

Kirklees Local Plan Examination

Stage 4 – Matter 45 – Kirkburton

Clarification of the availability of site H729 (Land at Tenter Hill Road, New Mill, Holmfirth)

- 1.1 This note has been prepared to clarify the availability of the council-owned part of site H729 following comments made at the Stage 4 (Matter 44 - Holme Valley South) hearings that the site may be required to accommodate the expansion of facilities for local sports clubs. The council can confirm that this site is available for housing and deliverable and as such is still justified as an accepted housing allocation.
- 1.2 Two local sports clubs (Holmfirth Town Football Club and Underbank Rangers Rugby League Club) require upgraded sports facilities to ensure league compliance which is likely to include re-location. One potential option is to enhance the existing playing fields to the north of H729 (on Urban Green Space site UGS888). The improvement of facilities on UGS888 would not require land within H729 to be used for playing pitches. However improved access to UGS888 would be required which is likely to be through H729. As a decision has not yet been taken in relation to the preferred option for the re-location of the sports clubs, there is insufficient detail to determine what form the access improvements are likely to take.
- 1.3 To overcome this issue, the council are proposing a modification to the “other site specific considerations” in the H729 site box to ensure the current access to the existing playing pitches remains and to ensure that the allocation is flexible enough to deal with changing circumstances. The proposed modification is to add “*Consideration should be given to the retention and enhancement of access to the playing fields to the north of this site*”. As the relevant part of H729 adjacent to the playing fields is in council ownership the council have control over the land and its development. The council do not feel that a change in capacity would be required as the access could be formed using estate roads in a standard development layout.
- 1.4 The modifications stated above have not been subject to sustainability appraisal testing or public consultation. Should it be necessary to make any of the modifications these will be added to the full schedule of modifications to the Local Plan which will be made available for comment and subject to sustainability appraisal at a later stage of the Examination in Public, subject to the delegated powers agreed by the council’s Cabinet.