

Forest Heath District Council – April 2018
Public Consultation on the Forest Heath Local Plan Post-Submission Main Modifications Wednesday 25 April (9am) until Friday 8 June (5pm) 2018

Notes Accompanying Representation Form

1. Introduction

Following a public examination of the SIR and SALP by independent Planning Inspectors during 2017 the Inspectors are inviting comments on the proposed Main Modifications to the SIR and SALP that address issues of legal compliance and soundness, as a consequence of the examination.

2. Representations

Representations must be received no later than 5pm on Friday 8 June 2018

Late representations cannot be taken into consideration by the Inspectors or the Council. The notice of consultation explains where the documents are available for inspection and how representations should be submitted.

The representations received by the Council on the Post-Submission Main Modifications will be passed to the Inspectors, who will consider them when preparing their final report on the Plans.

If you submitted representations to previous consultations undertaken between August 2015 and January 2017, the Inspectors have considered these during the examination and there is no need to make these again.

The preferred method for receiving consultation comments is online via the planning policy consultation system <https://westsuffolk.jdi-consult.net/localplan>

3. Consultation documents

- Notice of consultation (April 2018)
- Schedule of Post-Submission Main Modifications to the Proposed Submission Single Issue Review (SIR) of Core Strategy Policy CS7 (April 2018)
- Sustainability Appraisal for the Post-Submission Main Modifications Single Issue Review (SIR) of Core Strategy Policy CS7 (April 2018)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment Post-Submission Main Modifications Single Issue Review (SIR) of Core Strategy Policy CS7 (April 2018)
- Schedule of Post-Submission Main Modifications to the Proposed Submission Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) (April 2018)
- Sustainability Appraisal for the Post-Submission Proposed Submission Site Allocations Local Plan (April 2018)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment Post-Submission Main Modifications Site Allocations Local Plan (April 2018)
- Local Plan Policies Map updated to reflect modifications (April 2018)

Further documents have also been published and while these are not formally part of the consultation, any comments received will be a matter for the Council and not for consideration by the Inspectors.

- Schedule of Post-Submission Additional Modifications to the Single Issue Review (SIR) of Core Strategy Policy CS7 (April 2018) - these are minor corrections, amendments and factual updates to the plan which are not considered to affect its soundness.
- Proposed Submission Single Issue Review (SIR) of Core Strategy Policy CS7 showing text for adoption taking into account the Post-Submission Main and Additional Modifications (April 2018).
- Schedule of Post-Submission Additional Modifications to the Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) (April 2018) - these are minor corrections, amendments and factual updates to the plan which are not considered to affect its soundness.
- Proposed Submission Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) with tracked changes illustrating the Post-Submission Main and Additional Modifications (April 2018).
- Additional documents produced in connection with the Council's response to the Inspectors' letter, dated 13 November 2017, and to support the proposed modifications. While comments are not invited on these documents directly, they are available for general comments as part of the consultation process.

The information below is adapted from Planning Inspectorate Guidance:

4. Legal Compliance

You should consider the following in relation to the post-submission main modifications before making a representation on legal compliance:

- The plan should be included in the current Local Development Scheme (LDS) and the key stages should have been followed. The LDS is effectively a programme of work prepared by the local planning authority. It sets out the Local Development Documents it proposes to produce and the key stages in the production of any plans the local planning authority proposes to bring forward for independent examination. If the plan is not in the current LDS it should not have been published for representations. The LDS is on the local planning authority's website and available at its main offices.
- The process of community involvement for the plans should be in general accordance with the local planning authority's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The Statement of Community Involvement sets out the local planning authority's strategy for involving the community in the preparation and revision of Local Development Documents (including plans) and the consideration of planning applications.
- The plan should comply with the Town and County Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 ('the Regulations'). On publication, the local planning authority must publish the documents prescribed in the Regulations, and make them available at its principal offices and on its

website. It must also notify the Local Plan bodies (as set out in the Regulations) and any persons who have requested to be notified.

- The local planning authority is required to provide a Sustainability Appraisal Report when it publishes a plan. This should identify the process by which the Sustainability Appraisal has been carried out, and the baseline information used to inform the process and the outcomes of that process. Sustainability Appraisal is a tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect social, environmental, and economic factors.

The plan must have regard to any Sustainable Community Strategy for its area (i.e. county and district). This is usually prepared by the Local Strategic Partnership which is representative of a range of interests in the local planning authority's area.

5. Soundness

Soundness is explained in paragraph 182 of the National Planning Policy Framework. The Inspector has to be satisfied that the plans are positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

- ***Positively prepared***

This means that the plans should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.

- ***Justified***

The plans should be the most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence.

- ***Effective***

The plans should be deliverable over the plan period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities.

- ***Consistent with national policy***

The plans should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework.

6. General advice

If you wish to make a representation seeking a modification (to a post-submission modification) you should make clear in what way the plan or part of the plan is not sound having regard to the legal compliance and the four requirements set out above.

You should try to support your representation by evidence showing why the plan should be modified. It will be helpful if you also say precisely how you think the plan should be modified.

Representations should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested modification, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further submissions after this stage.

Where there are groups who share a common view, it would be very helpful for that group to send a single representation which represents the view, rather than for a large number of individuals to send in separate representations which repeat the same points. **In such cases the group should indicate how many people it is representing and how the representation has been authorised.**

If you require clarification or wish to discuss anything relating to the consultation please contact the Planning Policy Team on 01284 757368 or email planning.policy@westsuffolk.gov.uk