

**DERBYSHIRE DALES DISTRICT COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO  
INSPECTOR'S INITIAL QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL  
EXAMINATION OF THE DERBYSHIRE DALES LOCAL PLAN  
PRE-SUBMISSION DRAFT PLAN (LP)**

**1. Hearing Sessions**

The District Council can confirm that the broad timetable outlined by the Inspector is acceptable. However, should the Inspector wish to commence the Examination in Public prior to the Easter holidays, the District Council confirms that it would be in a position to serve the requisite 6 weeks' notice in order to facilitate this.

Having reviewed the duly made representations, there are approximately 90 individuals or organisations who have indicated that they wish to appear at the Examination in Public. Of these, it is envisaged that the Programme Officer would be able to encourage a number of participants to present joint cases, most notably this would be particularly appropriate for those wishing to present cases in relation to site specific allocations within the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan Pre-Submission Draft. This accounts for the vast majority of individuals who have indicated that they wish to appear at the Examination in Public.

Having regard to the extent of the issues raised in the duly made representations and taking the above factors into account, the District Council remains of the opinion that the hearing sessions are likely to take between 3 and 4 weeks.

However, if upon completion of his documentation review the Inspector is of the opinion that more time is required to consider the issues raised, the District Council will ensure that sufficient resources are made available to ensure that they can be adequately addressed.

The Committee Room at the Town Hall has been reserved for the purpose of holding the Hearing Sessions of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan. This room has an ante room which has been agreed with the Local Plan Programme Officer is suitable for the Inspector. A separate room is available for the Local Plan Programme Officer. The Local Plan Programme Officer's Room (Room 5.03), although locked is accessible to members of the public, without having to go through any security doors. The Inspector, should he wish to do so can inspect all three rooms at any time prior to the commencement of the Hearing Sessions.

**2. Submission of Documents and Information**

The District Council can confirm that all the documentation and information included in Regulation 22, including supporting documents relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan have been submitted. There are no outstanding documents to be completed or submitted.

### 3. Representations

Table 1 of the Consultation Statement (SD10) indicates that 670 of the representations consider the plan to be legally compliant, whilst 128 do not consider the plan to be legally compliant. It also states that 188 of the representations consider the plan to be sound whilst 610 do not consider the plan to be sound.

Table 2 seeks to indicate the extent of the combined responses where representations have indicated that the plan is either legally compliant or not.

The commentary between Table 1 and Table 2 sought to highlight the extent of the different combinations for all of the duly made representations received during the consultation period. To clarify the situation further with regards to the combined responses, the following table has been produced. If the Inspector wishes this table could replace Table 2 in the Regulation 22 Statement.

	Soundness – Yes	Soundness - No	Total
Legally Compliant – Yes	187 (23%)	483 (60%)	670
Legally Compliant – No	1 (0.1%)	127 (15.9%)	128
Total	188	610	798

The above table demonstrates that 610 responses in total indicated that they considered the plan was unsound, of which 127 also considered the plan not to be legally compliant, whilst 483 considered the plan was legally compliant.

Similarly of the 188 responses that found the plan to be sound 187 found the plan to also be legally compliant and only 1 found the plan was not legally compliant.

As the Inspector will be aware from the submitted documents, at the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan Draft Plan stage the District Council received about 2,600 representations from about 800 individuals and organisations. At this time it was considered appropriate to report to Members of the Local Plan Advisory Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016 a very detailed summary of the representations received. This detailed summary of the representations was included as an Appendix to the report to the Local Plan Advisory Committee (SD10 – Appendix 2 and CR06) – with the main body of the report summarising further the key issues that had been raised.

At the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan Pre-Submission Draft only 799 duly made representations were received. Notwithstanding the reduced number of representations received compared to the Draft Plan stage, given the statutory nature of the consultation it was considered appropriate that Members were given the opportunity to consider in full, the details of each representation received alongside a relevant Officer recommendation.

Given this detailed approach the length of the document does however exceed 1000 pages. Whilst the District Council has not sought to prepare a summary of these duly made representations, should the Inspector wish, the District Council will prepare such a document.

The District Council can confirm that the 'Detailed Assessment of Duly Made Representations' which forms part of the Committee Report (CR01) has been added alongside the 'Detailed Summary of Representations' on the Council's website.

A full set of original representations ordered by Representor number is also available for public inspection at the Town Hall, Matlock in the Representor Order.

#### **4. Council Responses to Representations**

The District Council considers that the Schedule of Minor Modifications (SD03) addresses those aspects of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan which it considered were appropriate for modification taking account of the extent of the duly made representations.

The District Council is not currently engaged in any discussions which may lead to the publication of further Minor Modifications. All remaining areas of dispute require consideration through the Examination process.

#### **5. The Submitted Local Plan**

The District Council can confirm that the plan to be examined comprises solely the document entitled the 'Derbyshire Dales Local Plan Pre-Submission Draft Plan August 2016'.

The District Council can confirm that it would wish the Inspector to recommend any Main Modifications (MM) that he considers are necessary to resolve any issues of legal compliance or 'unsoundness'.

#### **6. Soundness**

The District Council is content that the submitted Plan is both legally compliant and sound.

#### **7. Website and Library**

The documents referred to in the Submission Letter were:

- CD14 Derbyshire Dales Local Plan Equalities Impact Assessment
- CR01 – Council 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016 – Minutes

Both of these were forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2016, and are now uploaded on to the District Council's website. All the relevant documents are now included within the Examination Library and have been published on the District Council's website.

#### **8. Hearings**

The District Council does not intend to have legal representation at the Hearing Sessions. It will however be represented in some of the hearing sessions by consultants who have undertaken work on its behalf.

## **9. Future Programme**

The District Council can confirm that it is able to meet the Inspector's programme requirements.

## **10. Familiarisation with the Area**

It is considered that as part of his familiarisation visit that the Inspector may benefit from visiting the following general and specific locations:

- Matlock
- Ashbourne,
- Wirksworth
- Darley Dale
- Doveridge
- Brailsford
- Tansley
- Hlland Ward
- All 9 Strategic Site Allocations
- Site HC2 (k) – Land off Normanhurst Park, Darley Dale

The Inspector may wish to take a view upon the relationship of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan area and the neighbouring Peak District National Park

Mike Hase  
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Derbyshire Dales District Council  
7<sup>th</sup> February 2017