

Forest Heath District Council

Examination of the Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP)

Guidance note, agenda and timetable for further hearing session following consultation on the modifications put forward by the Council

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Background information

The Examination Guidance Note (available on the examination webpage or from the Programme Officer), sets out information about the examination, the process, the Inspector's role and that of the Programme Officer.

Position and scope of hearing session

I am Christa Masters, a Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to independently examine the soundness of Forest Heath District Council's Site Allocations Local Plan ('the SALP'). I have prepared this guidance note to explain the procedural and administrative matters relating to the additional hearing session which has been scheduled to take place on 27 June 2018.

Following the hearing sessions which ended in October last year, a number of concerns were expressed to the Council regarding the spatial distribution of housing as proposed by the SIR. The Council have responded to these concerns and prepared main modifications accordingly. These changes are subject to a separate hearing session. As a result of these changes, there are corresponding modifications proposed to the SALP to address the site allocations as proposed. In general, it is expected that any issues raised in relation to the main modifications will be addressed through the written representations process and further Hearing sessions are only held in exceptional circumstances. However, in relation to Forest Heath, the modifications put forward by the Council are changes to the distribution of housing between the Towns and Key Service Centres. As a consequence, I have decided to hold a hearing to consider and debate these alterations. The hearing will not be to revisit matters which have previously been discussed at the previous hearings, except where the changes now proposed by the Council have a bearing. The hearing will therefore generally be limited to a discussion of the matter set out below:

The matters for the hearing:

The following matters will be the focus of discussion at the hearing:

- Are the proposed modifications justified and appropriate in terms of the likely impacts of the development?
- Is the proposed site at Hatchfield Farm (site SA6(g)) deliverable, having regard to the provision of the necessary infrastructure and services, and any environmental or other constraints?
- Has the additional site been subject to an appropriate Sustainability Appraisal (SA)?
- Is the proposed policy wording for site SA6(b) acceptable?

Attendance at the hearing session

The hearing session will take place on Wednesday 27 June 2018. It will be held in **Council Offices, College Heath Rd, Mildenhall, Bury St Edmunds IP28 7EY**. Only those seeking to change the plan have a right to participate in the hearing sessions. However, the sessions are open for anyone to observe. You should let the Programme Officer know at the earliest opportunity, by the end of 18 June 2018 at the latest, whether you wish to be heard at a hearing session. Please note that representations made in writing and those made verbally at a hearing carry the same weight and I will have equal regard to each.

At the hearing session

The hearing will take the form of a roundtable discussion which I shall lead. It will not involve the formal presentation of cases by participants or cross-examination. There will be a lot to cover and all contributions should be focussed.

The hearing session will run between 09.30 am until about 1.00 pm and from 2.00 pm until around 5.00 pm. Short breaks will be taken mid-morning and mid-afternoon.

Please let the Programme Officer know as soon as possible if you have any specific needs in relation to attendance and participation at the hearing sessions.

Written material

At this stage, I am not inviting any separate statements. Participants should rely on the written representations they make in relation to the main modifications consultation.

All written material is posted on the Examination webpage, so that it is available to all participants and anyone else who wishes to read it. As it is available in this way, written material will not be circulated directly to participants. However, anyone who is unable to access written material on the webpage may request copies from the Programme Officer.

Schedule of hearing sessions

Morning 9.30 am	Afternoon session 2.00pm
Matter 1: Are the proposed modifications justified and appropriate? Matter 2: Is the proposed site at Hatchfield Farm (site SA6(g)) deliverable? Has the proposed additional site been subject to an appropriate SA?	Matter 3: Is the proposed policy wording in connection with site SA6(b) acceptable?

My report

After the hearing session I will write a report setting out my conclusions about the soundness of the SALP, including recommendations on any actions or modifications I consider necessary to make it sound.

The examination will remain open until my report has been submitted to the Council. However, as mentioned above, I will not accept any further representations or evidence after the hearing sessions have ended unless I specifically request it. Late or unsolicited material may be returned.

I trust that you find this Guidance Note helpful. If you have any further questions please contact Mrs Feeney – she will be happy to assist if at all possible.

Christa Masters

Inspector