

Planning Policy  
*Please ask for: Ian Nelson*  
*Telephone: 01530 454677*  
*Our Ref:*  
*Your Ref:*  
*Date: 18 February 2020*

FAO [REDACTED]  
The Planning Inspectorate  
Planning Inspectorate Plans Team  
3J Kite Wing  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Temple Quay  
BRISTOL  
BS1 6PN

Dear Matthew

#### **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL PLAN PARTIAL REVIEW – SUBMISSION**

I am pleased to enclose the Submission North West Leicestershire Local Plan Partial Review, along with the accompanying evidence base and other documents.

The review as submitted is not that which the District Council had set out to prepare when it started the review in February 2018. However, a number of changes in circumstances since that time has required the Council to take a different course of action. The changes in circumstances relate to local matters but also national factors as well. These are explained in more detail in the Topic Paper which has been prepared as part of the Submission. The Topic Paper also outlines how we are continuing to plan for the future needs of the district through a wider review, referred to as the Substantive Review, which is being progressed in parallel with the Partial Review.

The Reg 19 consultation attracted 37 responses. Copies of these are included in the documents submitted alongside the Partial Review. A number of the representors have suggested amendments to Policy S1. The Council is not, at this stage, convinced that such changes are necessary to make the plan sound for the reasons set out in the Council's response to the various representations. We have noted that a number of representors have made reference to other Local Plans, for example Harborough and Melton, that have been through the Examination process adopted since our Local Plan was adopted and which include a requirement for an early review with trigger mechanisms. These could provide the basis for discussion at the Examination, if the Inspector thought it appropriate.

It is important to put the Partial Review in the context of how the District Council is responding to the challenge of securing growth. The Council has an excellent track-record in terms of planning positively. In terms of housing delivery, by April 2019 some 4,757 dwellings had been built since the start of the plan period of the adopted Local Plan (2011), compared to a requirement of 3,848; an excess of about 900 dwellings or 23%. The Council has responded positively to planning applications for employment development, supporting proposals which although not allocated for development have been considered to represent sustainable development in other respects. This includes major development at Junction 11 of the M/A42 for a Logistics Centre for Jaguar Land Rover.

The Council is keen to continue this positive approach, but it is important that it has a Local Plan in place which can provide the guidance necessary for developers, landowners and our communities so as to do so in a consistent manner. The Council could not countenance the Local Plan becoming out-of-date for reasons beyond its control and so it took the decision it did to have a twin track review. As outlined in the Topic Paper the Council is progressing the Substantive Review in parallel to the Partial Review and is planning for a higher level of housing growth than that suggested from the application the 'standard method'.

Anticipated duration of the Examination

In view of the fact that only one policy is being changed and the relatively limited number of responses to the Reg 19 consultation, we do not anticipate an overly long programme of Hearings. Subject to the appointed Inspector's views we would suggest that 2 to 3 days should be sufficient.

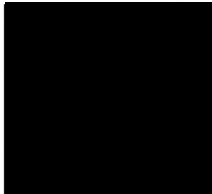
We have a preferred venue which is:

Heartwood Conference Centre  
Rothley House  
Coaville Business Park  
Jackson Street  
Coalville  
Leicestershire  
LE67 3NR

In terms of a preferred date for the opening of any Hearing, bearing in mind the need for 6-weeks to advertise such Hearings and the fact that Easter falls in mid-April, we would suggest 20/21 April 2020 as suitable dates subject to the Inspector's availability.

We have appointed a Programme Officer, who is

Carmel Edwards



I look forward to hearing from you, at your earliest convenience, with confirmation of the appointment of an Inspector, and of course, an indicative timetable for the Examination. I have appended to this letter a list of Evidence Base and other documents for ease of reference. Copies of these and the documents themselves have also been made available electronically.

For the avoidance of doubt, no changes are proposed in respect of the Policies Map as a result of the Partial Review and so this is not included in the submission documents.

The Council requests that the appointed Inspector recommend modifications to the Council in the event that the Inspector considers that modifications are necessary to make the plan sound.

Yours Sincerely



Chris Elston  
Head of Planning and Infrastructure