



Place Directorate
Economic Regeneration Business Unit
Economic Regeneration Service
Head of Service : David Shepherd

Mrs S Housden
Inspector

My Ref:
Your Ref:
Date: 15th February 2017
Enquiries to: Paula Tweed
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Dear Mrs Housden,

Barnsley Local Plan – Inspector’s Initial Questions

Thank you for your letter dated 14th February 2017. Our initial response to your questions is set out below.

Examination Arrangements

I can confirm that the suggested timescale for stage 1 of the hearings, May 2017, is acceptable.

Our preference would be for hearings to take place in two stages rather than three if possible. If this is acceptable, I would suggest that spatial strategy and distribution; Green Belt and Safeguarded Land and Transport could be dealt with as part of stage 1, with the remainder of issues dealt with in stage 2.

For your information we will be taking a report to members to update the Local Development Scheme (SD19) and to provide an update on the process and anticipated timescales. Therefore, whilst we agree that it makes sense to wait until the completion of the first set of hearings before confirming dates thereafter, it would be really helpful to have indicative timescales based on an assumption that fundamental issues relating to soundness and legal compliance are not identified during the first set of hearings.

Housing White Paper

We are currently considering the implications of the white paper for the Local Plan, and will provide a full response on this point to you by the 28th February.

Objectively assessed need for housing (OAN)

We are considering your comments on how we have arrived at our OAN figure. We will provide a full response by the 28th February.



Additional modifications

I note your points on the modifications we have proposed to date. Your proposed approach is acceptable in terms of those that you feel fall outside the scope of 'additional' changes being considered together with modifications that emerge through the examination process.

I note your comment about the formal request we must make under Section 20(7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). We will do this in due course.

I also note the proposed formatting changes to the modifications document which you have raised with the Programme Officer. We will amend the document accordingly in due course.

Late representations

With respect to accepting the late representations, I can confirm that this is acceptable. We will process these prior to producing the addendum to the statement of consultation (SD8) that we have agreed, as this will be a further change to the overall numbers.

As set out above we will provide a full response on outstanding questions by 28th February. Your views on our comments regarding the examination arrangements would be helpful at your earliest convenience. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Paula Tweed
Planning Policy Group Leader