

Ms Claire Sherratt Dip URP MRTPI
Examining Inspector

8 October 2014
Our ref: IIQ1/AM
Your ref:

Dear Madam,

**Shropshire Site Allocations & Management of Development Plan Examination
Inspector's Initial Questions**

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify certain issues and to respond to your initial questions.

Dealing first with issues covered under the first three headings:

Hearing Sessions:

I can confirm that the hearing dates are advertised on the Council's website and that interested parties will be informed by email or letter at least 6 weeks in advance of the start of the hearing to meet the requirements of regulations 24 and 35 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Representations:

The Council accepts that all representations received during the pre-submission period have been 'duly made', however representations received after the deadline cannot be considered 'duly made'. The Council is concerned that, were we to accept late representations, then a precedent would be established for equivalent consideration to be given to other late representations, leading to a heightened risk of judicial review were the Plan to be found sound.

Database:

The database of submission stage representations is available to the Programme Officer and schedule/schedules can be prepared as required.

Turning now to the Initial Questions to the Council:

Q1. The Council refers to the submission of Statements of Common Ground between Shropshire Council and various other parties. Could the Council please confirm when any statements are likely to be completed?

Statements of Common Ground have been agreed with Welsh Water and Severn Trent Water (submitted as EV36) and copies are attached. The Council has drafted similar statements as a means of seeking agreement with Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage. Formal agreement will be sought on these statements with a view to submitting final copies by the end of September for Natural England and the end of October for the Environment Agency and English Heritage.

Q2. Is any other substantial work / reports likely to be undertaken for the examination, and if so, what is the timetable for such work?

The Council would like to draw the Inspector's attention to the planned submission of further updated housing delivery information. This is to provide the most recent possible position and will update in particular the Housing Delivery Technical Background Paper, Policy MD1 table and be fed into Years 1-5/5 year supply calculation. The Council anticipates having this further information available by Friday 24th October.

A Draft Local Development Scheme covering the period 2015-2018 is in preparation focussing on the potential need to begin a review of elements of Shropshire's Local Plan documents and associated evidence base in the near future. The Draft LDS will be available following a Portfolio Holders decision meeting on 20th October. The LDS will be finalised following receipt of the Inspector's Report and consideration of the outcomes of the SAMDev examination.

See also earlier comments regarding Statements of Common Ground.

All Submission and Evidence-base documents can be accessed on the Councils website via the following link:

<http://shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/samdev-examination/submission-documents/>

Q3. Please give an indication of the Council's position on main modifications?

The Council would welcome main modifications if required to make the Plan sound and/or legally compliant. Separate formal notification as required under s20(7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) will be made shortly. The Council accepts that all proposed main modifications will need to be subject to a 6 week consultation at an appropriate stage in the wider examination timeframe.

Q4. I note that the Council have provided a Schedule of Proposed Minor Modifications (CD29) many of which are proposed in response to representations made at pre-submission stage as explained in the Summary of Key Issues from Pre-Submission Representations and Response (CD27). In light of the above description of 'additional

modifications', could the Council please confirm the status of these amendments and whether any are necessary to make the Local Plan sound?

The Council initially considered the proposed changes identified in CD29: Schedule of Proposed Minor Modifications act to improve the SAMDev Plan, but are not necessary in making the SAMDev Plan 'sound'. However, having reassessed the level and scope of each proposed change, the Council now considers a number of proposed changes potentially go beyond the definition of minor 'additional modifications' outlined in your recent letter, i.e. typographical errors, minor editing and factual or name changes. These will be set out in a schedule accompanying the formal request for main modifications referred to under Q3. above. Therefore if considered necessary the Council would welcome the opportunity to consider these as 'main modifications' and to conduct appropriate consultation and Sustainability Appraisal on them.

I trust these answers are helpful, if any further clarification is required please contact the Programme Officer

Yours faithfully,



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