

From: Katharine Makant

Sent: 08 September 2026 3:15 PM

Subject: Examination of the Oxford Local Plan 2045 - Hearing Dates, Guidance Note, Stage 1 Programme and Matters, Issues & Questions

Dear Respondent,

Examination of the Oxford Local Plan 2045 - Hearing Dates, Guidance Note, Stage 1 Programme and Matters, Issues & Questions

Further to my email of 4 September 2026, I am now writing to provide further information on the examination process, including the timing of the public hearing sessions and guidance from the Inspectors appointed to examine the Plan. The Inspectors have determined that the hearing sessions will take place in two stages. Stage 1 will cover strategic issues relating to legal compliance, local housing needs and the spatial strategy. Stage 2 hearings will consider site allocations and development management policies.

Stage 1 Hearings will be held at The Cherwell Room, The King's Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES between **Tuesday 20 and Friday 23 October 2026**. The timings and matters to be discussed is specified in the Examination Hearing Programme. Stage 2 of the examination hearing sessions will take place between Tuesday 24 November and Friday 11 December 2026. Further details, including a detailed Programme for Stage 2 will be published in due course.

Please find attached the following documents:

- Stage 1 Guidance Note, setting out how the examination will proceed;
- Stage 1 Programme, setting out what will be discussed and when on each of the days in October;
- Stage 1 Matters, Issues & Questions, on which Hearing Statements are invited from the Council and eligible participants.

I draw your attention to two important deadlines, explained in detail in paragraphs 20 - 28 of the Guidance Note.

Firstly, if you wish to be heard at the hearings, you must confirm this in writing to me no later than **Friday 25 September 2026**, even if you indicated in your original Regulation 19 representation that you wished to participate. If I do not receive written confirmation, it will be assumed that you do not wish to participate and that you will be relying on written submissions.

Secondly, the Inspectors have directed the Council to submit Hearing Statements responding to the questions set out in their Stage 1 Matters, Issues & Questions. Any representors who have made comments seeking a change to the Plan and who are invited to the hearing sessions may also submit Hearing Statements in support of their original representations. This is optional and not a requirement. Representors not participating at the hearing sessions may also submit an additional Written Statement. All Statements must be submitted electronically to me by no later than **5pm on Thursday 8 October 2026**. The deadline is the same for the Council and representors. Please read the Guidance carefully to ensure that you follow the Inspectors' instructions as to focus, format and length of Statements, to avoid having your submissions returned. All statements will be published on the examination website in due course.

All information concerning the examination, including latest updates and useful Planning Inspectorate guidance for participants, is available on the examination website, which can be accessed via [Oxford Local Plan 2045 Examination | Oxford City Council](#)

Finally, as the independent Programme Officer, I am your point of contact throughout the examination process. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Katharine

Independent Programme Officer

Makant Programme Services

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