

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION

Date: 10 July 2019

To: Dai Lerner, Executive Director – Place

Dear Mr Lerner,

Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan Examination Main Modifications and Green Belt in Biddulph

Thank you for your letter dated 1 July 2019.

I am satisfied that the Council's proposed Main Modifications (MMs) for Biddulph appear to be an appropriate method of addressing the soundness issues that I identified in my post hearings advice (paragraphs 11, 12, 13 and 30 in particular) and can be progressed as part of the consultation on the MMs. That said I will need to take into account the consultation responses on the MMs before finally concluding whether or not the changes along these lines are sound.

I note that the Council considered the latest draft schedule of MMs at its meeting on 26 June 2019. I request that the composite schedule, including the changes relevant to Biddulph, are sent to me for comment before the formal 6-week period of consultation on the MMs. You should also send me for any comment before publication, the updated and additional documentation supporting the MMs, including the revised Housing Implementation Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal; the assessment of the options for Biddulph; and the masterplan details for Wharf Road and Tunstall Road. All these documents will eventually need to be published alongside the consultation on the MMs.

You should also note that changes to the Policies Map which are necessary to achieve soundness should be consulted upon, alongside the MMs to which they relate, albeit that it is not within my powers to recommend MMs to the Policies Map as it is not a development plan document. It is also common practice for the Council to publish a schedule of Additional Modifications alongside the Schedule of MMs but this is a matter for you.

In terms of the timescales going forward and taking into account the preference to avoid consultation during the school holiday period, I would suggest the following:

- July/August 2019 – the Council provides for comment the latest draft schedule of MMs and the supporting documentation referred to above. I will aim to respond within 10 working days of receipt of the information;
- September/October 2019 – minimum 6-week period of consultation on the Schedule of MMs and the supporting information;
- October/November 2019 – Council to collate responses to MMs consultation and send to Inspector with any suggestions for any further changes to the MMs as a

result of the consultation responses. I will take account of the responses to the consultation before reaching final conclusions on the MMs that are required. The reasons for the MMs will be set out in my report.

If you require any further clarification let me know via the Programme Officer.

Yours sincerely

Mark Dakeyne

INSPECTOR

Inspector: Mark Dakeyne BA (Hons) MRTPI