

Hearing statement from Leicester City Council April 2020 North West Leicestershire Local Plan Partial Review Examination Matters & Issues for Examination

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a hearing statement on the matters and issues issued by the Inspector.

Issue 1

Leicester City Council considers that questions raised in Issue 1 (Legal Compliance and Duty to Cooperate) have been complied by North West Leicestershire Council for the partial review of their Local Plan.

Issue 2

Q. 1 & 2. With respect to Issue 2, Leicester City Council considers the wording in the proposed policy about the Substantive Review is clear with the changes suggested by us to take into account that the submission of a replacement Local Plan will take place within 18 months from the date at which the SOCG is agreed and signed by all authorities within the Leicester and Leicestershire HMA. We're as such satisfied by the approach to the partial review considering the publication of the 2019 NPPF since the Local Plan was adopted.

Q.3 The policy in its current form in the adopted Local Plan is not compliant with the NPPF as it relates to HEDNA evidence. The proposed policy includes the wording on joint work on the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) which is consistent with the national policy in calculating the housing need.

Q.4 The proposed policy takes into account the joint working on the SoCG for addressing the redistribution on the unmet need, therefore is considered to be sound subject to the changes suggested by us at the Reg 19 consultation.

Q.6 Leicester City Council considers that the HMA wide SoCG forms a reasonable trigger for the submission of a replacement Plan to address any strategic issues including housing and employment at HMA level. We do consider that there will be local triggers within the district based on their monitoring. It is useful to note that the SoCG in question only deals with housing and employment issues. There may be other strategic infrastructure matters that may be outside the remit of the ongoing SoCG. The Strategic Growth Plan may also influence the content and context of the replacement plan.

Q.6a We have suggested a small change to the proposed policy that makes it more effective. Please see Appendix 1.

. The submission of a replacement Local Plan will take place within 18 months from the date at which the SOCG is agreed and signed by all authorities within the Leicester and Leicestershire HMA.

Q.6b In our understanding the change we have suggested in the proposed policy should address this issue if the SoCG is not agreed. From the proposed policy, the submission of a replacement plan will take place within 18 months from the date at which the SoCG will be agreed and signed by all authorities within the HMA.

Q.7 In light of Covid 19, our Local Plan is delayed, which may impact the timetable of the SoCG.

Appendix 1. Our response with suggested change to their proposed policy at Reg 19 consultation in January this year.

Policy S1 – Future housing and economic development needs

Over the plan period to 2031 provision will be made to meet the housing and employment land needs of the district as identified in the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (January 2017). This means that:

- provision will be made for the development of a minimum of 9,620 dwellings (481 dwellings per annum) which is the Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) and Housing Requirement for the district;
- provision will be made for 66 hectares of land for employment purposes (B1, B2 and B8 of less than 9,000sq metres)
- Provision will also be made for 7,300sq metres for shopping purposes.

The Council will continue to work collaboratively with the Leicester & Leicestershire Housing Market Area (HMA) authorities to establish the scale and distribution of any additional provision that may be necessary in North West Leicestershire and elsewhere in the HMA as a result of the inability of one or more authority to accommodate its own needs. ~~as identified in the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment.~~ **This will be done through a Statement of Common Ground (SOCG) dealing with the redistribution of any unmet need from Leicester City. The submission of a replacement Local Plan will take place within 18 months from the date at which the SOCG is agreed and signed by all authorities within the Leicester and Leicestershire HMA.**

Appendix 2. Inspector's updated Matters, Issues, and Questions dated 6th April
(As attached separately)