

Denise Ogden
Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department
Civic Centre
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Tel: 01429 284084
www.hartlepool.gov.uk

Our Ref: Response to Inspector
Your Ref:



Contact Officer/Email: Matthew King / matthew.king@hartlepool.gov.uk

25th May 2017

Mrs Carole Crooks
Independent Programme Officer Solutions
9 Chestnut Walk
Silcoates Park
Wakefield
West Yorkshire
WF2 0TX

FAO – Mr David Spencer, Inspector.

Dear Mr Spencer,

Response to Inspectors letter of the 12th May on the Hartlepool Local Plan

Thank you for the letter of the 12th May and for agreeing to the proposed timeframe set out in our response to your initial observations. To confirm we have booked the Hartlepool College of Further Education for a period of three weeks from Monday the 25th September with a view to the Hearing sessions beginning on Tuesday 26th September. The booking includes the main conference hall, a room for yourself, a room for the Programme Officer and the examination library and a room for Council officers. Other attendees will be able to use the cafe and the canteen prior to the Hearing sessions and on a lunch time if they require. I will organise catering for yourself and the Programme Officer for the duration of the Hearing sessions; please let me know whether you have any specific dietary requirements.

As mentioned in previous email correspondence the main conference hall is unavailable on Thursday 28th September as this has unfortunately been double booked. It is appreciated that you have indicated that you are happy to do unaccompanied site visits on this day.

The dates which you have set out in your letter for the additional work have been noted and the Council will ensure that the work is submitted to the examination by those dates and earlier where possible. The first of those pieces of work, the Addendum to the Duty to Cooperate, was submitted to the examination on the 12th May and is now available on the website.

Thank you for the clarification providing regarding the additional pieces of work. Within this letter, I have set out a response in the order the issues are dealt with within your letter. Where additional work is required, which was not previously given a timescale; I have suggested a date by when this work will be available to the Examination.

1. Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.1 As requested the email which was sent to you which had the Scoping Report attached has been added to the examination document list.
- 1.2 We will produce an Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal covering the 4 points highlighted within your response, including appraisal of any distinct options which have emerged during the publication stage representations.

2. Housing and Employment Growth Topic Paper

- 2.1 Thank you for the guidance on the scope of the work for the Housing and Employment Growth Topic Paper. We have met with the statistician from the Combined Authority and with Arc4 to discuss the works. The statistician has confirmed that the background information that informed the SHMA Addendum can be made available if necessary; however it may be most useful if it is included as an appendix to the topic paper to help justify the scenarios considered and any new scenarios which may be tested as part of the topic paper.
- 2.2 The topic paper will be produced by the 28th July as requested.

3. Update on 5 year Housing Land Supply position

- 3.1 The Council will produce a separate document on the 5 year supply which will take account of the 2016/7 data and incorporating the points you have raised as part of the introduction to the document.

4. Equality Impact Assessment

- 4.1 We note your comments in relation to the Equality Impact Assessment and will ensure the document we produce satisfies the public sector equality duty.

5. Update on demolitions and replacements

- 5.1 Within your response you mention paragraph 3.44 of the SHLAA document – you are correct in your assumptions that this reference was to the SHMA which was emerging at the time. I believe it was also in reference to the Core Document HLP02/3 (Saved Policies 2006 Local Plan – Planning Policy Framework Justification – November 2015) which included work on the 5 year supply.
- 5.2 Your thoughts about the elements of work which the examination will need to scrutinise to help consider the robustness of the figures are noted and the Council will bring together this information.

6. Plan Viability

- 6.1 We note your areas of concern regarding plan wide viability. In order to address these concerns we propose to produce a new viability paper which will refresh the previous viability testing undertaken, and included as an appendix in the Planning Obligations SPD 2015, to include updated costs and values where appropriate and

also to illustrate the impact on viability of the highway mitigation / improvements proposed within the plan including the Elwick bypass and grade separated junction and also the improvements needed at Wynyard. This will be assessed against the housing sites within the plan in the vicinity of those highway works. As part of these works we will seek input from the developers of those sites to try and provide the examination comfort that these sites are viable as currently proposed within the plan. **We will produce this additional viability work by the 18th August** in line with the deadlines for some of the other additional work.

7. Draft Hearing Timetable

- 7.1 The draft hearing timetable has now been published on the website which should help parties who have been asked to appear to diarise their attendance.

8. Main and Additional Modifications Documents

- 8.1 1st versions of these documents will be produced by the 2nd June. Document HLP01/6 (Local Plan Minor Amendments to Publication Proposals Map) includes changes to the proposals map which have been identified as necessary – for clarity and to sit alongside this document we will produce a table in word which logs these changes and gives reasons for them. This in effect will be a third document which logs modifications to the plan.

9. Monitoring Framework

- 9.1 Your comments in relation to the Monitoring Framework being included as an appendix to the plan and logged as a main modification are noted and will be included in the main modifications table.

Thank you for your clarification on the points we raised in our previous letter. As we produce these pieces of work we will send them to you through the Programme Officer and will liaise with the Programme Officer to ensure they are included on the examination website.

I trust the proposals of additional work are satisfactory and this additional evidence will help in assessing the Local Plan.

Yours sincerely



Matthew King | Planning Policy Team Leader
Planning Services
Level 1
Civic Centre
Victoria Road
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY