

KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK LOCAL PLAN REVIEW EXAMINATION

Additional evidence base consultations – pre-consultation engagement – Outstanding issues from Day 7 (27 March 2024)

During the discussion on 27 March 2024 regarding AQ3-AQ8 [F47], the Inspectors invited the Borough Council to provide details of any pre-consultation engagement with Parish Councils (summer 2023).

Following publication of the Inspectors' letter and note on 30 January 2023 [G19/ G20], the Borough Council agreed the following changes to the Local Plan:

- 1) *That reference to the term 'A10/Main Rail Line Strategic Growth Corridor' is deleted from the Plan.*
- 2) *That the Settlement Hierarchy reverts to that of the Core Strategy (as amended by the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Document), subject to a check that it still remains up to date.*
- 3) *That a criterion-based policy is introduced into the Plan for the assessment of proposals for development in rural settlements. The Criterion-based policy to be agreed in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Local Plan Task Group.*
- 4) *That a housing requirement is calculated for designated neighbourhood areas...*[Full Council, 30 March 2023: [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Council, 30/03/2023 16:45 \(west-norfolk.gov.uk\)](#)]

The Borough Council's decision on 30 March 2023 represented a public statement of intent regarding the proposed changes to the settlement hierarchy. This decision was followed by the process of preparing an updated evidence base.

Prior to the Council's 30 March 2023 decision to fully review the settlement hierarchy, the Local Plan Task Group (28 February 2023: [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Local Plan Task Group, 30/08/2023 09:30 \(west-norfolk.gov.uk\)](#)) discussed how consultation with Parish Councils was undertaken/ would be undertaken (p6). The Planning Policy Manager explained that all parishes would be written to informing them of the six week consultation exercise and the evidence the Inspector had requested would be subject to public consultation, the responses collated and submitted to the Inspector for consideration. This process was completed following the consultation, with the publication of representations, with responses, on the relevant web page: [Responses to Consultation on Further Evidence | Responses to Consultation on Further Evidence | Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk \(west-norfolk.gov.uk\)](#).

Issues raised during preparation of evidence base documents F47-F53 (summer 2023)

Officers prepared the series of additional evidence base documents [F47-F53] during summer 2023. The following matters/ issues were considered during the process:

- Justification for 'reinstating' the 17 Smaller Villages and Hamlets (Core Strategy Policy CS02) proposed for removal from the settlement hierarchy in the submission Plan;
- Section 4.1 supporting text; e.g. moving Custom/ Self Build Housing text into section 7 (Social and community);
- Emerging draft external summary documents; e.g. Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment and Surface Water and Drainage Strategy WSP recommendations (WSP recommendations), Ecology and Biodiversity report, noise assessment etc;
- Possible methodologies for Neighbourhood Area housing requirements;
- Site visit information re services and facilities to be gathered (June 2023);
- Potential changes to the status of individual rural settlements in the hierarchy arising from the June 2023 site visits;

Consultation documents were finalised during July/ August 2023 and published for 6-weeks consultation during September/ October 2023. Parish Councils were consulted accordingly.

Overview

The preparation of additional evidence base documents during late spring/ summer 2023 was considered to be a fact gathering process. The evidence (be it fact gathering or technical expertise) was prepared during the summer and followed by additional recommendations for Main Modifications to the Local Plan. The evidence documents themselves and the consequent outcomes (i.e. recommended Main Modifications) were then subject to consultation (6-weeks) during September/ October 2023. This was an extensive consultation, with statutory consultees (including Parish Councils), non-statutory consultees and any interested parties.