

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE WESTON AND BASFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

EXAMINER: Andrew Mead BSc (Hons) MRTPI MIQ

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Examination Ref: 01/AM/WBNP

Via email: [Tom.Evans@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:Tom.Evans@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

cc. [jcmaltkiln@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jcmaltkiln@yahoo.co.uk)

7 July 2017

Dear Tom

## WESTON AND BASFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION

Following the submission of the Weston and Basford Neighbourhood Plan for examination, I would like to clarify several initial procedural matters.

### 1. Examination Documentation

I can confirm that I am satisfied that I have received a complete submission of the draft Plan and accompanying documentation, including the Basic Conditions Statement, the Consultation Statement and the Regulation 16 representations, to enable me to undertake the examination.

Subject to my detailed assessment of the draft plan, I have not at this initial stage identified any very significant and obvious flaws in the plan that might lead me to advise that the examination should not proceed.

### 2. Site Visit

I intend to undertake a site visit to the neighbourhood plan area during the week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017. This will assist in my assessment of the draft Plan, including the issues identified in the representations.

The site visit will be undertaken unaccompanied. It is very important that I am not approached to discuss any aspects of the Plan or the neighbourhood area, as this may be perceived to prejudice my independence and risk compromising the fairness of the examination process.

### 3. Written Representations

At this stage, I consider the examination can be conducted solely by the written representations procedure, without the need for a hearing. However, I will reserve the option to convene a hearing should a matter(s) come to light where I consider that a hearing is necessary to ensure the adequate examination of an issue, or to ensure that a person has a fair chance to put a case.

#### 4. Further Clarification

I will have a number of questions seeking clarification on various matters, which I wish to put to the qualifying body and Cheshire East Council. I will set the questions out in a separate letter.

#### 5. Duration of the Examination

As I will be posing a number of questions, I am conscious that I must provide both Cheshire East Council and the qualifying body with sufficient opportunity to reply. Consequentially, the duration of the examination will be extended. Please be assured that I will aim to mitigate any delay as far as is practicable. The IPE office team will seek to keep you updated on the anticipated delivery date of the draft report.

If you or the qualifying body have any process questions related to the conduct of the examination, which you would like me to address, please do not hesitate to contact the office team in the first instance.

In the interests of transparency, may I prevail upon you to ensure a copy of this letter is placed on both the local authority and qualifying body's websites.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Your sincerely

*Andrew Mead*

Examiner