

Examination of North Lincolnshire Local Plan 2020-2038

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Mr Durham
Place Planning Team
North Lincolnshire Council
Church Square House
30-40 High Street
Scunthorpe
DN15 6NL

10 October 2023

Dear Mr Durham

North Lincolnshire Local Plan – Progress and Timescales

1. We wrote to you on 8 September 2023 and have not received a response. Due to the continued failure to meet self-imposed deadlines for the provision of information, the lack of communication to explain the delays, and the outstanding matters that remain unanswered, we are concerned about the progress of the Examination.
2. The Plan was submitted on 11 November 2022 and our Initial Questions were issued on 15 December 2022. Further to these and your responses of 20 January 2023 (EXAM1A) and 12 May 2023 (EXAM1B), we wrote to you on 18 May 2023 (EXAM4) regarding timelines for the remaining responses. You replied on 26 May 2023 (EXAM4A) setting out timescales for the receipt of the information requested.
3. Whilst some responses have been received and are published on the website (Including the recently published Tables of Representations and Responses,

and an initial draft Schedule of Main Modifications to support the Council's response to our Initial Questions) others remain outstanding, and the deadlines indicated for reply have passed.

4. Notably Minerals and Waste issues remain outstanding. Initial Questions for these were published on 3 March 2023 (EXAM3). No response to these have been provided or updated timescales indicated. Additionally a response from the Council in relation to the Gypsy and Traveller has not been published. These are important strategic matters and the Examination cannot reasonably move forward until these outstanding matters have been responded to.
5. In line with James Brokenshire's letter of 18 June 2019, we are conscious of the need to progress examinations in a pragmatic way and have sought to establish a good working relationship and open channels of communication with the Council. However, despite these best efforts and the time that has passed since the Plan was submitted, we remain unable to effectively progress and programme the Examination.
6. Section 20(2) of the Act indicates that local planning authorities should not submit a plan unless they think it is ready for independent examination. Having considered the Regulation 19 consultation responses, the local planning authority should only submit a plan if they consider it to be sound and there will not be long delays during the examination because significant changes or further evidence work are required.
7. We now need definite deadlines for the receipt of the outstanding matters outlined above, and to understand the nature, scope and timescales for the work that may be required. Depending on the response we receive to these matters, it may be appropriate for the Council to take the opportunity to pause the examination until it is in a position to undertake the required work and establish realistic timescales.

8. Please can you confirm your intentions with regard to the progress of the Examination and let us know how you would like to proceed.
9. We look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible, but at the latest by the end of play on **Wednesday 25 October 2023**. If a full response is not possible by then, we would appreciate being contacted and advised of an alternative date by which you will be able to reply. It is important that these deadlines are robust and adhered to.
10. If you have any queries, we can be contacted via the Programme Office. A copy of this letter and the Council's response should be placed on the examination website as soon as possible.

Elaine Worthington, Louise Crosby and Rachael Bust

Examining Inspectors