

Note from the Inspector to Bromsgrove DC and Redditch BC – 17 June 2015

In preparing for the hearings next week, I am concerned that the suite of documentation relating to the updated HGDS, the HGDS SAs and the two updated Local Plan SAs – when taken together – lacks some clarity. In particular, it is not fully clear how these documents relate to one another, and how each has influenced the Councils' present position. I note that similar comments have been made by some of the representors.

I therefore feel that it would assist the examination if an overview statement could be prepared that sets out [in a concise and non-technical manner] what actions the Councils have carried out, and in what sequence. In particular:

- The note should clearly set out the sequence of actions that the Councils have followed in responding to the concerns raised in my Post Hearings note dated 3.10.14.
- It should clearly state the outcome of the process in terms of any changes to the Plans.
- It should clearly state which document (or documents) the Councils are relying upon to justify their present position. It is assumed that the HGDS was amended by the November 2014 addendum: this should be made clear. If the subsequent SA work is also to be relied upon then it will be necessary to explain how this has influenced the Council's present position. Specifically, does this supersede or otherwise amend the HGDS addendum and the HGDS SA? It does not appear that either document has been revisited in the light of the Plan-wide SAs.
- In that context, I was informed by the Councils (e-mail from Ruth Bamford dated 18.12.14) that 'a two-stage rewrite of the SA was required to comprise appraisal of alternative strategies to deliver housing need, draft policies and proposed strategic sites.' Where can I find that?

The Councils should be able to respond to the detailed points raised by representors at the relevant hearing sessions.

I also note that the Councils have not responded specifically in respect of the omission sites that are scheduled for discussion next Wednesday (Brockhill West & Bordesley). The Inspector will expect them to be able to explain their objections to these sites at that session.

The overview statement should be made publically available on the examination websites before the hearings – and ideally by close of play on Friday 19 June 2015. If you have any queries then please contact the PO.

Michael J Hetherington

Inspector