

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION

FURTHER NOTE from the INSPECTOR to the COUNCIL

Since forwarding my Initial Note - Doc E.1, two matters have arisen for the attention of the Council:

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

First – it has been brought to my attention [by a colleague Inspector at this stage] that new ONS population figures have been issued of which the Council may [wish to] be aware and in due course indicate whether the new data has any influence on the ESLP or its Evidence Base.

I have been provided with the following link, if that is helpful.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Population+Projections>

I emphasise that I have not had time yet to do more than check that the link works and have not studied any of the new information myself.

DOCUMENTATION

Second – I am concerned that the Council is issuing revised and new documents without following a clear pattern or process. Confusion may result, potentially causing delay and extra cost.

Wherever a document is listed, or referred to in the evidence base or the Plan itself, it is vital that it is absolutely clear which is the latest version and where amendments have been made.

So the Council is asked to establish with the PO a clear schedule of all documents issued or yet to be issued since the formal submission of the Plan with Document numbers and cross reference to those which are superseded. Where a document supersedes an earlier version it must include indication of why and how the amendments have been made and suitable cross-references made in the Library List.

Starting with the outstanding documents referred to in the submission letter of 11 April, I note that I now have

F.8 and **F.9** Representations and Responses on the Revised SA

C.43 – Integrated transport Strategy

As far as I understand, I do not yet have any of the others listed in the letter and only an indication in an email from the PO on 16 May when they will follow, apart from the SPD consultation I gather is due shortly.

Neither do I appear to have **the Revised SA itself**. Submitted Doc Ref **B.9** is the version published for consultation alongside the Plan in Oct-Nov 2013. I am also unclear as to the reasons for the revision of the SA, apart from the proposed changes detailed in Doc A.27. **I should like this confirmed and the Revised SA provided immediately, clearly indicating where the revisions are to be found.**

I also have revisions to **Doc B.22**, the PAS Soundness Self-Assessment and I am unclear why and how it is revised. **I should like this confirmed also.**

I also now have **Docs C73-C92**, totalling 20 in number, which I am advised are the appendices to the SFRA Doc C.20. However, the missing appendices in that document are numbered A-G, 7 in number. Moreover, **C.74** is missing and **C.77** comprises a version of the SFRA itself different from C.20 in that it is dated 26/09/13 whereas C.20 submitted with the Plan is dated 29/10/2013.

The Council is asked urgently to clarify these points and to indicate how the newly issued Docs C75-92 relate to the SFRA Appendices A-G. It would be better for the Appendices to the SFRA to appear as Documents C.20.A-G.

Otherwise there must be cross-references in the Library List to ensure that Representors and others, including the Inspector are clear where to look for the references they need.

Any further such matters should be resolved with the PO in the best interest of everyone concerned, rather than new hard copies being sent via the Planning Inspectorate for forwarding as in the present case.

I need hardly remind the Council team that I have no choice but to record time spent on this type of query at the fixed rate charged by the Inspectorate.

B J Sims

3 June 2014