

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL
LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF HEARINGS, UPDATED

Introduction

1. This updated programme follows previous correspondence to the Council, in particular INSP12, a note following initial hearings, and sits alongside examination guidance, and a schedule of matters, issues and questions 'MIQs' [INSP3, INSP5]. In particular it sets out the future timings of examination hearings, when updates to MIQs are to be expected, and when any further position statements are due.
2. I originally identified 10 matters central to establishing whether or not the Local Plan is legally compliant and sound [INSP4]. Nothing has yet led me to alter that overarching approach. Matters 1 to 8 are strategic matters related to the plan as a whole. Matters 1 to 4 were discussed during the first hearing sessions in September. Matter 9 relates to the appropriateness and adequacy of site allocations, and matter 10 to the soundness of development management policies.
3. Reflecting the precautionary approach set out in INSP1 and NWBC2, the examination programme initially did not set hearing dates beyond strategic matters 1 to 4. My note of 14 December [INSP12] set out interim findings, without prejudice to the outcome of examination, following initial hearings and explained how the examination may progress. In that context hearing sessions for strategic matters 5, 6, 7 and 8, in respect of which the deadline for position statements has elapsed, are now scheduled for 26, 27 and 28 February 2019 (as detailed below).
4. Hearing sessions for site allocations, matter 9, are provisionally scheduled for 2, 3 and 4 April 2019. Hearing sessions for development management policies, matter 10, are similarly provisionally scheduled for 9, 10 and 11 April 2019. It is anticipated that MIQs in respect of those matters will be published around 8 February, enabling those who wish to make position statements, in line with the guidance in INSP3, to do so by 8 March. MIQs, informed by position statements, will form the basis for agendas and the timings of sessions (which will be published in advance of hearings).
5. There is some contingency built into future hearing sessions. That contingency will be used for general housekeeping, Main Modifications in particular, and will also provide the opportunity to discuss certain strategic matters in the light of INSP12 and further work being undertaken by the Council in response to it. In that context I presently do not foresee the need for a dedicated fifth week of hearings as originally indicated in INSP4. Where feasible such issues will be reflected in agendas for hearing sessions, and I have separately asked the Council for their view on where any strategic

issues arising from work in response to INSP12 would, in their view, best be incorporated into the future examination programme (so as both to ensure fair opportunity for comment and to minimise delay).

6. Participants are encouraged to keep up to date with the examination website as now a significant number of documents which were not originally available have been published. NWBC22 further identifies several additional documents that the Council intends to prepare and publish, at my request, before 26 February 2019, which will be of particular relevance to matter 6 'planning and environmental constraints'.
7. All morning hearing sessions will start at 0930 and afternoon sessions at 1400 at Council House, South Street, Atherstone CB9 1DE. Where two matters fall to one day, the second matter will commence no sooner than 1400. Some sessions may stray beyond provisionally allocated time, including into reserve days.

Draft programme, updated

PHASE 1, STRATEGIC MATTERS	
<i>Week 1 (position statements were due by 1700 on 31 August 2018)</i>	
Day 1 Tuesday 25 September 2018	Opening remarks Matter 1 , The Duty to Co-operate Matter 2 , Other legal requirements
Day 2 Wednesday 26 September 2018	Matter 3 , Housing needs and requirements (including objectively assessed housing needs for all members of the community, traveller site provision, redistribution from other areas, and five year land supply requirement)
Day 3 Thursday 27 September 2018	Matter 4 , Strategic approach, distribution of development and justification (including Sustainability Appraisal, spatial vision, strategic objectives, settlement hierarchy, assessment of reasonable alternatives)
<i>Week 2 (position statements were due by 1700 on 31 August 2018, aside from in respect of matter 8 where position statements were due by 1700 on 5 October in the light of publication of viability evidence NWBC13 and NWBC14)</i>	
Day 4 Tuesday 26 February	AM Matter 5 , Employment needs and requirements PM Matter 6 , Planning and environmental constraints (including the Green Belt, Meaningful Gap, heritage, flooding, climate change, and biodiversity)
Day 5 Wednesday 27 February	AM Matter 7 , Infrastructure provision PM Matter 8 , Viability and delivery

Day 6 Thursday 28 February	AM Reserve day for strategic matters
PHASE 2, ALLOCATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES	
Week 3 (provisionally <i>MIQs due to be published 8 February, position statements then due by 1700 on 8 March</i>)	
Days 7, 8, 9, Tuesday 2 to Thursday 4 April (all sessions to start in the AM) Matter 9 , Allocations and supply of land for development requirements	
Days 10, 11, 12, Tuesday 9 to Thursday 11 April (all sessions to start in the AM) Matter 10 , Development management policies	
<i>-The need for further hearing sessions in light of examination proceedings, or opportunity for additional written representations, will be kept under review-</i>	

Thomas Bristow

INSPECTOR

9 January 2019