

Examination of the Ribble Valley Core Strategy

Inspector's guidance to the Council Work during the suspension of the Examination

Further evidence – be succinct

Any further evidence should be focussed, short, to the point, and succinct. I remind the Council of the Framework policy that the evidence base should be 'proportionate'. This is very important because it will affect the time it takes for me to review the evidence – please do not bury your key points in verbiage!

Publishing any suggested modifications

The Council should publicly consult on all its suggested modifications to the CS, despite the fact that under s23(2A)(3)(b) of the 2004 Act the Council is now solely responsible at adoption for any minor 'additional modifications' to the CS. I will send separately a suggested table for setting out these modifications which can also be used during the rest of the Examination.

In any public consultation it needs to be made clear that comments are invited only on the modifications proposed at that time. The query contact point and reply point for consultations should be the Council, and not my Programme Officer. Any further evidence should be published as soon as possible on the web site – it does not need to be consulted upon because I will invite statements on it from representors once the Examination resumes. But representors do need adequate time to consider the further evidence.

The Council should follow its relevant consultation arrangements published in its Statement of Community Involvement, and also those in Regulation 19 (and its referenced Regulations) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. I may invite any new representors to attend the hearings.

Because once the Examination starts the power to recommend modifications rests only with the Inspector, it follows that any consultation replies are solely for me to consider. There is no need, therefore, for the Council to consider them first – they should be passed straight to me via my Programme Officer. However, I regard the Examination as a positive and pro-active process and I welcome suggestions from all parties - it is Ribble Valley's plan. Therefore, I would be pleased to consider any responses from the Council on the public consultations, but this should not hold up the progress of the Examination.

Other additional documents

The Council should make a separate list of any post-submission documents which explain its suggested modifications and new evidence, and add these as a separate section to the evidence list on its web site at the start of public consultation. Revised versions of existing documents (if any) should be produced as new documents - there is no need to show changes to previous versions, provided that the new document is clearly dated, and the old one is removed.

The Council should review its evidence base with the assistance of my Programme Officer in order to ensure that only relevant and necessary material is included that

will assist the Examination. Additional documents to those already agreed in connection with the further work should only be added with my agreement via my Programme Officer.

Progression of the Examination

The Council should contact the Programme Officer at least on a monthly basis to provide the progress updates I have requested. The Programme Officer should also be provided with electronic and paper copies of the proposed modifications to the CS, which she will send on to me. I will briefly look at these to assess whether the proposed modifications are cumulatively likely to cause concerns.