

Highampton Neighbourhood Plan Examination

Request for further information and questions from the Examiner to West Devon Borough Council and Highampton Parish Council

I have carried out a preliminary review of the Neighbourhood Plan and the evidence submitted in support of it and there are a few points where I need some clarification or further information. I would therefore be grateful if both Councils could assist me, as appropriate, in answering the following questions.

Plan Period

On page 30 of the NP there are two references to the plan period of the adopted Joint Plymouth and South West Devon Local Plan being up to 2034. However there do not appear to be any references to the plan period for the NP either here or on the front cover of the document. Please can you confirm that the plan period for the NP is to be the same as the adopted Local Plan – ie 2014- 2034?

Reg 14 Consultation

The Consultation Statement refers to the Reg 14 consultation but does not summarise the responses received. Looking through Appendix 10 to the Plan, which lists all the responses, there seem to have been a total of nine responses, all from statutory bodies, including West Devon Borough Council. Please can you confirm that the list of responses to the Reg 14 consultation is complete and that no responses were received from members of the community or other local interested parties?

Basic Conditions Statement

I have reviewed the very brief Basic Conditions Statement and it falls short of what is required. It is not sufficient to say in para 27.7 that that the HNPG has sought the assistance and guidance of West Devon Borough Council in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan. Please can I therefore be provided with an assessment of the NP and how it meets the requirements of the NPPF, the principles of sustainable development and the strategic policies of the adopted Local Plan, as required by Planning Practice Guidance (Paragraph: 066 Reference ID: 41-066-20140306 to 068 Reference ID: 41-068-20140306). You may find it helpful to look at the Basic Conditions Statements produced for other adopted neighbourhood plans to get a clearer picture of what is required.

I note that, while paras 27.7 summarises the findings of the work on SEA and HRA, there is no statement on how the plan fulfils other EU obligations in relation to human rights. Again, this needs to be addressed in the Basic Conditions Statement.

SEA/HRA

The SEA/HRA Report is included as Appendix 11 to the plan. Appendix 2 to this document is entitled "North Tawton Neighbourhood Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment: Screening Report". Please can I be provided with the correct appendix for the Highampton NP?

Thank you for your assistance with these questions. Once I have received your responses, I may need to ask for further clarification or further queries may arise as the examination progresses.

Please note that these questions and requests for information is a public document and the answers and any associated documents will also be in the public domain. Both my questions and the responses should be placed on the Councils' websites as appropriate.

Barbara Maksymiw

25 September 2020