

Kirklees Local Plan

Preliminary Note 2 from the Inspector to the Council

7 June 2017

Following my Initial Note dated 25th May 2017, I have a number of additional queries and requests for information. It would be appreciated if you could provide me with a response to points 1 to 4 by **Monday 19th June 2017**. The requested documents in points 5 and 6 should be made available on the Council's website prior to the publication of the MIQs in early July.

I understand that provisional dates have now been agreed for Stage 1 Initial Hearings, commencing on Tuesday 10th October 2017. The Stage 1 hearings will focus on a number of key strategic matters in the Draft Local Plan. If, following the Stage 1 sessions, I conclude that the Plan is legally compliant and capable of being found sound on these matters, the examination will move on to Stage 2.

1. Area Action Plans (AAPs) – The Council's response dated 2nd June indicates that AAPs relating to Huddersfield and Dewsbury town centres will be produced. It would be appreciated if the Council could confirm the scope and form of these plans, and whether they will include strategic and/or detailed policies and land allocations.
2. Spatial development strategy – the Local Plan and supporting evidence indicates that the strategy combines settlement sustainability with place-shaping constraints/opportunities, existing and planned infrastructure, and evidence in the Green Belt Review. I note that the Spatial Development Strategy Technical Paper provides a sustainability analysis for each settlement, and an overview of constraints/opportunities and how Plan objectives would be delivered in each sub-area. However, I am unclear how all the relevant factors, including Green Belt review, have interacted to determine the spatial strategy and decisions on growth for each settlement. Is the Council able to point me to such evidence?
3. Storthes Hall (MDGB2134) – the Accepted Site Options Report indicates that part of the site already has planning permission for housing (300 units). Can the Council confirm whether the proposed allocation for 505 units is in addition to this, or whether the permission is part of the total allocation figure. Can the Council also confirm what the land is currently used for, the extent to which it is currently occupied by buildings, and Council's overall justification for the proposed allocation.
4. Priority Employment Areas – as a supplement to the question raised in paragraph 16 of my Initial Note, could the Council also confirm whether the PEA assessment looked at all employment sites in Kirklees, regardless of site size; or whether a size threshold was applied.
5. Affordable housing – has the Council produced an affordable housing trajectory for the Plan period, as prescribed in paragraph 47 of the NPPF? I may have overlooked this. If not, could I request that one is produced.

6. Housing Supply Topic Paper – the Council’s evidence regarding housing delivery is currently in a number of documents, including Appendix 3 of the Plan and the Housing Technical Paper. Further information on completions, windfalls and site delivery will also be set out in the Part 2 of the Council’s response to my Initial Note (responding to paragraphs 8, 10 and 11). On reflection I think it would be useful, both for myself and other participants, if the Council is able to provide an up to date Housing Supply Topic Paper which draws together all the evidence in one place. This should look at all sources of supply, including updated completions data, a clear breakdown and analysis of windfall supply, and include a brief overview/commentary in the phasing tables on delivery progress and planning applications for each of the allocations. Brief commentary on delivery progress for the larger outstanding commitments would also be useful.

If you have any questions on these matters, please do not hesitate to contact me via the Programme Officer.

Katie Child

Inspector