

Wyre Forest District Council
Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document
And
Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan

Inspectors Questions to the Council

I will be circulating a separate Matters, Issues and Questions paper (for comment) and a draft Hearings Programme shortly. In the meantime, there are a number of questions and queries upon which I would welcome your views. An early response is requested.

Legislative requirements

Please answer separately for each of the plans.

1. Has the Plan been prepared in accordance with the Local Development Scheme?
2. Has it been prepared in compliance with the Statement of Community Involvement?
3. Has it had regard to any Sustainable Community Strategy for the area?
4. Has it been subjected to Sustainability Appraisal?
5. Have all the procedural requirements for publicity been met?

General

6. Has the Council had a LDF Front-Loading advisory visit by a planning inspector and if so, can a copy of the notes of the meeting be provided?
7. Has the Council considered whether the plans conform generally to the Waste Core Strategy?
8. I refer to the representations made by Western Power Distribution. Has the Council considered the impact of electricity circuits on or in the vicinity of allocated sites on the deliverability and viability of the allocated sites?
9. Please could I have a plan identifying all those sites which have not been allocated in the submitted plans but are referred to in representations made on the published plan?
10. Please clarify what consideration, if any, has already been given to each of the sites referred to above in the site allocation process.

Gypsies & travellers and travelling showpeople

11. Are the policies relevant to the provision of sites for gypsies and travellers and travelling showpeople consistent with the Planning Policy for Traveller sites?
12. Has the Council had any discussions with neighbouring authorities in relation to the provision of sites to accommodate gypsies and travellers and / or travelling showpeople?
13. Is the evidence of need for additional pitches sufficiently robust?

14. Is the Council intending to update the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment? If so, when?
15. What assessment has the Council made of the deliverability of sites to meet the identified need within the constraints of the selected criteria contained in Policy SAL.DPL10?

Clarification

16. The Council has suggested a number of amendments to the plans as set out in EB001 and EB002 'Schedule of Proposed Minor Amendments'. Minor changes are ones that do not, when taken with any main modifications, materially affect the policies set out in the Plan. In practice they should be of the nature of corrections and clarifications which do not change the meaning or scope of a policy and would not need to be the subject of consultation or revised Sustainability Assessment (SA). The legislation quite clearly envisages that this is a matter solely for the local planning authority, for which they will be accountable on adoption.
17. I recognise that many seek to address concerns that have been raised by representors. Nevertheless, these changes have not been subject to public consultation and, as such, representors and other parties have been unable to comment upon them. Accordingly, and without reference to the merits of the changes themselves, the starting point for the Examination will be the Plans that were the subject of public consultation last year (i.e. the July 2012 version).

If you have any queries regarding the above then I can be contacted via the Programme Officer. A copy of this note and the Council's response should be placed on the examination website.

Claire Sherratt
Inspector
30 November 2012