

Rugby Local Plan Examination

Inspector: Mr Mike Hayden BSc(Hons) Dip TP MRTPI

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Vicky Chapman
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By email via the Programme Officer

Dear Ms Chapman,

Examination of Rugby Borough Local Plan Initial Letter to the Council

Further to your submission of the Rugby Borough Local Plan, I have commenced my initial reading of the Plan and the supporting evidence. Due to the volume of representations to the Plan, which I received yesterday, and the fact that I am still awaiting a summary of representations and other key pieces of evidence, it may be some time before I am able to complete my initial review. However, taking account of other commitments, I hope to be able to write to the Council by the end of August with any initial questions I may have.

In the meantime, I wish to seek clarification on a couple of areas of the submitted Plan arising from my early reading.

Submission Local Plan and Modifications

The report of the Executive Director to Full Council on 21 June 2017 refers to the Submission Local Plan as constituting the Publication Local Plan with the addition of any changes made to the plan. A table of 'Minor Modifications' has been submitted with the Publication Draft Plan, which I take to be the changes referred to in the officer's report and referenced as LP54 in the evidence base. You will be aware that the modifications cannot form part of the submitted plan unless they have been subject to public consultation. In that case under section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 they would need to be treated as either 'main' or 'additional' modifications. If put forward as main modifications, they would be for me to consider under sections 20(7C) and 23(2A(b)) of the Act as to whether they are required to make the plan sound or legally compliant. If they are suggested as additional modifications that, taken together, do not materially affect the policies of the plan, then under section 23(2) of the Act the local planning authority has the discretion to make such changes to the plan on adoption, and they are not before me for examination. Therefore, I would be grateful for the Council's clarification as to how you wish me to treat these modifications in the light

of sections 20(7C) and 23 of the Act? I would also be grateful to know whether the Council will be requesting under section 20(7C) that I recommend any modifications that I consider necessary to make the plan sound and/or legally compliant?

It would also assist me and the examination if the modifications could be individually numbered or referenced.

Spatial Strategy and Key Diagram

Paragraph 3.7 and 3.8 of the Plan refer to a Spatial Strategy which has informed the housing and employment allocations in the Plan. I have been unable to find a section of the plan entitled 'Spatial Strategy'. Therefore, I would be grateful if the Council could confirm where in the submitted Plan this is set out?

I have also been unable to find a Key Diagram in the submitted Plan. Whilst not a legal requirement, paragraph 157 of the National Planning Policy Framework says that, crucially, local plans should indicate broad locations for strategic development on a key diagram. I would be grateful to know whether the Council intend to submit a key diagram as such for inclusion within the Plan?

I would be grateful for your response to these points as soon as possible to assist my ongoing reading of the evidence.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Hayden

INSPECTOR