

Shropshire Council
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
Shropshire SY2 6ND

Date: 9 March 2023

My Ref:

Your Ref

Dear Inspectors,

Interim Findings (ID28): Indication of timeframe for full Council response and initial response to issue of 'Saved' policies

Thank you for your letter of 15 February 2023 (ID28) setting out your Interim Findings following the stage 1 hearing sessions. We also acknowledge the Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) for the upcoming hearing sessions on Minerals and Waste issues (ID29 and ID30).

Firstly, we acknowledge your conclusions with regard to the Duty to Cooperate (DtC) and in particular that you are satisfied that the Council has met the legal duty set out in Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and that as such the examination can continue.

We also acknowledge that before we can proceed to the stage 2 hearing sessions there are a number of matters that require further work to make the plan sound, which your letter sets out. This includes, but is not limited to, additional work in relation to the Sustainability Appraisal with regard to the issue of unmet need from the Black Country, and the preparation of new topic papers relating to Housing and Employment Requirement, and Green Belt.

Having given initial consideration to the areas of work required in order to respond effectively to your request, the Council considers this work is likely to take some time. We therefore propose to respond in full by **30 June 2023**. We will of course need to keep this date under review as we progress this additional work.

It is clearly the Council's aspiration to move ahead to stage 2 hearing sessions in a timely manner once this additional work is completed, but we do of course fully acknowledge that you will need to time to give the additional submissions consideration before setting out a timetable for the stage 2 hearing sessions.

We acknowledge that whilst this work is being carried out this aspect of the Examination is being paused. We do however note the continuation of the Mineral and Waste elements of the Examination, and will be responding to the MIQs for the upcoming virtual hearing sessions by the deadline of 6 April as set out in ID29 and ID30.



Whilst we consider that a full response to the issues raised will take some time, we have given some initial thought to one part of the Interim Findings relating to saved policies as set out in paragraph 6 of your letter. You have asked for the Council to provide further information on how the Council intends to 'save' these SAMDev policies to ensure they remain extant for the purposes of the Development Management process.

The Council is considering three alternative options for progressing this positively, as set out in Appendix 1 to this letter. The Council would welcome views from you on these initial options, in particular if you consider any of them would not be acceptable in your view.

Yours sincerely

Eddie West
Planning Policy and Strategy Manager
Shropshire Council

