



Knowsley Council

Mr Martin Pike BA MA MRTPI
c/o Programme Officer
Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy Examination
Municipal Buildings
Archway Road
Huyton
Merseyside
L36 9YU

Our Ref: Local Plan

11 August 2014

Dear Mr Pike,

KNOWSLEY LOCAL PLAN: CORE STRATEGY - EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC – FURTHER MODIFICATIONS

As indicated during the Examination hearing session on 23 July 2014, I am writing to set out further potential modifications to the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (**the "Plan"**).

We intend to seek approval by the Council's Cabinet for the further modifications on 10 September 2014. The modifications for which approval is sought will take account of any points which may be raised in your further interim findings and to the outcomes of the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment processes mentioned later in this letter. Subject to Cabinet approval, all the modifications (comprising those proposed by the Council in June 2014 as revised by the further modifications) would then be subject to an 8 week period of formal consultation from mid/late September until mid November 2014. As the further modifications have not received Cabinet approval they should be regarded as provisional at this stage.

The potential further modifications are set out in the schedule which accompanies this letter. The new changes (identified following the hearing sessions in July 2014) are highlighted in the schedule and should be read alongside the schedule of modifications published in June 2014. Before the start of the consultation in September 2014 referred to above we intend to publish a single combined schedule (which will subject to approval show the further modifications alongside all the modifications proposed in June 2014).

A brief commentary concerning the further potential modifications now identified is set out below.

Safeguarded land at Knowsley Village

The reference in policy SUE1 regarding the potential for the development of this land to be brought forward to before 2028 if required to maintain a 5 year deliverable land supply is removed.

Changes regarding the proposed Sustainable Urban Extensions

Changes have been identified to the new policy SUE2 and its supporting text to stress the need for development within all the Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs) to be undertaken comprehensively, and to ensure that each of the three largest Sustainable Urban Extensions would be developed in accordance with a single detailed master plan covering the area concerned.

More detailed changes to the new SUE policies have also been identified, for example to:

- clarify the distinction between Borough-wide and local needs (policy SUE2, clause 1e) and supporting paragraph 6A.15);
- clarify the expected role of the Council's proposed Supplementary Planning Documents for the three largest Sustainable Urban Extensions (policy SUE2, clause 3); and
- merge criteria 1c) and 1h) of policy SUE 2 and clarify some of the other detailed criteria in this and the other SUE policies.

Following the discussion at the July hearings, potential has been identified to reduce the minimum area required to be made available for employment uses at Knowsley Lane, Huyton (see policy SUE2a and paragraph 6A.22 of the new chapter 6A) from 17.5 to 16 hectares.

Other matters

The further modifications also cover other detailed changes as set out in the schedule and informed by the debate in the hearings.

Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment

In accordance with the relevant legislation the Council has arranged for its specialist consultants to investigate any implications that the further modifications may have in relation to the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment processes. This exercise could result in further revisions if adverse impacts arising from the further modifications are identified. If so, we should be able to identify these before Cabinet approval is sought for the further modifications.

Proposed consultation documents

Subject to Cabinet approval, the Council expects to make the following documents available during the consultation which is expected to start in September 2014 (in addition to the documents which are already in the Examination library):

- a single combined schedule of modifications (incorporating those proposed in June 2014 as revised by any further modifications which may be approved);
- a revised "changes tracked" version of the Plan incorporating any further modifications; and
- any documents detailing the outcomes of the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment processes relating to the further modifications.

If any interested parties wish to receive further details about the Examination in Public of the Plan we would advise that they contact:

Paul Morris,
Programme Officer
Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy Examination
Municipal Buildings
Archway Road
Huyton
Merseyside
L36 9YU

Email programmeofficer@knowsley.gov.uk

Tel. 0151 443 3077

The Local Plan team (who can be contacted on 0151 443 2326) will be able to answer any queries focussing on the Plan itself.

This letter and the provisional schedule of further modifications have been added to the Examination library as documents EX32 and CS08b, respectively.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Clarke

Jonathan Clarke

Policy Manager – Places, Knowsley Council

Enclosures:

1. Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy – Provisional Schedule of Further Modifications to the Submission Document (Knowsley Council, August 2014)