



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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This matter is being dealt with by: Richard Kay

Telephone: 01353 616245

E-mail: planningpolicy@eastcambs.gov.uk

My Ref: Reg.22/LP SIE

Your ref

Date: 19 July 2022

FAO: Lee McClean

The Planning Inspectorate
3J Kite Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Sent by email

Dear Mr McClean

RE: East Cambridgeshire Local Plan SIR **Submission to the Secretary of State**

On behalf of East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC), and in accordance with section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, I have pleasure in submitting the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The Council and the Planning Inspectorate have already signed a Service Level Agreement relating to the examination of this Local Plan SIR. In accordance with that Service Level Agreement and the Regulations, I send the following items by email in addition to this letter:

- (a) The submission Local Plan SIR (CD03)
- (b) The Regulation 22(1)(c) consultation statement (CD05)
- (c) A statement comprising a summary of the main issues raised at Regulation 18 stage (a Regulation 22(1)(c)(iii)+(iv) statement) (CD05A and CD05B)
- (d) A statement comprising a summary of the main issues raised at Regulation 19 stage (a Regulation 22(1)(c)(v) statement) (CD05C)
- (e) A full set of original (but redacted) representations received under Regulation 20
- (f) The Sustainability Appraisal Report (incorporating a non-technical summary) (CD06)
- (g) Supporting documents relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan (see below for further explanation)

Please note that a Policies Map has not been submitted, because the Local Plan SIR will not, as submitted, cause to require any update to it.

A full and complete set of documents are also being made available in the next 1-2 working days at: <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/local-plan-review>

For ease of reference, we have attached at Appendix 1 a list of the documents submitted (and to be made available on the website). Should the Inspector require a hard copy of any of the documents, the Council would be happy to supply this at the earliest opportunity.

We estimate that no more than one working week will be needed for the hearing part of the examination, potentially as little as 2 days, and potentially on the following 'headline' matters:

Day one:

- (a) Legal matters (DtC / SA / HRA etc)
- (b) Whether it is acceptable to maintain the plan end date at 2031
- (c) The Housing Requirement calculation, whether any adjustment should be made to that proposed and how that should be presented in an updated policy GROWTH 1

Day Two:

- (a) Whether, in principle, the amendments proposed to GROWTH1 mean other amendments to other policies must also be considered (including new site allocations).
- (b) Broad Areas for housing: suitability of the proposed amendments to the supporting text

In respect of 'Legal Matters', I can confirm that the Council believes all necessary legal matters have been addressed, including:

- (A) The Plan has been prepared in accordance with the statutory framework, including in compliance with our adopted SCI (2018), and in accordance with an adopted LDS (2020, and updated 2022).
- (B) Sustainability appraisal, HRA and equalities impact.
- (C) The Duty to Cooperate

Our preferred date for the start of the hearing sessions would be as soon as possible, though avoiding the school holiday period. Due to necessary lead in times, we are assuming the hearing sessions are likely to be around October (+/- a month). The location of hearing sessions will be confirmed once the Inspector has confirmed the likely date and length of hearing sessions, and the preferred pattern of sitting days. It is highly likely to be located in Ely (Council Chamber of the Council Offices). The Programme Officer will be happy to assist the Inspector with options for overnight accommodation.

As it is anticipated to be a very short hearing timetable, our preference would be for an in-person hearing only. This will avoid the considerable administrative burden of setting up a full virtual or hybrid session. Due to the very low public interest, we are not expecting a high volume of public attendance.

In respect of whether an objector wishes to be heard at the Hearing, we are in the process of sending letters or emails to the very limited number of those who did not make this clear. We are giving such representors 21 days to confirm, with a default position being not to appear at the hearing if no response is forthcoming. We are updating the database accordingly, to reflect responses, and the Programme Officer can make this information available to the Inspector in due course. To date, we have 13 individuals that are seeking to attend. We do not expect that figure to rise significantly, if at all.

We have appointed a programme officer and her details are as follows:

Name: Emily Howard

Email: programme.officer@eastcambs.gov.uk

Address: East Cambridgeshire Local Plan Programme Officer
c/o East Cambridgeshire District Council
Rm 12, The Grange

Nutholt Lane
Ely
Cambs
CB7 4EE

Telephone: 01353 616382

Whilst Emily is not an experienced programme officer, she has been provided with relevant training material and will be supported with any technical issues by wider council employees, should that be necessary. Emily is well aware of the need to act, and be seen to act, impartially and independently of the Council. Emily has not been involved with the preparation of the Local Plan SIR. Emily has undertaken full training on GDPR matters.

I am pleased to advise you that the small team preparing this Local Plan, and which will provide evidence at examination, is an experienced one, with myself as lead officer. This experience should enable a smooth running of the examination. For example, I have been responsible for the preparation, examination and recommended adoption of the following recent Local Plans:

- Peterborough Core Strategy DPD (2011)
- Peterborough Site Allocations DPD (2012)
- Peterborough Planning Policies DPD (2012)
- Peterborough City Centre AAP DPD (2014)
- Fenland Local Plan (2014)
- Central Lincolnshire Local Plan DPD (2017)
- Peterborough Local Plan (2019)
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2021)

Please note that I am assisting Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee with its recently submitted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (submitted 8 July 2022). As such, and subject to the appointment of an Inspector for that Local Plan examination, I would be grateful if the two Inspectors appointed could liaise and avoid any hearing date clashes.

I trust this is satisfactory to fulfil the submission requirements, and please contact me if you require anything else.

Yours sincerely

Richard Kay
Strategic Planning Manager

Attached appendix 1: Core Documents List

Core Documents - PSLP Document Library

Doc Ref	Title
CD01	East Cambridgeshire Local Plan SIR Stage 1 consultation (Reg 18) March 2021
CD02	East Cambridgeshire Local Plan SIR Stage 2 consultation (Reg 18) Dec 2021
CD03	East Cambridgeshire Local Plan SIR Stage 3 consultation (Reg 19) May 2022
CD04	LP SIR Reg 22(3) Notice of Submission July 2022
CD05	LP SIR Reg 22(1)(c) Consultation Statement
CD05A	LP SIR Reg 22(1)(c)(iii)+(iv) Stage 1 Consultation Report - Oct 2021
CD05B	LP SIR Reg 22(1)(c)(iii)+(iv) Stage 2 Consultation Report - March 2022
CD05C	LP SIR Reg 22(1)(c)(v) Consultation Report - July 2022
CD06	LP SIR SA Report May 2022
CD07	LP SIR HRA Screening May 2022
CD08	LP SIR EIA Initial Screening May 2022
CD09	ECDC SCI July 2018
CD10A	ECDC LDS October 2020
CD10B	ECDC LDS April 2022
CD11	LP SIR DtC Statement May 2022
CD12	Letter to PINS LP SIR Submission 19 July 2022
CD13	Adopted Local Plan 2015
CD14	Local Plan Review (Reg 10A(1) Review) April 2020
CD15	East Cambridgeshire 5YLS Report October 2021
CD16	East Cambridgeshire AMR 2021 - Dec 2021