

Inspector's Question 1 to the Council

Statutory Requirements

The Inspector would welcome written confirmation that the Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan has been:

- Prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements, including the 2004 Act (as amended) and the 2012 Regulations;
- Prepared in accordance with the Council's Local Development Scheme;
- Prepared in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement;
- Prepared with regard to national policy and the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy;
- Supported by a Sustainability Appraisal;
- Supported by a Habitats Regulations Assessment; and
- Prepared in compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

A response within two weeks would be welcome.

David Hogger

Inspector

14th May 2015

Borough Council Response

The Council has prepared its Plan in accordance with the statutory requirements, national policy, the Local Development Scheme, Statement of Community Involvement and the Sustainable Community Strategy. This is set out within the Planning Advisory Service Checklists (the Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist and the Legal Compliance Checklist). The Checklists were published in May 2015. The Council has also recently published the NPPF/ Local Plan Consistency Matrix which illustrates that the Plan is in line with national policy. The Checklists and Matrix are available on the Council's website at <http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=24526> . The Local Development Scheme and the Statement of Community Involvement were submitted alongside the Plan itself.

The Sustainability Appraisal and the Habitats Regulation Assessment were also submitted to the Secretary of State with the Plan. These documents informed and directed the site selection throughout the plan making process, and versions of these documents were also published at each consultation stage.

The Plan has been prepared in compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty. The Equalities Impact Assessment was carried out in advance of the document being agreed, and formed part of the formal report to Cabinet and Full Council. A copy of the EIA has been attached at Appendix 1.

Appendix 1 – Equalities Impact Assessment

Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment						
Name of policy/service/function		Site Allocations and Development Management Policies – Proposed Submission Document				
Is this a new or existing policy/ service/function?		New / Existing (delete as appropriate)				
Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened. Please state if this policy/service rigidly constrained by statutory obligations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciding the most appropriate detailed distribution of housing between individual settlements and locations (within the overall structure specified in the Core Strategy) allocation of specific sites for housing and other uses; defining development boundaries for settlements where general development is likely to be acceptable; development management policies for particular topics or locations to guide and set standards for planning applications and appeals The Plan preparation process and subsequent operation is closely governed by legal procedures.				
Question		Answer				
1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups according to their different protected characteristic, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service? Please tick the relevant box for each group. NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.			Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
		Age				
		Disability				
		Gender				
		Gender Re-assignment				
		Marriage/civil partnership				
		Pregnancy & maternity				
		Race				
		Religion or belief				
		Sexual orientation				
Other (eg low income)						
Question		Answer	Comments			
2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?		Yes/ No				
3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?		Yes/ No				
4. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?		Yes/ No				
5. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions? If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section.		Yes/ No	Actions:			
			Actions agreed by EWG member: C Dorgan			
Assessment completed by Alan Gomm, LDF Manager		Date 13 August 2014				

Please Note: If there are any positive or negative impacts identified in question 1, or there any 'yes' responses to questions 2 – 4 a full impact assessment will be required.