

Telford & Wrekin Local Plan

Examination in Public

Response to the Inspector's interim note EiP Library Ref F10 of 30 March 2017

EiP Ref: F10a

1. The Council thanks the inspector for his timely interim note. Turning to each of the main points it raises, the Council offers the following initial responses.

Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) and housing requirement

2. The Council acknowledges the Inspector's concern with the calculation of our OAN. We have asked Peter Brett Associates to remodel its OAN based on your observations on double jobbing and workforce participation rates among the over 65s. This will take up to a fortnight to finalise. We are also mindful of the suggestion that we pursue a higher housing requirement (864 dpa or 17,820 net new homes over the lifetime of the Local Plan) based on the observations of the inspector in the recent Kestrel Close appeal decision. We will finalise our position on this matter by **24 April**.

Housing allocations

3. The Council notes the Inspector's detailed view on the housing site selection methodology and the suggestions as to how the concerns could be addressed. The Council is considering the option suggested of removing those site allocations that do not have section 7(1) New Towns Act consent or have yet to gain planning permission and deferring consideration of its final schedule of housing allocations to a future Housing Site Allocations DPD. This would mean offering modifications to Policy HO2 and adjusting the boundaries of the urban area of Telford as suggested and to take account of major planning applications that have been approved since the Local Plan was submitted for examination (for example, Site H2 at Priorslee and an appeal scheme off Haygate Road, Wellington (up to 290 homes)). We would also have to seek approval to update our Local Development Scheme to take account of this decision. We will finalise our position on this matter by **24 April**.

Policy SP4

4. The Council confirms its modification removes the criteria referred to in the Publication Version of the Local Plan. A modified policy will conform to the model policy recommended by the Planning Inspectorate.

Mineral safeguarding (Policy ER2)

5. We will issue a further note to clarify our approach. It is our view that the mineral safeguarding control should not apply to either urban Telford or Newport.

Lilleshall Strategic Landscape (Policy NE7)

6. The Council understands that a modification would require SA and does not have any additional comment to offer on this matter.

Shrewsbury to Newport Canal

7. The Council notes the inspector is likely to recommend additional main modifications in respect of the canal and that additional SA work may need to be carried out. Anticipating that the inspector is concerned about the environmental constraints of rebuilding a canal through a SSSI, the Council will give early consideration to the time/resource implications of any additional SA work and will report the views of Enfusion to the inspector.

Timescale for preparing modifications and other matters

8. The Council will submit a final amended schedule of modifications to you by **24 April**. It will engage with Enfusion on this basis and will send their detailed commentary to you by separate cover by this date. We will also respond to all other matters that you have raised since the close of the examination hearings by this date.
9. The Council has prepared a separate note to you on the South Newport employment allocation (E27) to confirm that it received Local Growth Funding in March 2017.