

## **OXFORD CITY COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN 2036**

### **HEARING STATEMENT BY:**

### **BRITISH SIGN AND GRAPHICS ASSOCIATION (BSGA)**

#### **POLICY DH6 and Paragraphs 6.4.2 and 6.4.3**

1. The BSGA submitted representations to the Submission Draft of the Plan on 18 November 2018. As a result of these representations, we recognise that some factual changes have subsequently been made to Policy DH6 and Paragraphs 6.4.2 and 6.4.3 by the Council's initial Modifications and response to Inspectors' Second Set of questions and comments. The changes proposed are adequate to make the policy and text correct in law.

2. However, these changes do not address the representation made in the BSGA's letter of 18 November 2018 to the final sentence of paragraph 6.4.3. These objections stand. It is clear from the Inspectors' initial questions and comments that flexibility, as advised in the NPPF, is an important aspect of plan-making. The Inspectors said:

**"6. Positive planning The 2019 NPPF states that plans should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area, and be sufficiently flexible to adapt to rapid change. Each of the submitted Plan's site specific policies either state "Planning permission will not be granted for any other uses" or "Planning permission will only be granted for.." Whilst it is noted that these expressions featured in previous plans in the City, they do not allow for any flexibility in approach to meet changing needs which would appear to be contrary to national policy in the 2019 NPPF. In consequence we are minded to recommend deletion of these statements."**

3. This is exactly the point made in the BSGA's representations. It is again stated that the final sentence of paragraph 6.4.3 is inflexible and overly prescriptive for the reasons given in the representation. We again request that this sentence be deleted (which will not otherwise damage the effectiveness of this part of the Plan).