

## Green Wedges

At the hearing session relating to Green Wedges the Inspector requested that the Council provide any additional information supporting the recommendations reached in relation to the Green Wedge Review (Document LP9/01). The Council has confirmed, since the Hearing session, that there is no further written background documentation available that it can produce.

With the exception of the extension to the Green Wedge proposed to the south of the Cottage Farm Direction for Growth Area allocation, the Inspector will therefore consider whether the proposed Green Wedge boundaries (including the removal of built development of the private hospital located off Gartree Road and the previously developed land at Stoughton Grange and inclusion of the Lucas Marsh Local Nature Reserve) are justified on the basis of the evidence already before her and the representations made both in writing and orally.

The Inspector notes that the Review only concludes that the Stoughton Grange Broad Location for Growth site should be removed should the Council be required to allocate land for development. She will therefore consider this in the context of site selection.

The Green Wedge Review also includes a recommendation that the Green Wedge should be extended should land be allocated at Cottage Farm Strategic Growth Area for residential development in the Local Plan. Accordingly an area of land to the south west of the allocation is proposed as Green Wedge.

Paragraph 5.45 recommends that the Green Wedge is extended southwards to guide development form in future years by defining development limits. Extending southwards would also prevent any future coalescence of the two settlements of Wigston and Oadby.

It is not clear to the Inspector on the basis of the information before her why the Council has reached this conclusion. Could the Council please provide additional information clearly setting out why this extension is proposed including an assessment and evaluation of the land in accordance with the Green Wedge Review Joint Methodology (July 2011)?

It would assist the Inspector if the following could be addressed within the Council's response:

- Why the allocation of land at Cottage Farm Direction for Growth Area triggers a need for the extension of the Green Wedge southwards?
- What other options, if any, that may also achieve this, were considered by the Council?
- How has the Council arrived at the extent and boundaries of the proposed extension?

In addition can the Council please clarify the differences between Green Wedge and countryside designations and how this has informed the overall site selection process and where, if anywhere, this is already set out in the evidence base?

Could the Council please confirm when they expect to be in a position to respond?

Further views from other parties are not being sought at this stage.

8 May 2018