

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE CLOTTON HOOFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

EXAMINER: ANDREW MEAD BSc (Hons) MRTPI MIQ

Peter Manby
Chair of the Clotton Hoofield Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Lyndsay Jennings
Senior Planning Officer - Planning Policy
Cheshire West and Chester Council

Examination Ref: 01/AM/CHNP

14 February 2020

Dear Mr Manby and Ms Jennings

CLOTTON HOOFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Following the submission of the Clotton Hoofield Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) for examination, I am now able to advise you on certain initial procedural matters.

1. Examination Documentation

I can confirm that I am satisfied that I have received a complete submission of the draft Plan and accompanying documentation, including the Basic Conditions Statement, the Consultation Statement and the Regulation 16 representations, to enable me to consider the necessary legal requirements for the conduct of the examination. I consider that the respective Statements and the SEA/HRA Screening Determination are very comprehensive and the Regulation 16 response from Cheshire West and Chester Council is extremely thorough.

Subject to my further detailed consideration of the draft Plan, I have not at this stage identified any very significant and obvious flaws in the draft Plan that might lead me to advise that the examination should not proceed.

2. Site Visit

I intend to undertake a site visit to the neighbourhood plan area during the week commencing 24 February 2020. This will assist in my assessment of the draft Plan, including the issues identified in the representations.

The site visit will be undertaken unaccompanied. It is very important that I am not approached to discuss any aspects of the Plan or the neighbourhood area, as this may be perceived to prejudice my independence and risk compromising the fairness of the examination process.

3. Written Representations

At this stage, I consider the examination can be conducted solely by the written representations procedure, without the need for a hearing. However, I will reserve the option to convene a hearing should a matter(s) come to light where I consider that a hearing is necessary to ensure the adequate examination of an issue, or to ensure that a person has a fair chance to put a case.

4. Further Clarification

After my site visit, I may have a number of questions seeking further clarification on aspects of the Clotton Hoofield Neighbourhood Plan.

5. Examination Timetable

As you will be aware, the intention is to examine the Plan (including conduct of the site visit) with a view to providing a draft report (for 'fact checking') within 4-6 weeks of submission of the draft Plan. However, if after my site visit I do have questions, I must provide you with sufficient opportunity to reply. Consequentially, the examination timetable would be extended. In such an event, please be assured that I will aim to mitigate any delay as far as is practicable. The IPe office team will seek to keep you updated on the anticipated delivery date of the draft report.

If you have any process questions related to the conduct of the examination, which you would like me to address, please do not hesitate to contact the office team in the first instance.

In the interests of transparency, may I prevail upon you to ensure a copy of this letter is placed on both the Qualifying Body and Local Authority websites.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Your sincerely

Andy Mead

Examiner