

## Inspector Note and Agenda

18 April 2016

The Inspector wishes to confirm that he is grateful to the Council for their comprehensive response to his questions of 15 March 2016. The response has enabled the agenda for the hearing session to become more focussed. However, as can be seen on the attached agenda the Inspector still wishes to pose some of his questions as the starting point for discussion at the hearing. That is not a reflection that the Inspector is dissatisfied with the response he has received from the Council but an indication that the matter merits further discussion (a) to ensure the Inspector fully understands the evidence and (b) to ensure respondents who have indicated that they wish to be heard can make their submissions. The attached agenda is very much to be regarded as an aide-memoire to structure the discussion.

The Council's response refers to a number of evidence base documents which are referenced WBC/DM/E\_ etc. and the weblink on page 15 of the Council's response is noted. To ensure a clearer audit trail the Inspector considers that a direct link on the examination webpage to the Council's Research and Evidence Base web-page would be necessary to ensure the Inspector and others are referring to the correct documents.

The Inspector is also grateful for the Council's schedule of further proposed modifications (WBC/DM/016) to be read in conjunction with the schedule of modifications in response to Regulation 19 consultation (WBC/DM/006). The Inspector invites the Council to clarify whether the modifications are either main modifications or additional modifications.

Definitions of main and additional modifications are given in Sections 20 and 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended. Main modifications are those which are needed to make the plan legally-compliant and sound (s20(7C) & s23(2A)(b)). Additional modifications are those which (taken together) do not materially affect the policies in the plan (s23(2)(b) & (3)(b)).

Clarification on how the Council wants the modifications to be treated would be helpful prior to the hearing so that participants can take them into account in any submissions. In any event there will be time on the agenda towards the end of the hearing to take an overview on the modifications and the process going forward in terms of the reporting stage.

The Inspector trusts this is of assistance and he looks forward to what should be a useful hearing session on 10 May.