

Exam 8

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

7 November 2023

Dear Mr Durham

North Lincolnshire Local Plan – Exploratory Meeting

1. Thank you for your letter dated 20 October 2023 and for confirming when you are likely to be able to respond in full to our letter of 10 October 2023.
2. Given the ongoing delays with the examination, and in light of the Council's response to the gypsy and traveller and minerals and waste issues, we are proposing to hold an exploratory meeting with the Council on 23 January 2024. This will be a public meeting, but only the Council will be permitted to speak. Representors will be able to take part in future hearing sessions.
3. It appears that the Council has identified a gypsy and traveller site for allocation in the submission plan. In our initial questions of December 2022 we expressed concerns about the lack of any sites to meet the 17 pitch requirement and raised a series of questions relating to gypsy and traveller accommodation.

4. The Council has not answered our questions, but instead it seems to have proceeded to identify a site to meet the requirement. This matter will be considered at the meeting, however, in the interim, we suggest that the Council cease any work on the gypsy and traveller site as this may be abortive.
5. It is also evident that the Council would benefit from some support in relation to the waste strategy. Our concern is that the Plan as submitted does not contain a clear strategy for waste management infrastructure which will meet the needs of the area to deal with the waste streams produced in line with the waste hierarchy.
6. The Plan itself, rather than background evidence, needs to explain a strategy for waste in a straightforward, step by step and logical manner. The starting point is to explain the baseline, what are the current types and quantities of waste arisings from within North Lincolnshire including how imports and exports are taken into account, then set out the capacity available to manage each waste stream. Next, forecast the waste arisings for each waste stream throughout the plan period, including as a consequence of the various forms of development proposed by the other parts of the Plan which may increase or decrease waste arisings and make an assessment about the capacity to deal with the forecasted waste arisings throughout the plan period. This approach would then lead onto any safeguarded sites or site allocations (or extensions) and any development management policies to manage waste.
7. At the meeting we will not be discussing any evidence before us. That will happen during the hearing sessions when other interested parties can also take part in the discussion. The aim of the meeting is to understand what stage the Council has reached with the gypsy and traveller site and to provide some guidance on what should happen in relation to this. We are concerned that the Council is continuing to work on the plan after its submission and before being asked to do so by the Inspectors as a result of soundness concerns. We can also provide further advice on the waste strategy and the methodology for doing this as necessary.

8. It will also be an opportunity for the Council to ask any questions about the local plan examination process.
9. Our hope is that following the meeting we will all have a clearer idea about what the Council is still working on, and if any further advice is required from us at this stage. We can then identify a pathway to holding some hearings as soon as possible, thereby progressing the examination in as efficient and effective a manner as possible.
10. Prior to the meeting we will send the Council an agenda which should be published on the website. This will provide a structure for the discussion and allow the Council to prepare and ensure the appropriate people are at the meeting. There will be no need to provide any written statements in response to the questions.
11. If you have any queries, we can be contacted via the Programme Officer. A copy of this letter and the Council's response should be placed on the examination website as soon as possible. We are not inviting comments from anyone else on the contents of this letter.

Elaine Worthington, Louise Crosby and Rachael Bust

Examining Inspectors