

## **Examination of the Lancaster District Strategic Policies & Land Allocations Development Plan Document and Development Management Development Plan Document Submission Drafts**

### **Response from Lancaster City Council of 11<sup>rd</sup> December 2018, to Inspector's Pre-Hearing Note (2) to the Council of 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

The Council acknowledges that it is not the role of the Examination to deal with changes to the Plan that would 'improve soundness'. The Development Plan Documents (DPDs) have indeed been submitted on the basis that the Council considered them to be sound. The Council acknowledges that the basis for this is set out in paragraph 182 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 (as the Plan is being examined under transitional arrangements).

The Council also fully understands that it is not the Inspector's role to assess the Plan to see if its soundness could be improved.

The Council acknowledges that if the Inspector considers it necessary, and if asked to do so by the Council, he will recommend any Main Modifications that may be capable of overcoming any impediment to soundness.

Whilst the Council acknowledges that it is not the role of the Examination to deal with changes to the Plan that would 'improve soundness' it had been anticipated that the Inspector may choose to address unresolved issues through round table discussion or consideration of the original written representations. The Council had sought to facilitate the process of addressing unresolved issues through scoping possible resolutions by means of an informal consultation in October 2018 such that all parties had an opportunity to consider ways in which such issues might be addressed in advance of the hearing sessions.

As outlined in the Council's previous response of 23<sup>rd</sup> November, a number of evidence base documents which have interdependencies are approaching completion. The Council would be content to bring forward the date for the consultation on the additional evidence in line with what would be expected at Regulation 19 stage to ensure fairness. All such material will be made available on the Council's website on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The six-week period for Consultation would therefore run from Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Responses would be collated and sent to the Inspector by Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Should the Inspector await his receipt of consultation responses from this six week consultation before issuing his Matters and Issues, and setting hearing dates, then the Council anticipates that the Programme Officer would send initial letters to participants advising of the programme of hearings and the Matters and Issues, in the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

With a requirement for six weeks' notice of hearings this would mean a commencement of hearing sessions on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

The Council confirms that it anticipates only that the additional work undertaken supports its position that it believes that the DPDs as submitted are sound.

The Council has produced a schedule of suggested minor modifications, this will be forwarded and made available on the website.

The Council confirms its commitment to supporting the advancement of the Examination in a timely and efficient manner.

Maurice Brophy MSc BSc(Hons) DipTP MRTPI CIHM  
Planning and Housing Policy Manager  
Lancaster City Council