

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE HUNTINGDON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

EXAMINER: Andrew Freeman BSc (Hons) DipTP DipEM FRTPI

Hayley Burns  
Huntingdon Town Council

Clare Bond  
Huntingdonshire District Council

Examination Ref: 01/AF/HNP

Via email

8 April 2019

Dear Ms Burns and Ms Bond

### HUNTINGDON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION

Following the submission of the Huntingdon Neighbourhood Plan ('the draft Plan') for examination, I would like to clarify several initial procedural matters.

#### 1. Examination Documentation

I can confirm that I am satisfied that I have received a complete submission of the draft Plan and accompanying documentation, including the Basic Conditions Statement, the Consultation Statement and the Regulation 16 representations, to enable me to undertake the examination.

Subject to my detailed assessment of the draft Plan, I have not at this initial stage identified any very significant and obvious flaws in the Plan that might lead me to advise that the examination should not proceed.

#### 2. Site Visit

I will undertake a site visit to the neighbourhood plan area during the week commencing 15 April 2019. This visit will assist in my assessment of the draft Plan, including the issues identified in the representations.

The site visit will be undertaken unaccompanied. It is very important that I am not approached to discuss any aspects of the Plan or the neighbourhood area, as this may be perceived to prejudice my independence and risk compromising the fairness of the examination process.

#### 3. Written Representations

At this stage, I consider the examination can be conducted solely by the written representations procedure, without the need for a hearing. However, I will reserve the option to convene a hearing should a matter come to light where I consider that a hearing is necessary to ensure the adequate examination of an issue, or to ensure that a person has a fair chance to put a case.

#### 4. Further Clarification

I have set out in the Annex to this letter some initial questions seeking further clarification from the Qualifying Body, which is Huntingdon Town Council. I would be grateful if written responses can be provided within **two weeks** of receipt of this letter. It is possible that I may have further questions, following my site visit.

#### 5. Examination Timetable

As you will be aware, the intention is to examine the Plan (including conduct of the site visit) with a view to providing a draft report (for 'fact checking') within 4-6 weeks of submission of the draft Plan. However, as I have raised some questions, and may have others following my site visit, I must provide the opportunity to reply. Consequently, the examination timetable will be extended. Please be assured that I will aim to mitigate any delay as far as is practicable. The IPE office team will seek to keep you updated on the anticipated delivery date of the draft report.

If you have any process questions related to the conduct of the examination, which you would like me to address, please do not hesitate to contact the office team in the first instance.

In the interests of transparency, may I prevail upon you to ensure a copy of this letter is placed on both the Town Council and the Huntingdonshire District Council websites?

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Your sincerely

*Andrew Freeman*

Examiner

## ANNEX

From my initial reading of the Huntingdon Neighbourhood Plan and the supporting evidence, I have the following questions and requests in relation to the Plan. I would appreciate it if comments from the Qualifying Body could be received by **two weeks** from the date of this letter.

1. In the Regulation 16 representations, the appropriateness of supporting development north of the A141 has been raised. Are there any comments that the Qualifying Body would wish to make in support of the inclusion of Paragraph 11 and the related plan?
2. Should the Vision be set within a time-frame; for example, "Over the period to 2026..."?
3. Should the Vision refer to matters that are outside the scope of the Plan eg the sports hub (beyond the Plan boundary) or non-planning matters such as bringing together leading sports teams?
4. Are there any comments that the Qualifying Body would wish to make in response to the representations of Huntingdon District Council (Local Plans Team) on the following policies (or any other matters): TC1; TC2; TC3; TC4; TL3; NE1; NE2; NE3; BE2; and BE3.
5. Policy TC5: Does the Qualifying Body have in mind what would constitute a reasonable period of time for the purposes of marketing?
6. Policy TL1: Is there likely to be confusion over what is meant by "visitor accommodation"?
7. Leisure and Community Infrastructure: Would it be appropriate to refer to "navigation" (see representations of Middle Level Commissioners / Mr Graham Moore)?
8. Policy NE2 – contribution to open space provision: How does the Qualifying Body consider that an appropriate contribution would be quantified? Should provision always be "within the site"?
9. Policy NE3 – adverse effect on views and linkages: Is it intended that the policy would be applied to all views and linkages? How would significant views and linkages be identified?
10. Does the Qualifying Body have any comments on the representations of the British Horse Society or Mr David Ireland?
11. Are there any further comments that the Qualifying Body would wish to make in response to the Regulation 16 representations?