Examination of Doncaster Local Plan

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INSPECTOR’S NOTE NO.3:

CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY AND THE EXAMINATION PROGRAMME

Introduction

I advised in my Guidance Note published on 24 March\(^1\) that, due to the coronavirus emergency, I would not be setting dates for examination hearing sessions at that time but that I would continue my initial work examining the Plan.

On 8 April, I published Preliminary Questions for the Council and their response is likely to be published in the next few days. When I have considered that, I will publish my matters, issues, and questions which will be the focus of the examination.

National advice

On 13 May, a Written Ministerial Statement by the Secretary of State was published. This sets out the Government’s expectations for how the planning system should be operating during the emergency. The statement is available at


In light of this, the Planning Inspectorate’s Guidance on local plan examinations has been updated. The Guidance is available at


Moving forward with the examination

I have been exploring with the Council, through the Programme Officer, how the examination can best move forward after I have published my matters, issues, and questions. We have agreed to make provisional arrangements for the

\(^1\) INSP1.
examination hearing sessions to be held at Doncaster Civic Office in the autumn. I expect there to be around 12 sitting days spread over a number of weeks. The first session is likely to be late September or early October.

However, I will have to keep the provisional timetable, and how the event can be run, under review in the context of the emergency and national advice. At least six weeks notice will be given of the start of the first hearing session.

When I publish my matters, issues, and questions, I will provide advice about written statements, the provisional hearing programme, and attending hearing sessions.

If you have any queries about this note, please contact the Programme Officer.

William Fieldhouse
INSPECTOR
19 May 2020