
St Helens Borough Local Plan 2020-2035 Examination

Inspector: Mark Dakeyne BA (Hons) MRTPI

Inspector: Victoria Lucas LLB MCD MRTPI

Programme Officer: Kerry Trueman

14th December 2020

Dear

Consultee ID:

Organisation:

I am writing to you because my records show that you or your organisation have submitted representations during the St Helens Borough Local Plan 2020-2035 consultation (17th January 2019 - 13th May 2019). The Local Plan has been formally submitted to the Secretary of State and is currently subject to Independent Examination.

The Secretary of State has appointed Mark Dakeyne BA (Hons) MRTPI and Victoria Lucas LLB (Hons) MCD MRTPI as Planning Inspectors to conduct the Examination process.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Programme Officer who is responsible for assisting the Inspectors with all aspects of the examination administration. I am independent from the Council and work under the Inspectors' direction. Please note that all communications for the Inspectors should be sent to me. To ensure their impartiality the Inspectors will not communicate directly with any party, including the Council outside the formal examination sessions.

A Pre-Hearing Meeting will not be held. Instead the Inspectors will explain the procedure for the Examination in a Guidance Notes which will be issued and posted on the website shortly. The Inspectors also intend to provide their Preliminary Questions to the Council and these will be posted on the website in due course. In addition, the best place to go to keep up to date with the Examination process is the Examination webpage, a link to which is provided below:

<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning-policy/local-plan/local-plan-examination-news/>

The webpage will be frequently updated and include all correspondence, evidence, representations and other documentation relevant to the Examination (the Examination Library). If you do not have access to the internet and wish to view specific documents, please let me know so we can discuss an alternative.

The Inspectors have been provided with copies of all representations. They have asked me to point out that representations made in writing (or by e-mail) carry the same weight as those pursued by appearance at any of the hearing sessions.

You may have already indicated that you wish to participate in the hearing sessions (when you made your submission to the council), but for the avoidance of doubt I would welcome confirmation of whether you wish to take part in the hearings by **Friday 15th January 2021**.

The Hearing sessions are likely to take place in late Spring/early Summer, but it's unclear at this stage what format they will take as account will need to be taken of any restrictions that may be in place at the time due to the Covid-19 pandemic. They are likely to last for approximately 3 weeks with a break after the 1st week. Further information will be contained in the Guidance Note when it is published.

Once participation in the hearings is confirmed the Inspectors will finalise a programme for the hearings and a schedule of matters and issues to be discussed at the hearings. This will be circulated to those participating in the hearings and will form the basis for any further information that the Inspectors need. In the meantime, please do not submit any further information or representations.

The Inspectors have been undertaking their initial assessment of the Local Plan, including legal compliance and soundness having regard to the submitted documents, the evidence base and representations. They will raise some preliminary questions with the Council in due course which will be made available on the Examination webpage when they are issued. The Council's response will be added to the webpage in due course.

If you have any queries at any stage of the examination, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be happy to help.

In the meantime, I would be grateful if you could supply me with your email address, if you have one, to ensure quick and efficient communication. However, if you would prefer not to receive any further information on the examination, please let me know and I will remove your details from the notification list.

For your information the Council's privacy notice & Data protection information are available on their website, please click on the links below.

<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning-policy/local-plan/>

(click on Privacy Notice at the bottom of the page)

<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/council/data-protection-freedom-of-information/data-protection/>

Yours sincerely



Kerry Trueman
Programme Officer