

## **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  
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Dear Ms Tweed,

### **Barnsley Local Plan Examination – Stage 3**

I refer to my letter of 15 August 2017 outlining my interim findings and the Council's response of 17 August 2017. In the run up to the Stage 3 hearings I am writing to raise with you the recent consultation proposals published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) 'Planning for the right homes in the right places' and to identify any outstanding follow up items from Stage 2.

The Council has indicated its willingness to undertake a programme of work to address some of the substantive issues raised in my interim findings. However, the scope and timing of that work have yet to be agreed. The Stage 3 hearings are proceeding to examine the soundness of the sites proposed to meet the current housing requirement figure in the Plan and a number of the development management policies. It would be helpful if Council could provide an update of its current position in relation to the work programme at the start of the Stage 3 hearing sessions in order to set the context for the discussion on individual sites. I will organise the first day's proceedings to include this.

The latest assessment in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Addendum (EB45) indicates that the Objective Assessment of Housing Need (OAHN) lies within a range of 967 – 1389 dwellings per year. My interim findings indicate that based on the jobs target in the plan, the OAHN is a minimum of 1389 dwellings. The DCLG consultation includes a proposed approach to calculating housing need for plan making and the table accompanying the document includes an indicative assessment of housing need for Barnsley based on the proposed formula of 898 dwellings per year, lower than the current assessment. The consultation indicates that it is proposed to amend planning guidance so that where a plan is based on an assessment of need in excess of the standard

method, the assumption will be that the approach is sound unless there are compelling reasons to indicate otherwise.

The proposals are, however, at consultation stage and the proposed transitional arrangements indicate that where a plan is at Examination stage it should progress using the current approach. Accordingly, I intend to progress the Examination in accordance with the guidance as currently set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance and to seek a way forward to deal with the issues raised in my interim findings. If the Council has any observations on this approach or wishes to highlight any implications arising from the consultation document on the standard methodology or any of the other proposals within it, please let me know via the Programme Officer.

I have received your response to all of the follow up items identified in my note of 24 July 2017. However, there are a handful of modifications which were discussed and agreed at the Stage 2 hearing sessions which can be added to document SD30 and I will forward these separately via the Programme Officer. It will also be necessary to address whether these should be treated as main or additional modifications.

Please let me know via the Programme Officer if you have any questions before the start of the Stage 3 hearing sessions.

Yours sincerely

*Sarah Housden*

INSPECTOR