

Examination of the City of York Local Plan

Inspectors: Simon Berkeley BA MA MRTPI and Andrew McCormack BSc (Hons) MRTPI
Programme Officer: Carole Crookes

Neil Ferris
Director of Economy and Place
City of York Council

By email only

11 January 2021

Dear Mr Ferris

Examination of the City of York Local Plan – Examination Webpage Updates

1. As you are aware, we wrote to the Council on 18 December 2020 regarding the progress of the York Local Plan examination process. In that letter, as with all our letters to the Council throughout the examination, we asked for it to be placed on the examination webpage and published accordingly.
2. We note the Council's acknowledgement of receipt of that letter in its letter to us dated 22 December which principally related to matters on the updated Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) work. Furthermore, we understand that our request to publish the letter on the examination webpage was re-emphasised within the Programme Officer's covering email to the Council sent on 18 December 2020.
3. Nonetheless, as of 12 noon today, we note that the letter has not been published on the examination website, as requested. Whilst we acknowledge that the intervening period included the Christmas holiday, more than 10 working days have passed since 18 December. Furthermore, as stated above, during that period we have received correspondence from Council officers regarding the submission of updated HRA work relating to the Local Plan examination and noting receipt of our letter of 18 December. As a result, we do not consider the Christmas period to be a reasonable reason for our letter not to have been published when it was received by the Council.
4. Whatever the reason may be as to why the letter has not been published, we write now to remind the Council that, notwithstanding the Council's practical ability to add documents to the examination webpage, it is for the examining Inspectors to determine and control what is admitted and when it is published. Furthermore, the examination

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of the submitted York Local Plan is a process led by us, the appointed Inspectors, and not the Council.

5. The principal purpose of the examination webpage is to assist the Inspectors and the Programme Officer in the management of the process and to access the relevant evidence effectively and efficiently. The webpage also has an important role in keeping all parties informed, up to date and engaged in the examination of the Local Plan and its progress. It is therefore essential that this resource remains as up to date as possible. This speaks to the key principles of the Planning Inspectorate in terms of fairness, openness and impartiality to all those participating in the examination.
6. In light of this, we fully expect our letter of the 18 December 2020 to be published on the examination webpage immediately. As ever, we request that the Council ensures that a copy of this letter is also placed in the Examination Library on the webpage, as soon as possible and we would be grateful to receive written confirmation of this detailing when publication has occurred.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Berkeley and *Andrew McCormack*

Inspectors