices below. Please give precise details for your reasons in the box below - if you wish to support the soundness of the policy please also use this box to set out your comments.

policy is NOT justified, policy is NOT consistent with national policy

spn4 comments:

I do not consider Policy SPN4 to be sound because the proposed redevelopment of the Oxford University Press Sports Ground would result in the loss of an established cricket facility that is actively used and forms an important part of Oxford's sporting infrastructure.

The plan indicates that development could proceed with a higher number of homes if the cricket pitch is not retained. However, there is no clear evidence that this facility is surplus to requirements, nor is there a clearly identified and deliverable replacement facility within the city.

This raises concerns that the allocation is not justified, as it does not adequately demonstrate why the loss of an existing sports facility is appropriate when the ground continues to support cricket participation, including junior and community cricket.

The allocation may also be inconsistent with national planning policy, which seeks to protect existing open space and sports facilities unless they are demonstrably surplus to requirements or replaced with equivalent or better provision in a suitable location. Given the limited availability of playing fields within Oxford, the loss of this facility would likely reduce opportunities for participation in cricket and place additional pressure on remaining grounds.

Once playing fields are lost to development they are extremely difficult to replace in a dense urban environment such as Oxford. For these reasons the allocation should be reconsidered or amended to ensure the protection of the existing cricket ground.

313 Do you consider that Policy SPN4 is legally compliant? If you do NOT consider policy SPN4 to be legally compliant, please give precise details for your reasons in the box below - if you wish to support the legal compliance of the policy please also use this box to set out your comments

Yes

spn4 legal compliance comments:

314 Please set out, as precisely as possible, what change(s) you consider necessary to make the policy legally compliant and sound, in respect of any legal compliance or soundness matters you have identified above. You will need to say why the suggested change will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text.

suggested changes to make spn4 sound:

The policy should be amended to protect the existing cricket facility unless a fully secured, equivalent replacement cricket ground is provided within Oxford prior to development.

Suggested amendment:

Development of the site should retain the existing cricket pitch and associated sports facilities, or alternatively provide an equivalent or better replacement cricket facility within Oxford that is delivered and available for use prior to the loss of the existing ground.

Policy SPE4: Jesus College Sports Area

411 Do you consider that Policy SPE4 is sound?

No

412 If you do NOT consider policy SPE4 to be sound, please select your reasons why from the choices below. Please give precise details for your reasons in the box below - if you wish to support the soundness of the policy please also use this box to set out your comments.

policy is NOT justified, policy is NOT consistent with national policy

spe4 comments:

I do not consider Policy SPE4 to be sound because it could result in the loss or reduction of an established cricket facility that is actively used and forms part of Oxford's limited sporting infrastructure.

Cricket grounds within the city are scarce and heavily used by clubs, colleges and community teams. The ground at Jesus College contributes to cricket participation within Oxford, including opportunities for junior players and recreational sport. There is no clear evidence presented in the plan that this facility is surplus to requirements.

The proposed approach therefore appears unjustified. The Local Plan does not clearly demonstrate that the loss of the playing field would be acceptable or that an equivalent replacement facility could realistically be provided within the city.

The allocation may also conflict with national planning policy which seeks to protect existing sports facilities unless they are demonstrably surplus to requirements or replaced with equivalent provision in an appropriate location. Given the constrained nature of Oxford and the difficulty of delivering new playing fields, the loss of this facility could reduce opportunities for cricket participation.

Once playing fields are lost they are extremely difficult to replace within a dense urban environment. For these reasons the policy should be amended to ensure the protection of the existing sports facility.

413 Do you consider that Policy SPE4 is legally compliant? If you do NOT consider policy SPE4 to be legally compliant, please give precise details for your reasons in the box below - if you wish to support the legal compliance of the policy please also use this box to set out your comments

Yes

spe4 legal compliance comments:

414 Please set out, as precisely as possible, what change(s) you consider necessary to make the policy legally compliant and sound, in respect of any legal compliance or soundness matters you have identified above. You will need to say why the suggested change will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text.

suggested changes to make spe4 sound:

The policy should be amended to ensure that the existing cricket facility and playing field are retained unless an equivalent or better replacement cricket ground is delivered within Oxford prior to any loss of the existing facility.

Policy SPE7: Lincoln College Sports Ground

423 Do you consider that Policy SPE7 is sound?

No

424 If you do NOT consider policy SPE7 to be sound, please select your reasons why from the choices below. Please give precise details for your reasons in the box below - if you wish to support the soundness of the policy please also use this box to set out your comments.

policy is NOT justified, policy is NOT consistent with national policy

425 Do you consider that Policy SPE7 is legally compliant? If you do NOT consider policy SPE7 to be legally compliant, please give precise details for your reasons in the box below - if you wish to support the legal compliance of the policy please also use this box to set out your comments

Yes

426 Please set out, as precisely as possible, what change(s) you consider necessary to make the policy legally compliant and sound, in respect of any legal compliance or soundness matters you have identified above. You will need to say why the suggested change will make the Local

Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text.

suggested changes to make SPE7 sound:

The policy should be amended to protect the existing cricket ground unless a fully secured, equivalent replacement cricket facility within Oxford is delivered and available for use before any loss of the existing playing field occurs.