

Calderdale Local Plan

Pre-hearing Note 3 from the Inspector to the Council

11 December 2019

Further to my previous pre-hearing notes, I have a number of additional questions/requests for the Council arising from the documentation and evidence supplied. These queries primarily relate to matters due to be covered by the Stage 2 hearings.

1. The Council's Technical Paper on Exceptional Circumstances for the release of Green Belt (EV09) (page 13) indicates that 27 hectares of Green Belt release is proposed in the Local Plan through minor changes to Green Belt boundaries. The Council is requested to direct me to, or provide, a document/note which outlines these individual changes and the reasons for the changes (and includes site maps detailing each change).
2. The Council is requested to provide an A4 map showing the designated Clifton Village Neighbourhood Area.
3. The Council is requested to include Kirklees Council's Castle Hill Setting Study (2016) in the examination library (as part of the evidence base relating to the proposed employment allocation site at Ainley Top in Elland, LP0021).
4. The Council is requested to provide a Note which provides additional information on stage 6 of the Council's site assessment process (further to the Site Allocations Assessment Methodology Statement (SAAMS)). In particular it should:
 - Clarify what refinement criteria were used at stage 6.
 - In the case of sites in the Green Belt, explain how the refinement criteria were prioritised/weighted, and how preferred sites were ranked and selected for allocation.
 - Confirm whether the same refinement criteria and process of weighting/ranking was applied to the 'ring-fenced' comparison of Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) options at stage 6?
 - Confirm whether the refinement process at stage 6 involve revisiting site suitability, availability and achievability criteria from stages 2-5; and if so, why.
 - Provide an update to Appendix 12 in the SAAMS which summarises the reasons that each Green Belt site option was filtered at stage 6 (focusing on the refinement criteria rather than site constraints). SUE options should be grouped together for ease of reference.
5. The Council is requested to provide details of the timings, costings and potential funding sources of non-transport related infrastructure required to support delivery of the Plan, along the lines of information provided in the Schedule of Transport Infrastructure in Appendix 3 of the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
6. The Council's Technical Paper on Open Space and Local Green Space (EV48) includes a list of current open spaces which are proposed to be deleted as a result of new

allocations (page 5). I have come across a number of allocations which appear to fit within this category (e.g. LP0523, LP1486 and LP0452) but do not appear in the list. The Council is requested to check the list and update it as necessary. The list should also be expanded to capture allocations where play areas or other recreational facilities would be lost.

7. The letter from the Environment Agency, dated 1st October 2018, contains a number of comments on flood risk evidence related to the site allocation process and the selected allocations. The Council is requested to provide a Position Note which responds to the Agency's points and clarifies the extent/nature of the flood risk assessment work.
8. As already sought, the Council is requested to produce a Statement of Common Ground with Historic England (HE) focusing on sites that HE made representations on at Regulation 19 stage. It should also set out a jointly agreed position on whether the Plan should specify that measures in the Heritage Impact Assessments are implemented. The Statement may need to be revised at a later date to deal with any representations made on additional sites proposed by the Council (e.g. in the forthcoming consultation document).
9. The Council is requested to provide an update on progress with tasks arising from the Stage 1 hearing sessions (as listed in document CC17).
10. The Council is requested to provide an updated working list of the potential main modifications to the Plan which reflects the discussions at the Stage 1 hearing sessions (as set out in CC17) and includes others which are being proposed by the Council (for example, in the Table of Amendments and Corrections in CC10, or in the Council's Representations and Responses documents CC32-CC29).

It would be appreciated if the Council could provide me with estimated timings for provision of the above items. Most of the items are not urgent and could be completed in the Spring, prior to the Stage 2 hearings. However, I would find it useful if items 7 to 10 could be completed by mid-February 2020, in order to inform my Matters, Issues and Questions.

If you have any questions regarding this note, please do not hesitate to contact me via the Programme Officer.

Thank you for your assistance.

Katie Child

INSPECTOR