

CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC

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date: 03 July 2013
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Inspector: Simon Berkeley BA MA MRTPI
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Dear Mr Hirst

Examination of the Ribble Valley Core Strategy

Thank you for your letter dated 1 July.

From your letter and the periodic updates you have provided over the past months it is clear to me that the Council is making significant progress in updating the evidence base to address the concerns I have previously raised. I welcome the positive approach you have taken in this regard.

I recognise that there is still some further work to be done. I understand that this includes: finalising viability assessments feeding into the SHLAA; setting a firm revised level of housing to be delivered, which I understand is likely to be an increase on the level in the submitted Core Strategy; and establishing whether the existing housing distribution model remains the most appropriate in the light of the revised housing figures. These are without doubt critical matters.

Given the progress made to date and the importance of the work to be finalised, I agree to your request to extend the present suspension period to 1 September.

You ask about your intended consultation process. As I understand it, this will invite comments on all of the new evidence produced and the modifications to the Core Strategy proposed by the Council as a consequence. That being so, I agree that it is preferable to wait until all the evidence base work is finalised and a comprehensive schedule of modifications has been drawn up. This is likely to prove more satisfactory for the examination's other participants. I also concur that if the consultation is to be held over August, then it should be for a period of no less than six weeks.

I trust that you find this letter helpful. I look forward to your submission of all the updated evidence and proposed modifications in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Berkeley

Inspector