

**DATA PRIVACY INSTRUCTION – ALL PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION DETAILS MUST BE REDACTED  
PRIOR TO ANY GENERAL PUBLICATION**

Mr P Oldfield

3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2017

**Kirklees Local Plan – Stage 1 Initial Hearings**

**MIQ1 - Key Points for Consideration**

**Matter 1 – Legal and procedural matters**

**Issue – Has the Plan been prepared in accordance with statutory procedures and regulations?**

Challenges & Objections:

- The Council has failed to demonstrate a duty to cooperate with neighbouring Councils in order to develop a sustainable and sensible plan.
- In particular, the proposals to develop c. 3000 new houses in the North Huddersfield (Fixby/Ashbrow) area and the destruction of current Green Belt land as part of this, cannot have been adequately reviewed, debated and adjusted through discussions with Calderdale Council.
- This is evidenced by Calderdale’s own plans to develop 6000 new houses, with a high proportion of these being in the Brighouse area and directly adjoining the proposed Kirklees developments.
- In isolation, the number of proposed new houses and percentage green belt destruction in the North Huddersfield/Fixby area is disproportionate.
- There has been some local community involvement but typically the timescales for review and responses are very tight and poorly timed (example - the consultation period during the Christmas 2016 period) and the amount of information and process complexity is beyond many people’s ability to digest and take adequate action.
- There is no clear justification for the proposed number of new houses across Kirklees and no obvious revisiting of the plans post Brexit.
- The Kirklees Local Plan has been anchored around 10 strategic objectives and all local resident responses have been based upon these commitments being upheld via the Plan. 4 of the 10 objectives are directly contradicted by the new house building proposals in the Fixby area:
  1. Protect and improve green infrastructure
  2. Provide access to good quality open spaces and opportunities for sport, recreation and play.

3. Protect and enhance the characteristics of the built, natural and historic environment and local distinctiveness.
4. Promote the use of brownfield land.

Minimum expectations:

- Evidence of discussions with Calderdale must be provided together with evidence of material plan adjustments to ensure the combined effect of both council's building plans does not compromise stated objectives.
- On the basis that these material plan adjustments cannot possibly have been made, the proposed house building plans and green belt destruction in the Fixby area needs a complete re-think and further local resident consultation.
- New house building targets and the proposed distribution across Kirklees needs reviewing an amending to ensure an appropriate balance and to take into consideration clear demand and demographic changes post Brexit.

Regards

Paul Oldfield

(On behalf of Fixby Residents Organisation)