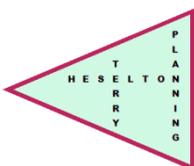


Independent Examination of the Wetherby Neighbourhood Plan

Questions to Leeds City Council and Wetherby Town Council

Terry Raymond Heselton BA (Hons), Dip TP, MRTPI

Independent Examiner



Terry Heselton Planning

12 July 2019

Following my initial assessment of the examination documents and Regulation 16 responses I have identified a number of issues that require clarification. The following questions are directed at Leeds City Council but may necessitate consultation with Wetherby Town Council.

Extant Strategic Policies

- 1 Please confirm that the policies in the Leeds Core Strategy are the strategic policies, within the meaning of paragraphs 075 and 076 of current national Planning Practice Guidance, which cover the Wetherby Neighbourhood Area.

Emerging Development Plan Documents

- 2 Can you provide a timetable for the remaining stages and adoption of the Site Allocations Plan and Core Strategy Review. I would also appreciate being kept up to date regarding progress with the preparation of these documents.

Designation of the Neighbourhood Area – Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

- 3 Please confirm and provide evidence that the Regulation 5, 6 and 7 requirements have been satisfied, with relevant dates, as there is no remaining evidence on the City Council's website. I appreciate that Council websites are frequently updated to avoid becoming overloaded with information so forgive me if I have missed a link to archived material.
- 4 In this respect am I correct in thinking that the Town Council's original application to designate a neighbourhood area was submitted on 3 May 2013, rather than 3 May 2012 as referred to in paragraph 5 on page 5 of the Plan, particularly since, as referred to in Section 1 of the Consultation Statement, the decision to prepare a neighbourhood plan was taken after May 2012 in October 2012.
- 5 Could you also clarify the circumstances in relation to the approved amendment of the Neighbourhood Area in November 2016, and again confirm that the regulatory requirements for publicity and consultation have been satisfied.

Consultation Statement

- 6 Between what dates was the Regulation 14 Consultation carried out?
- 7 Please provide further details of the 'wide variety of advertising and drop-in events', referred to in the last bullet point on page 3 of the Consultation Statement, including evidence that the requirements of Regulation 14 (a) (i)-(iv) have been satisfied.
- 8 There appears to be an inconsistency between the reference in the last

bullet point on page 3 to '750 responses were received' (to the Consultation) and the summary of comments provided in Appendix 5 Feedback Assessment Grid) which comprises responses from 8 organisations and suggestions made by individual members of the public for additional Policy ENV1 and Policy ENV2 designations. By my reckoning this amounts to less than 100 separate comments. Can you please clarify the situation.

- 9 The summary of feedback from the Regulation 14 Consultation in Appendix 5 appears to be based on 604 returned questionnaires, which I assume were distributed to all households and businesses. Can you confirm that this is the case and also provide either an electronic copy of the questionnaire or weblink.

Consultation with Consultation Bodies – Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

- 10 Please provide evidence that relevant (Schedule 1) Consultation Bodies were consulted at Regulation 14 stage by the Town Council and that the same bodies were notified as part of the Regulation 16 Publicity by Leeds City Council.

Evidence Base

- 11 The Plan is supported by a number of evidence base documents which are identified in boxes at the beginning of each thematic section of the Plan. While I am able to access some of these documents through the Town Council and City Council websites I would appreciate electronic copies or weblinks to the following:-

- Community Survey 2015, Wetherby NDP, 2015
- Wetherby Housing Needs Survey, Arc 4, 2012
- Market Town Bench Marking Report, AMTi, 2013
- Yorkshire and Humber Green Infrastructure Mapping Project, Natural England, 2010
- Local Green Spaces Assessment, Wetherby NDP, 2016, and
- Local List Assessment, Wetherby NDP, 2016

It would be helpful if you could respond to these questions by Friday 26 July 2019.

I will let you know if I have any further questions as the examination progresses.

In order to ensure openness and transparency any questions or points of clarification raised by myself and the City Council's responses to them should be published on Leeds City Council's website.