

SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Planning Policy

Please ask for: Ian Nelson

Telephone: 01530 454677

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Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Date: 22 December 2016

Mr B Sims BSc CEng MICE MRTPI
Planning Inspector
North West Leicestershire Local Plan Examination
C/O Carmel Edwards
Programme Officer

Dear Mr Sims

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL PLAN – HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT UPDATE

You will be aware from previous correspondence that the District Council, working with the other Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (LLHMA) authorities, have commissioned a Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) to replace the 2014 SHMA.

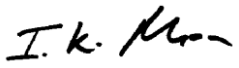
A number of statements submitted for the forthcoming Examination which is due to commence on 5 January 2017 have referred to the need for an update on this study which was originally scheduled to be completed by 17 October 2016. I am writing to inform you that at a meeting of the Member Advisory Group (MAG) of the LLHMA on 21 December 2017 it was agreed to publish the HEDNA which will be accompanied by a joint statement of cooperation. The final HEDNA report will be considered and then published following the MAG meeting on 26 January 2017. A stakeholder event will follow the publication of the HEDNA and this is scheduled to take place on 9 February 2017.

It is important to note that although the HEDNA will identify what the recommended Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) is for each authority and the joint statement accompanying the HEDNA will provide an indication based on currently published Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments (SHLAA) of theoretical capacities for each of the authorities, this will not be the definitive distribution of housing (and economic development) as that will then be subject to further detailed work by the HMA authorities, the timetable for which has yet to be established.

It is therefore our view, particularly bearing in mind that the HEDNA will not provide a definitive picture of the issue of distribution, that there is no reason at this stage to look to change the current programme for the examination, although we appreciate that you will no doubt want to give some thought to this matter.

In our view the Government imperative for the adoption of up to date plans remains and in that regard we are confident that the JGC study is sufficiently robust to support the soundness of our submitted Local Plan. Furthermore, the Council maintains that Policy S1 of the Local Plan with its suggested MM1 provides an adequate and suitable mechanism to review the plan if necessary, once a definitive picture of distribution across the HMA is known.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "I. k. Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ian Nelson
Planning Policy Team Manager