

Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan Examination

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Georgina Clampitt-Dix
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By email via the Programme Officer

Dear Mrs Clampitt-Dix,

Examination of the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan

Further to your submission of the above plan, I have commenced my initial reading of the plan and the supporting evidence. Without prejudice to any issues that might arise as a result of this, there is a particular point that I wish to ensure is clear from the outset.

You have submitted a 'Schedule of Proposed Changes' (SPC) which appear to have arisen as a result of your Regulation 19 consultation and decisions by Members. Your submission letter and the SPC make reference to section 20(7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. I have thus taken it that you wish me to consider that all of the changes identified would be 'main modifications'. On this basis, and as the changes have not been subject to public consultation, the starting point for examination will be the plan as submitted. The proposed changes will therefore only be considered in the context of whether they are necessary to make the plan sound or legally compliant.

For the avoidance of doubt, and as will be made clear in my Guidance Note, it is not my intention to consider 'omission sites' as part of the examination. My role is to examine the soundness the submitted plan and not alternative sites that have been put forward. Additional or different sites would only be necessary were I to consider the plan unsound and further allocations were required to rectify this. If this were to be the case, it is unlikely that I would recommend a particular site or sites for allocation, but rather would expect the Council to identify additional allocations through a process to be agreed.

I am assuming that the Council understands the implications of this approach and is happy to proceed on this basis. However, should the Council wish me to consider the plan as it would be with the proposed changes in place, then it will need to carry out further public consultation on the focussed changes, alongside any updated evidence base documents. This would then need to be resubmitted along with any necessary amendments to relevant documents. This would have clear implications for the hearing programme.

I would be grateful therefore if the Council could confirm through the programme officer whether or not they consider further consultation is necessary. I would be grateful for your response to this point as soon as possible to assist my ongoing reading of the evidence.

Yours sincerely

Steven Lee

INSPECTOR