

## KNOWSLEY LOCAL PLAN: CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION

### PUBLICATION OF PLANNING PRACTICE GUIDANCE

1. On 6 March 2014 the Department for Communities & Local Government published Planning Practice Guidance, a web-based resource which replaces previous practice guidance on a wide range of topics. The Planning Practice Guidance is available on the planning portal at the following link: <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/>
2. There are no transitional provisions, so the guidance applies to all local plans which have been submitted for examination. Whilst the guidance does not change policy in the National Planning Policy Framework, it provides clarity on the application of policy and is a matter that Inspectors must take into account when examining local plans. Because parts of the evidence base for the examination and certain issues debated at the hearings relied on guidance that has now been cancelled, I think it appropriate that all parties be given the opportunity to comment on the implications of Planning Practice Guidance for the Core Strategy.
3. **Accordingly, if you wish to make a representation on matters in the Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy which you consider have been affected by publication of Planning Practice Guidance, please submit your comments to the Programme Officer by 5.00pm on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2014.** This deadline relates to the receipt of both electronic and paper copies. If you consider that further changes to the Core Strategy are necessary as a result of the new guidance, the detailed wording of such changes should be clearly set out.
4. **It is important that all representations are confined to this one topic** – this is not an opportunity to introduce new arguments or repeat matters already discussed, and any submissions which attempt to do so will not be accepted. Respondents should indicate whether they are content for their comments to be dealt with in writing or whether they consider it essential for the matter to be discussed at a hearing.
5. **The draft programme for the remainder of the examination has now been decided and is set out overleaf.**
6. Any questions or comments on the matters in this Note should be addressed to the Programme Officer.

*Martin Pike*

INSPECTOR  
26 March 2014

## **DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR REMAINDER OF CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION**

The hearings were adjourned in November 2013 to enable the Council to consider its response to a limited number of matters which require modification if the Plan is to be found sound. As I indicated at the hearings, I set out my interim findings in a note to the Council dated 15 January 2014 (document EX26).

The Council anticipates that modifications to the Core Strategy to address these matters will be submitted for Cabinet approval on 18 June 2014. Two further stages involving representors are then required – formal public consultation on all the modifications, and resumption of the hearings to enable the modifications to be tested. The Council has decided to have the hearings before undertaking formal consultation, the aim being to incorporate any further revisions to the modifications which may arise as a result of the discussion.

Consequently the proposed programme for the remainder of the Examination is as follows:

### 25/26 June 2014

PO notifies all parties of Council Modifications, sends out draft Agendas and invites statements to be submitted.

### 11 July

Deadline for submission of statements on Modifications.

### 15-17 July

Statements are distributed to participants and revised Agendas are prepared taking account of points raised in statements.

### 22-24 July

Resumption of hearings (2 days may be sufficient).

### Mid August – early October

Formal consultation on Council Modifications.

### Late October – early November

Council prepares summary of representations for Inspector.

### Mid November – early December 2014

Inspector completes report and submits to Council.