



**West Northamptonshire  
Joint Planning Unit**

Paul Everard  
Planning Policy & Heritage Manager  
Northampton Borough Council  
(By email)

Our Ref: JPU5.05  
Your Ref:  
Please Contact: Colin Staves  
Direct Line [REDACTED]  
Date: 30/03/2021  
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear Paul,

**Northampton Local Plan Part 2 - Scope of Examination**

I understand that you have received a letter from the Inspectors appointed to hold the examination of the above-named Local Plan. This letter includes the following statement regarding the scope of the examination: *“The JCS in Policy S3 sets the dwelling requirement for Northampton Borough at about 18,870 for the plan period. We note that the provision of new housing has not taken place at the pace envisaged in the JCS, either against an annualised figure or the trajectory set out in the JCS. Some representors have made comments regarding strategic matters relating to the review of the JCS and the preparation of the WNSP. We think that it would be helpful at this point to confirm that in the EiP of this Part 2 Plan for Northampton Borough, such strategic matters are not before us and are beyond the scope of our examination.”*

I would like to fully concur with the Inspectors’ stated view that the strategic matters relating to the review of the JCS and the preparation of the WNSP are beyond the scope of the Part 2 Plan examination. As you are aware the Part 2 Local Plan is being prepared in support of the of the WNJCS which provides the strategic planning policy framework. It is not necessary for the Part 2 Plan to revisit strategic matters such as the dwelling requirement set out in Policy S3 of the WNJCS. Any challenges to the strategic policies of the WNJCS will need to be pursued through the review of that document and the preparation of the new WNSP.

A clear precedent for this position has been established through the examinations undertaken in respect of the Part 2 Local Plans for Daventry and South Northamptonshire, which have now been adopted. I would draw your attention specifically to paragraph 16 of the Daventry Inspector’s Report<sup>1</sup>, which states:

*“The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) does not require a development plan document to address the question of whether further provision will need to be made, when it is dealing with the allocation of sites and other principles such as village confines for an amount of housing already found sound in the WNJCS. In my examination, it is not the intention nor necessary to re-examine the strategic matters of the WNJCS. Any challenge to the strategic provisions of the*

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<sup>1</sup> [Daventry District Council Settlements and Countryside Local Plan Part 2, Inspector’s Report 10 January 2020](#)

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*WNJCS will need to be made when that document is reviewed, and not through the Part 2 Plan before me. This is supported by a Court of Appeal Judgment (CAJ): Oxted Residential Ltd v Tandridge District Council; 29 April 2016 (Ref 2016 EWCA Civ 414) (document EXAM 5), which states that, in preparing a development plan, the local authority must have regard to any other development plan document already in existence which covers the relevant local plan area.”*

The South Northamptonshire Local Plan Inspector adopted a similar position and there are several references in his report to strategic matters being more appropriately addressed through a review of the JCS rather than the Part 2 Local Plan. Paragraphs 38,39 and 40 of the Inspector’s Report<sup>2</sup> are particularly relevant.

I trust these comments are helpful, but please let me know if you require any further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Colin Staves.

Colin Staves  
Principal Spatial Planner

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<sup>2</sup> [South Northamptonshire District Council Local Plan \(Part 2\) 2011-2029, Inspector’s Report 23 June 2020](#)

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