

Barnsley Local Plan Examination

Inspector - Mrs S Housden BA (Hons) BPI MRTPI
Programme Officer – Mr Richard Gilbert 07713326295
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Ms P Tweed
Planning Policy Group Leader
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24 April 2017

Dear Ms Tweed,

Barnsley Local Plan Examination

In view of the announcement of a general election on 8 June 2017, I have given further consideration to the timing of the Examination hearing sessions in relation to the pre-election period which commenced on 22 April.

The Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) for Stage 1 of the Examination have already been issued and I consider that the hearings can progress as planned, starting on 16 May 2017. You will be aware from my Briefing Note that if I conclude that the plan is likely to be capable of being found legally compliant and sound in relation to the matters covered, the Examination will proceed to Stage 2.

Given the range and significance of the matters to be covered, it would not be appropriate to publish the Stage 2 MIQs on 5 June during the pre-election period as planned. Publishing them during the week after the general election will not give sufficient time for representors to respond and for those responses to be considered by all parties attending the hearing sessions if they commence on 11 July 2017.

I intend to indicate whether or not the Examination will proceed to Stage 2 in the week commencing 12 June 2017. In the event that the Examination proceeds to Stage 2, the MIQs would be published at the same time. In order to give sufficient time for participants to respond, it would be necessary to delay the start of the hearing sessions until 18 July 2017. To avoid the main school holiday period when it is likely to be inconvenient for participants to attend, I suggest that the sessions could run for 2 weeks, finishing on 28 July 2017. For availability reasons, early October would be the first opportunity I would have for the remaining hearing sessions. I have provisionally identified the weeks commencing 2 and 9 October for this.

I am aware that this will have implications for the Council including the availability of the Programme Officer and the revised Local Development Scheme due to be considered on 25 May 2017, however these circumstances are unforeseen. I would be pleased to receive the Council's response at your earliest convenience. Please let me know via Mr Gilbert if you have any queries in the meantime.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Housden

INSPECTOR