

INS 15

09 September 2020

By Email via the Programme Officer

Note from the Inspector on new technical/evidence documents

The Council has produced a number of new technical/evidence documents in the last few months which seek to support or provide new information on different parts of the draft Local Plan. Many of these have been initiated by the Council rather than being directly sought by myself.

Some of these documents have been published alongside or as appendices to the Council's Hearing Statements, whilst others have been produced since the Hearing Statements were due (e.g. since 3rd August 2020). Where my attention has been drawn to their production I have provided an opportunity for written comments to be made on the new documents, prior to the related Stage 2 hearing sessions in October/November 2020. Details have been sent to interested parties and the consultation period has been publicised on the Council's website. However, as I have started the process of reading the Council's Hearing Statements it has become apparent that there are a number of new appended technical documents which have not been included in this consultation. There is now insufficient time to effectively consult on these documents and allow written comments before the Stage 2 hearings commence on 6th October 2020. However, the hearings will provide an opportunity to discuss the documents and the related matters in detail. In order to facilitate this process **could I please ask the Council, as a matter of urgency, to produce a summary list of all new technical/evidence documents that have been published since the start of July 2020, and to signpost their website location and whether consultation has taken place**. This should be sent to all Stage 2 hearing participants and placed on the examination website as soon as possible. The list should also highlight any outstanding new technical/evidence documents which are due to be published.

Participants for the Stage 2 hearings are also requested to familiarise themselves with the new technical/evidence documents and the Council's Hearing Statements on particular topics, prior to attending the hearing sessions. Please see the Council's Local Plan examination website for details. If you require any assistance please contact the Programme Officer, Miny Schofield, at miny.schofield@calderdale.go.uk or tel. 07799 724690.

Once the Stage 2 hearing sessions have taken place I will review the situation and consider whether there is a need to allow any additional time for further written comments to be submitted on the technical evidence. It is important to ensure that the examination process is open and fair and allows sufficient time for people to engage properly. Subsequently, if there is a need to hold any further hearing sessions I will inform the Council and interested parties as soon as possible. The examination process remains open until I write my final report to the Council.

Katie Child

INSPECTOR

9th September 2020