

EX13

EXAMINATION HEARINGS

AGENDA

TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2013 at 10.00 am

Inspector's Introduction

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council - Opening Statement

Matter 1. LEGAL COMPLIANCE AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Issue: Whether the plan complies with the legal requirements of the 2004 Act and the 2012 Regulations.

- 1.1. In preparing the Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy (KLPCS), has the Council fulfilled the 'duty to co-operate' requirements of section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004?
- 1.2. Is the KLPCS in general accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement?
- 1.3. Has the KLPCS emerged from an open and transparent process that demonstrates how and why the preferred strategy was selected, in consultation with the public and other stakeholders?
- 1.4. Has the KLPCS been the subject of suitably comprehensive and satisfactory Sustainability Appraisal, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations?
- 1.5. Are there satisfactory linkages with the Sustainable Community Strategy?
- 1.6. Has the KLPCS been prepared in accordance with the Local Development Scheme?
- 1.7. Does the KLPCS meet all of the legal requirements under section 20(5)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the 2012 Regulations?

Matter 2 SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND PRINCIPLES

Issue: Whether the strategy of development within urban areas (focusing on regeneration areas) followed by urban extensions to meet longer term needs, represents a sustainable approach to growth which pays sufficient regard to the environmental and other constraints of the borough.

- 2.1 Is the principle of maintaining the settlement hierarchy and focusing growth on existing urban areas, followed by urban extensions when required in the longer term (policy CS 1), based on a sound assessment of the socio-economic and environmental characteristics of the area and the impacts of the proposals?
- 2.2 Is the strategy sufficiently "spatial", ie does it appropriately address the particular characteristics, roles and functions of individual settlements and areas?
- 2.3 Is the identification of principal regeneration areas appropriate and derived from the evidence?
What mechanism/process would be used to identify "other areas requiring regeneration"?
- 2.4 Is the strategy for the Green Belt in policy CS 1 consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)?
Does the use of Green Belt land for development satisfy the "exceptional circumstances" test of national policy and if so, for what reason?
Should the use of Green Belt land be limited to meeting "longer term" needs?
- 2.5 If the spatial strategy is considered unsound, what alternative strategy should be pursued, and why?
Is there any compelling evidence that the growth sought in the KLPCS could be achieved *without* requiring Green Belt land and if so, on what basis?
- 2.6 Why is there no specific mention in policies CS 1 or 2 of fundamental principles such as meeting the housing and employment needs of the borough, or minimising the loss of Green Belt land?
Should policy CS 2 ensure that the development principles also apply to the preparation of subsequent stages of the Local Plan as well as to individual development proposals?
- 2.7 What provision has been made in the KLPCS and associated documents for alternative strategies to be implemented if development does not come forward as envisaged? Do the policies include sufficient flexibility and contingencies to take account of unexpected changes in circumstances?