

15 November 2016

Dear Representor

## **Examination of North West Leicestershire Local Plan**

***Please Note - This letter requests specific action from those intending to participate in examination Hearings – see 'Participation' below.***

### ***Introductions***

The Council submitted their Publication Local Plan for examination on 4 October 2016. The Secretary of State has appointed Brian Sims BSc CEng MICE MRTPI as the Inspector to undertake the independent examination of the Plan. His role is to determine whether the Plan is sound and complies with all legal requirements. The criteria for soundness are whether the Plan is positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

I have been appointed as the Programme Officer for the Examination. My main responsibilities include acting as the central point of contact between the Inspector and the Council and general public, organising and updating the examination programme under the direction of the Inspector, maintaining the core documents library and all day-to-day aspects of the examination process itself.

### ***Documents***

All examination documents can be viewed on the examination web page.

On 19 October and 3 November respectively the Inspector sent a Preliminary Note and Initial Questions and Comments to the Council on documentation and procedure [IN/01-02]. The Council replied on 28 October [EX/02 – EX/08] and 8 November 2016 [EX/09-10].

Document EX/03 comprises a Summary of Issues Raised in Response to the Publication Local Plan and Responses to them by the Council. This is to be read in conjunction with Document

LP/03 – Minor Changes proposed by the Council. You are asked to refer to this document to note how the Council may have responded to any concern you have raised before deciding whether to participate in the Hearings or to rely on your original representations.

The Inspector has now issued his Draft Schedule of Matters for Discussion and Outline Programme [IN/04]. He has also produced a Guidance Note for participants [IN/03]. I have enclosed these with this letter.

### **Hearings**

Examination Hearings are due to commence on **Thursday 5 January 2017**. Details and advice to participants are set out in the Guidance Note and draft Programme. [IN/03-04]

### **Participation**

As part of the consultation earlier in 2016 you were asked whether you wished to participate in the Hearing sessions. The Inspector has received copies of all representations but it is not clear in every case whether participation is requested. All responses will be taken into account, whether or not Representors choose to appear in person.

**To enable us to produce the final programme for the Hearings, after studying the documents attached and referred to above, please confirm to me by Monday 28 November if it is your intention to attend the Hearings and on which Matters you wish to speak, including, if possible, which sub-matter, or issue (a, b, c etc), is of interest.**

In this connection, please note in particular the **key dates** and the advice given in the attached Guidance Note, including at paragraphs 13-15 that **objections to the omission of sites from allocation will be redirected to hearing sessions on matters of soundness**.

If you have any queries on these or any other aspects of the examination process, please do not hesitate to contact me. More information can be found on the examination website

[http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/local\\_plan\\_examination](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/local_plan_examination)

Yours sincerely

*Carmel Edwards*

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