

CITY OF YORK LOCAL PLAN PHASE 4 HEARINGS

RESPONSE TO INSPECTORS' MIQs

FROM HESLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

AUGUST 2022

Matter 1 Green belt Boundaries

Matter 1.2 Topic Paper 1 Addendum Annex 3 – Sections 5-7

Generally, Heslington Parish Council welcomes the defined Green Belt boundaries which present a clear logic as to how the inner boundary has been decided: essentially around the perimeter of the built areas. However, ST27, the proposed expansion of University of York (UoY), is a glaring exception to that logic, with significant consequences and without due justification. We will argue below (Matter 2) how UoY could increase activity on their existing sites without expanding and causing harm. We suggest that the inner green belt boundary should follow the current boundary of the Campus East site in order to

- Prevent urban sprawl including noise and light pollution
- Maintain a protected green buffer between Campus East and Heslington Village
- Retain the character of Heslington Village as a separate historic settlement in a rural area
- Maintain productive food producing land within a green belt setting with associated stewardship opportunities
- Prevent through traffic via Low Lane into Heslington Village

Draft Local Plan 2018 Figure 3.1: shows Heslington and the agricultural land around it as clearly part of the historic rural setting of York which is described by CYC as an important aspect of the city's character. P.27 para 3.5 "there are areas of land outside the existing built up areas that should be retained as open land due to their role in preserving the historic character and setting of York" and "areas that should be retained as open land as they prevent communities within the environs of York from merging into one another and the city. These areas are considered to have a key role in preserving the identity of the settlements and villages around York."

The rural character of Heslington, so important to its residents, depends largely on its setting within the Green Belt in productive agricultural land providing locally sourced, sustainably produced food, impacting on carbon emissions. Historic land use around the perimeter of York should be protected from unnecessary predation.