



Inspector Brian Cook
% Stuart Liddington
The Planning Inspectorate
3/12 Kite Wing
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Our Ref MW/WSLP/9/01
Your Ref letter dated 19th July 2016 (ED66)

Contact Martin Wilsher
Extension 5334
Date 09 August

Dear Sir

RE: ISSUES ARISING POST THE PUBLICATION OF THE MAIN MODIFICATIONS

Thank you for your letter of the 19th, as you will appreciate, the Council is keen to see the Local Plan progress to adoption at the earliest opportunity and consequently we were eager to respond formally as quickly as possible. This response has been drafted by Officers but has been 'signed off' by the Portfolio Holder: Keith Turner on the basis that the Council has invited you to identify the modifications required to the Local Plan which can make it capable of being found sound.

An updated schedule of main modifications is attached to this letter and will be capable of appending to your Report. Please note that in relation to Policy NH11 and Policy GT1, we have included both the original version consulted on as part of the Main Modifications plus the versions provided in your original letter. The remainder of this letter responds to the specific sub-headings outlined in your correspondence.

2014 Household Based Projections:

The Council has considered the probable implications of the latest projections. It continues to have reservations as to the reliability of both the 2012-based and 2014-based projections as they relate to West Somerset for the reasons it set out in its supporting evidence (ED22). It does not in the Council view necessitate further consideration of the issue since the Plan is predicated on a target which significantly exceeds that which could be directly derived from the 2014 household projections.

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Policies NH1 and NH1x:

It is agreed that the proposed modifications to NH1 and NH1x put forward by Historic England represent the most appropriate basis for policy in the Plan. We feel that clause E may be considered superfluous and could therefore be deleted. The Planning Policy Manager did have the opportunity to discuss with Historic England the statutory consultee's comments before they were formally submitted.

Policy NH11:

The Council notes the views put forward on the policy by interested parties. You Sir of course have noted our original position on these matters and in particular the value of repeating national policy. It is agreed that it would appear sensible to re-order the wording in paragraph three.

We do not feel it necessary to canvass the views of the National Park, Quantock Hills AONB or Natural England any further on this matter. A policy covering protected landscapes is now proposed for inclusion in the Plan and in our view the suggested wording is fit-for-purpose.

Policy GT1:

We understand the concerns raised in relation to the policy and agree that the inclusion of a simple cross reference to national policy may be the most appropriate way of resolving the issue.

Yours faithfully,

Cllr. Keith Turner
Portfolio-Holder: Housing, Health & Wellbeing

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