



Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team,
c/o North Kesteven District Council,
District Council Offices,
Kesteven Street,
Sleaford
NG34 7EF

Inspectors Matthew Birkinshaw and Clive Coyne
(By email only, via the Programme Officer)

04 August 2022

Dear Inspectors Birkinshaw and Coyne

RE: Central Lincolnshire Local Plan – Request to recommend modifications and request to consult on Sustainability Appraisal Addendum

I refer to the recent communication from the Planning Inspectorate informing me of your appointment as planning inspectors for the examination of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. Can I take this opportunity to welcome you to Central Lincolnshire, and I look forward to engaging with you as the examination progresses.

To introduce myself, I am the lead officer responsible for the preparation of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and associated evidence base. Most communication you receive from the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team will be from myself (via, of course, the Programme Officer). Please do not hesitate to get in touch, should you have any questions.

Turning to early procedural matters, I have two requests to make which I would be grateful for your confirmation on.

First, and on behalf of the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee and in accordance with section 20(7c) of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended), I hereby confirm that the Committee would welcome from you recommended modifications to the submitted Local Plan, should they be necessary, in order to make the document satisfy the requirements in section 20(5)(a) of the Act to make the document sound. In previous examinations I have maintained a list of emerging potential modifications to assist the inspector, and which in due course would likely be subject to consultation toward the end of the examination period. If it would be helpful, I would be happy to undertake this task for the examination of this plan, taking instructions from you in terms of its form and content, and at what stages any draft be added to the examination webpage.

Second, there is a matter that I would like to bring to your attention at this time. When reviewing the responses received in the Regulation 19 consultation, it came to our attention that there were a small number of sites not presented in the Sustainability Appraisal document as published at the Regulation 19 stage, which arguably should or could have been (a point raised by a representor). These sites would fall into the category of 'reasonable alternative' sites i.e. all of the proposed allocation sites are included, but a limited number of the 'reasonable alternative' (but rejected) sites have not been included.

These sites have been assessed against the criteria used in the Sustainability Appraisal (as part of the site selection process), but such assessment was not included in the parallel Sustainability Appraisal documentation. In order to correct this omission and address the point raised by the representor, it is proposed that (with your permission) we undertake a consultation on an addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal containing these missing site appraisals. Given that these sites have already been assessed against the same criteria as part of the site selection process, it is not anticipated that this additional parallel SA assessment and consultation will result in any different outcome to the sites being put forward by the Committee in the submitted Plan. Nevertheless, we of course remain open minded on this matter and by publishing the addendum will ensure that the fullest picture possible is presented in the document.

More detail about the assessment that has been undertaken and the reason for this request is presented in document STA020, pages 84-86. With your permission we will be able to commence this consultation in early August and propose that it lasts for six weeks (i.e. until approximately mid-September). We will notify all those bodies who we are required to notify at the Regulation 19 stage. This six week consultation period ending by mid-September should (in our opinion) allow adequate time for any findings of the consultation to be considered in advance of, and as part of, any hearing sessions likely to occur in the autumn or winter, and therefore need not have a material effect on the examination timetable.

I would be grateful for your early agreement to undertake the consultation as described above.

Finally, a number of respondents to the Regulation 19 Consultation did not indicate whether or not they would like to attend any hearing sessions on policies on which they provided comments. We have provided these respondents an additional opportunity to indicate if they would like to attend, allowing 28 days to respond ending on 24 August, with a default position being not to appear at the hearing if no response is received. We are updating the database accordingly and the Programme Officer will be provided with the revised information.

I look forward to further hearing from you in due course, once your preliminary reading of the Local Plan and associated evidence base has been completed.

Yours sincerely,

P. Hylton

Phil Hylton
Local Plan Team Leader
Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team
T 01529 308089