

Kirklees Local Plan and CIL Examination

Response from Kirklees Council to Preliminary Note 3 from the Inspector to the Council

7 July 2017

Thank you for providing the opportunity for the Council to provide clarification on a number of your additional questions. In preparing this response the Council has tried to provide clarification in relation to each of the points as requested, rather than a full justification which we might be expected to provide when responding to the MIQ's in due course. Should the Inspector require any further information on any of the points raised at this point we would of course be happy to assist.

General

Thank you for confirming in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Note 3 the timing of the initial hearings. We understand that the Programme Officer will be finalising the initial hearing sessions and those relating to minerals and waste matters shortly.

Housing Delivery

Thank you for confirming in paragraph 3 of Note 3 that the stage 1 hearings will explore the delivery of the council's housing requirement together with the phasing and density of allocated sites.

In relation to paragraph 4 of Note 3 please find attached the council's 'Housing Supply Topic Paper' as requested. A copy of this document is attached and a hard copy of this document will be sent in the first class post to the Programme Officer in order to be sent on to the Inspector. This report can be added to the Council's website as part of the examination library when the Programme Officer is ready to do so.

In relation to paragraph 5 of Note 3 the council will submit statements of common ground alongside the hearing statements for the stage 1 matters, issues and questions for the site allocations listed.

Thank you for confirming in paragraph 6 that any implications arising from updating housing completions and commitments will be addressed through the hearing statements and the relevant hearing sessions. The council is currently collecting the housing data needed for 2016/17 and it should be possible to have this data in a useable format prior to the hearing sessions in October. We will aim to provide this data to the Inspector w/c 25 September 2017 at the latest. Thank you for also confirming that it will be necessary to review the housing delivery and five year supply at the end of the stage 3 hearings and we understand why this is necessary.

Site allocation process

Thank you for your comments in paragraphs 8 and 9 of Note 3 regarding the additional evidence supplied regarding green belt release sites and safeguarded land. We understand that further clarification on these matters will be sought through the hearing statements and the relevant hearing sessions. If the Inspector considers the council should submit any specific information with regard to paragraph 8 of Note 3 the council would be happy to do so alongside our hearing statements.

Habitat Regulation Assessment

Following receipt of the updated Habitats Regulations Assessment (*SD10 - Publication Draft Kirklees Local Plan: Habitats Regulation Assessment Report March 2017*), Natural England issued a revised response dated 3 April 2017, this letter is included in BP 28 - *Correspondence received from Statutory Consultees after the Regulation 19 Publication Draft Local Plan Consultation* (April 2017).

The letter stated “Subject to the proposed clarification in the supporting text to policy PLP30 and within the relevant Allocations Boxes, we are satisfied that the plan is legally compliant with the Habitats Regulations”. The amendments agreed between Natural England and the Council and referenced in their letter dated 3 April 2017 are included in *SD4 List of Additional Modifications to the Publication Local Plan*.

Given the additional correspondence that has taken place following Natural England’s initial letter dated 19 December 2016, confirming that Natural England have no outstanding concerns with regard to the HRA, the Council trusts that this provides the relevant confirmation sought in paragraph 10 of Note 3.