

Examination of the Lancaster District Local Plan (the Plan) Part One: Strategic Policies & Land Allocations Development Plan Document and Part Two: Development Management Development Plan Document, Submission Drafts

Letter to the Examining Inspector providing an update on the statement made on the ninth day of hearings (Tuesday 21st May 2019) by leading counsel for Lancaster City Council following the change in the Council's political administration.

To: The Programme Officer

Fao: Mr Richard McCoy,

The Examining Inspector of the Lancaster Local Plan

Etc

Dear Kim,

I have been asked by the Council's Leader to write to the Planning Inspector in respect of the Council's Local Plan.

At the outset of the ninth day of Examination Hearing Sessions the Council's team advised the Inspector that following the Local Government elections on the 2nd May 2019 that there had been a change in the Council's political administration. The Council team advised the Inspector that the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration had specifically asked that the Inspector be informed that the Council would consider its approach to the ongoing plan preparation process at the first meeting of the newly elected Council on 26th June 2019. Counsel for the City Council advised that the Council would inform the Inspector of the outcome of that meeting at the earliest opportunity.

At that meeting on 26th June 2019, the Council did not resolve to promote any further additional modifications to the submitted Local Plan documents. The Council's formal position is therefore that it intends to proceed as previously understood. That is to say that it intends to consult only on proposed modifications identified and raised by the inspector.

The Council did nonetheless at that meeting note a report from the Council Leader that, pursuant to the Climate Change Emergency declared by the Council's previous political administration in January 2019, the new administration intends to explore and develop measures to help redress the challenge of climate change, including through the development and potential revision of local planning policies. The Council has not resolved to promote additional further modifications and does not intend to provide further evidence to the Examination in addition to those discussed at the examination hearings, unless specifically requested to do so by the Inspector. The Council does, nonetheless, wish that during his on-going consideration of the soundness of the submitted documents that the Inspector in his deliberations;

- Continues to be alert to the concerns raised on the climate change agenda presented by parties at the Examination hearing sessions, and,
- Is aware of the Council's clear current intentions for taking local action on the climate change agenda.

Accordingly, should the Inspector conclude that the submitted documents are capable of being found sound, subject to modifications, then following a decision by the Council to adopt the submitted documents, the Council anticipates that it will promptly resolve to commence a review of the adopted documents such that, taking account of any relevant new evidence and, potentially, new national guidance, planning policies may be reviewed in pursuance of the Council's own declaration of an emergency in January 2019.

Yours sincerely,

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Lancaster City Council