

Barnsley Local Plan Examination

Inspector - Mrs S Housden BA (Hons) BPI MRTPI
Programme Officer – Mr Richard Gilbert 07713326295
po@barnsley.gov.uk

Ms P Tweed
Planning Policy Group Leader
Place Directorate
Economic Regeneration Service
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
PO Box 634
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S70 9GG

20 December 2017

Dear Ms Tweed,

Barnsley Local Plan Examination – Follow Up to Stage 3 Hearing Sessions

I am writing to confirm the follow up items identified for further action during the resumed session for Site MU1 on 12 December 2017 and to confirm the matters discussed at the session with the Council on 13 December.

1. Employment and Housing Site Allocations

I have no further observations or issues to raise on the soundness of the employment and housing site allocations at this stage other than the points already identified in the Stage 3 Follow Up items, those listed below and attached to this letter. The revised jobs target and its implications for the amount of employment land allocated will be a key issue for the soundness of the plan at Stage 4 of the Examination.

Site RSV1

My interim findings indicated that in the absence of any further evidence to demonstrate that the exceptional circumstances exist to delete Site RSV1 from the Green Belt, the identification of the site as a reserve site for employment is not soundly based. The Main Modifications (MM) 23 and 24 that have been proposed by the Council do not address my concerns in this regard. However, as the Council's revised jobs target and the employment land requirement will be matters for Stage 4 of the Examination, I will reach my final conclusion on the soundness of Site RSV1 after those hearing sessions.

Site MU1

1. The Council is to check whether the position with regard to capacity at Barnsley Hospital has changed since the information provided in BMBC012.
2. The Council is to provide a chronology of the events leading up to the submission of the bid to the Sheffield City Region Infrastructure Fund for funding towards the Claycliffe road link, including the relevant timescales relating to the identification of Site MU1 for development in earlier policy documents.
3. Reference to protecting the routes of existing Public Rights of Way and incorporating them within new development layouts is to be included within the text for masterplan frameworks proposed in MM262 (SD30).
4. Barnsley West Consortium is to supply details of the agricultural land quality across Site MU1 by 5 January 2018.
5. Reference to the need to address ground contamination and land stability issues will be re-instated as a bullet point within the Site MU1 policy and MM50 in SD30 will be amended accordingly.

Site H73

In view of the changes to the 'area not for development' as set out in Proposed Map Change 31 I intend to do a further site visit, with the Council and representor if necessary. I will make the necessary arrangements with the Programme Officer.

2. Future Progress of Examination

It was agreed at the hearing session on 13 December 2017 that the Council would produce a Background Paper drawing together the various work streams that have been initiated in response to my Interim Findings. The paper should show how the issues identified in the Interim Findings have been addressed and outline the evidence base that underpins the approach taken. This should also include an indication of where further Main Modifications will be necessary for soundness eg the housing requirement figure in Policy H1. The broad timescale agreed for the production of the Background Paper is mid-January 2018.

The Matters, Issues and Questions for Stage 4 of the Examination will be based on the contents of the Background Paper and the various evidence base documents.

Everyone who has been consulted on the plan at previous stages should be notified of the availability of the Background Paper, accompanying evidence base and the opportunity to respond through the MIQs. The timescale for responding will be 6 weeks. Having regard to the adopted

Statement of Community Involvement (SD13 & SD14), could the Council please consider whether any additional measures should be undertaken to notify people of this process to comply with the SCI and ensure clear and accessible arrangements. As discussed at the hearing session, any new sites for housing or employment development should be publicised having regard to previous consultation arrangements, including the use of site notices.

The Stage 4 hearings will cover the matters in the Background Paper, the evidence base and responses to the MIQs together with the remaining topic areas that have not been covered including the housing requirement figure and five year land supply. Consultation on Main Modifications will take place after the Stage 4 hearing sessions.

3. Other Follow Up Items

The other matters requiring follow up are identified in the list attached to this letter. This includes the changes to Main Modifications Document SD30 Version 1.3 discussed at the hearing session on 13 December 2017.

For clarification, I note the Proposed Map Change 34 relating to Site AC44 Oughtibridge Paper Mill provided in response to the Stage 3 Follow Up items and I have no further observations on this or any of the other Green Belt minor changes as set out in BMBC024.

Please let me know via the Programme Officer if there are any queries on the above points.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Housden

INSPECTOR