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**Inspector Simon Berkeley BA MA MRTPI and
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EXAMINATION INTO THE SOUNDNESS OF THE CITY OF YORK LOCAL PLAN

28 October 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

CITY OF YORK LOCAL PLAN HEARINGS

I am writing to inform you that phase 1 of hearings of the City of York Local Plan will **commence at 10.00 am on Tuesday 10th December 2019** in the Gimcrack Room at **York Racecourse** at Knavesmire Road, York YO23 1EX.

Phase 1 hearings – will cover the Duty to Cooperate and other legal requirements, the housing strategy (the objectively assessed need for housing, the housing requirement and the spatial distribution of housing) and strategic level Green Belt matters. If, following the Phase 1 hearings, the Inspectors consider that the Plan is legally compliant and is likely to be found sound in relation to the matters examined, the examination hearings will move on to Phase 2.

Phase 2 hearings – will consider all other matters, including site specific issues. Phase 2 hearings will be programmed in due course and as required following completion of the Phase 1 hearings.

The Inspectors have also published their Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) (document EX/INS/7), Guidance Note (document EX/INS/8) and Draft Hearing Sessions Programme (document EX/INS/9). All of these documents are now available to view online at the City of York Local Plan Examination webpage at: <https://www.york.gov.uk/LocalPlanExamination>

Details about the hearings venue, and how to get there, can also be found on the above Examination webpage.

Any further statements on the MIQs relevant to your representations on the published Plan must be prepared in accordance with the Guidance Note. **The deadline for receipt of hearing statements is midday Friday 29 November**

The Hearing Sessions Programme sets out which Matters will be discussed on each day.

Only those who have made representations seeking to change the Plan have a right to appear before, and be heard by, the Inspectors. However, it is important to stress that written representations carry the same weight as those made orally at a hearing session. Consequently, participation at a hearing session is only necessary if, in the light of the MIQs, you have specific points you wish to contribute.

People who are able to participate in the forthcoming hearing sessions are those who made representations seeking to change the Plan under Regulation 20 (i.e. when the Council invited representations before submitting the Plan for examination) where their representation relates to a point that is among the matters for the examination. People who made representations to the Plan during the consultation undertaken between 10 June and 22 July 2019 will also be treated as having made a representation under Regulation 20.

If you have a right to be heard, and you wish to exercise that right, you should contact me, the Programme Officer, **by 5.00pm on Tuesday 19 November** indicating the appropriate Matter and the session you wish to attend (see the draft Programme). You need to do this regardless of what you may have indicated previously. **Please note that if you do not contact the Programme Officer by that date it will be assumed that you do not wish to appear and be heard and you will not be listed as a participant.** You should only request to be heard at a hearing session if you have made a relevant representation seeking a change to the Plan. However, the hearing sessions are open for anyone to observe.

For information, please note the following key dates:

- **Monday 11 November, 5.00pm:** Deadline for comments on the Inspectors' matters schedule/hearings timetable (documents EX/INS/7 and EX/INS/9).
- **Tuesday 19 November, 5.00pm:** Deadline to confirm with the Programme Officer whether you wish to exercise the right to be heard.
- **Friday 29 November, midday:** Deadline for submission of statements.
- **Tuesday 10 December, 10.00am:** Hearing sessions open.

Updates and all documents relating to the preparation of the Plan and examination are available to download or view online at: <https://www.york.gov.uk/LocalPlanExamination>.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Carole Crookes

Carole Crookes
Programme Officer