

North West Leicestershire Local Plan Partial Review Examination

Matters & Issues for Examination (as amended April 2020)

The following Matters, Issues and questions will provide the focus for the hearings. **The hearings were due to commence on Tuesday 12 May 2020 but have now been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. The inspector is unable to commit to a date for the rescheduled hearings at this stage.**

The Programme Officer for the examination is Carmel Edwards who can be contacted as follows:

- By post: c/o North West Leicestershire District Council, Council offices, Whitwick Road, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 3FJ
- By telephone: 07969 631930
- By email: programmeofficer@carmeledwards.com

The Council is invited to respond on all issues and questions listed, referring to information in the Submission Documents & Supporting Evidence (limited to 3000 words per Issue). *There is an Addendum to the Matters and Issues with a set of additional questions for the Council only.*

Other representors should only respond on the Matters and Issues relevant to points made in their original representation(s), without raising new issues, in statements of no more than 3000 words per issue. Participants may refer to information in earlier representations, but the Inspector only has copies of the representations made at the Pre-submission consultation stage of the Local Plan. It is not a requirement to submit a Statement; participants can rely on their original representation. Statements should be received by the Programme Officer no later than Wednesday 15 April (5pm).

Agendas for the hearing sessions will be issued shortly before they commence, based on the Matters & Issues for Examination and the responses received. It is unlikely that the Inspector will introduce new issues or questions that do not arise from the Matters and Issues identified.

Please note, although anyone can attend the public hearings, only those listed on the programme can participate in the relevant hearing session. Normally, only those who made representations on the Local Plan Partial Review Publication Consultation document (November 2019), and that are seeking some change to the plan are entitled to participate in the hearing sessions. Participants should let the Programme Officer know by 27 March 2020 whether they wish to attend a hearing session.

The Examination will focus on the requirements of soundness set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (2019) and the accompanying Planning Practice Guidance. The starting point is the assumption that the Council has submitted what it considers to be a sound plan. Participants will be expected to explain which aspect of the plan is unsound, why it is unsound and specify how it should be altered, with detailed wording and clear evidence to support any changes. As well as complying with the legal requirements, to be sound, the plan has to be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

Please see the Inspector’s Guidance Note for further advice on the Examination, which is available on the Council’s examination webpage.

Matters and Issues

Legal requirements and procedural matters

Issue 1: Have the relevant procedural and legal requirements been met, including the duty to co-operate?

Q1. In respect of the Duty to Co-operate, have the Council engaged constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis in the preparation of the Partial Review?

Q1a. What are the key outcomes from the co-operation with neighbouring authorities?

Q2. Is the Sustainability Appraisal of the Partial Review suitably comprehensive, and has it sufficiently evaluated reasonable alternatives?

Q3. Has the Partial Review been prepared to comply with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement, and meeting the minimum consultation requirements set out in the Regulations?

Q4. Has the Partial Review been prepared in accordance with the Local Development Scheme?

Policy S1

Issue 2. Whether the proposed changes to Policy S1 are justified, effective and consistent with national policy and guidance?

Q1. Policy S1 as proposed refers to the submission of a replacement Local Plan, however the Council have started on the 'Substantive Review' of the Local Plan. Given this position, is the wording in the Policy S1 sufficiently clear and accurate?

Q2. Taking account of all the changes in circumstances since the adoption of the Local Plan, including the publication of the 2019 National Planning Policy Framework, is the approach to the Partial Review justified?

Q3. What are the implications of retaining Policy S1 in its current form (in the adopted Local Plan) for the whole Local Plan, and would this be consistent with national policy including the preparation and review of Local Plans?

Q4. What, if any, are the consequences of Leicester City Council having provided a very initial indication of unmet need for housing and employment?

Q5. Is Policy S1 as proposed, consistent with other policies in the Local Plan and are there any other consequential changes to other policies or the supporting text needed?

Statement of Common Ground and Timing of Submission of a replacement Local Plan

Q6. Is the Statement of Common Ground with the Leicestershire authorities an appropriate trigger for the submission of a replacement Local Plan and will it be effective? What other approaches or triggers for submission of the replacement Local Plan would be appropriate?

Q6a. What is meant by 'agreed' in the wording of Policy S1, and is it sufficiently clear what is meant by it within the policy?

Q6b. What would be the implications if the Statement of Common Ground is not agreed, given that the timetable for the Substantive Review has already been fixed?

Q6c. Is the timescale of 18 months for the submission of the replacement Local Plan justified, if not what would be an appropriate timeframe?

Q7. Are there any other emerging Local Plans or other plans such as the Strategic Growth Plan, which have the potential to impact on the Statement of Common Ground outcomes or the replacement Local Plan?

Paragraph 5.8

Issue 3. Whether the proposed changes to paragraph 5.8 are justified, effective and consistent with national policy and guidance?

Q1. Is the change to the supporting text at paragraph 5.8 justified and what are the implications for the rest of Policy S1?

Q1a. Having regard to the proposed deletion of the supporting text at paragraph 5.8, are the remaining references to the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment elsewhere in Policy S1 justified?

Q2. Will paragraph 5.8 be effective having regard to the other employment policies in the Local Plan and will there be any effect on the flexibility of Policy Ec2 (2)?

Q3. What would be the implications for the delivery of strategic warehousing/logistics within the area as a result of the proposed changes to Policy S1 and supporting text?

Louise Gibbons

Inspector appointed to examine the North West Leicestershire Local Plan Partial Review

Addendum - Additional Questions for the Council only

A response to these additional questions by 27th March 2020 would be appreciated

Q(a). Paragraph 5.8 of the Partial Review refers to 'at the time of the examination' could the Council please confirm to which examination it is intended to refer to?

I have received the submission Documents and Evidence (and note that these have been provided on the Council's website):

Q(b). Are any other substantial work/reports likely to be undertaken for the examination, and if so, what is the timetable for such work?

The Partial Review Topic Paper (Para 4.5, Table 2 and Para 4.6) refers to planning permission and commitments relating to B1, B2 and B8 uses:

Q(c). Could the Council please provide details of these including dates of permission and current status including whether any of these have now started and any which have legal agreements which remain unsigned.

The Local Plan Partial Review Topic Paper outlines the programme for the Leicester Local Plan with a draft being considered by a Special Council Meeting in February:

Q(d). Could the Council please set out the latest position on the progress of the Leicester City Council Local Plan?

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