

From: Roberts, Alexander
Sent: 26 March 2015 10:20
To: External Email for Programme Officer
Subject: RE: Tamworth - Local Plan examination

Hi Amanda,

Please can you pass this e-mail note onto the Inspector, Mr Fox. The Council does not seek a response before or at the Pre-Hearing Meeting on Friday 27 March 2015. However, a response would be much appreciated by Thursday 2 April 2015 given the potential requirement for further work and additional consultation adverted to in the final paragraph below.

The Council has carefully considered the Inspector's further note, e-mailed on 4 March 2015, which indicated (without prejudice) some matters that will need to be explored during the Local Plan examination, and notably the precise wording of Questions 1 and 2 in respect of Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment, against the relevant legal framework.

The Council's position remains that it has complied with the full legal requirements of the SEA Directive and the SEA Regulations, and the requirements for Sustainability Appraisal under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as interpreted in the relevant High Court authorities. The Council has explained its position within the earlier response to the first issue raised on 12 February 2015.

Without prejudice to that basic position, the Council has several further requests for clarification arising from the most recent note:

Q1) The Inspector has accepted that the Council cannot assess specific sites outside Tamworth. Assessment of these sites has been undertaken in the SA work for the respective neighbouring local authority's Local Plans. The Council is unclear, in the first instance, about what precisely is meant by "an SA Option which assessed the impact of the full OAHN for Tamworth being delivered". The Council would be grateful for clarification of this reference.

Q2) The Inspector then refers to "maximising new housing (and other uses, such as employment) on sites within Tamworth". The Council's response on 23 February 2015 directly referred to Section 10.2.1 of the SA Report. A full appraisal of Housing Sites (both those allocated and those rejected) is contained within Annex C. The Council seeks clarification on what is being required under this proposed exercise.

Q3) Finally, the Inspector refers to examining "the impact on Tamworth of the remaining quantum of housing and employment land which would need to be delivered elsewhere". The Council has made clear in the Plan (Chapter 3) and the SA Report (following from earlier documentation) that this quantum will need to be delivered in adjacent LPAs. Could the Inspector explain what is precisely meant by this reference?

If the Inspector is of the view that a further Addendum needs to be prepared then the Council would need to carry out a further 6 week public consultation under Regulation 13 of the 2004 SEA Regulations and ensure that there was sufficient time to allow the Council to take any representations into account and prepare a summary of representations received in time for the 5 June 2015 hearing statement deadline.

Thanks,

Alex

Alex Roberts
Development Plan Manager