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Dear Clerk,

CONSULTATION ON MAIN MODIFICATIONS TO DONCASTER LOCAL PLAN

As you are aware Doncaster Council is preparing a new Local Plan to shape how Doncaster develops until 2035. The plan will influence the location and quantity of new development across the Borough.

I am writing to let you that the Council is now consulting on Proposed 'Main Modifications' to the Plan that was submitted to the Secretary of State for an independent examination. During the examination hearing sessions, held in October and December last year, a number of Modifications were identified as being necessary to make the Plan 'legally compliant' and 'sound' (see overleaf for definitions).

From Monday 8 February to Sunday 21 March 2021 we are consulting and inviting comments on:

- A schedule of Main Modifications to the Publication Draft Local Plan (June 2019)
- A schedule of Revisions to the Policies Map
- An update to the Sustainability Appraisal
- An update to the Habitats Regulation Assessment.
- A schedule of Additional (Minor) Modifications

A 'track changed' Local Plan showing all proposed modifications to the Publication Draft Plan has also been produced as a supporting guide.

All the publication documents and additional information (including earlier consultations) are available at: <http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/localplan>

How to respond: Please use the Comments Form if you wish to respond which is available at: <http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/localplan>.

Representations must be made in writing before end of Sunday 21 March 2021.

If you have any questions, or want to respond in another way, please email localplan@doncaster.gov.uk or call 01302 734419.

Yours faithfully,

Roy Sykes
Head of Planning

FURTHER INFORMATION

Purpose of the Consultation

Doncaster Council has published a schedule of 'Main Modifications' (MMs) to the Local Plan. The schedule sets out revisions to the Plan considered necessary to make it legally compliant and sound. The MM are part of the Plan's examination process ahead of the Inspector producing his final report. The Modifications are accompanied by a number of supporting documents and Policies Map changes which we also invite comments on.

The Inspector has indicated that a full consultation should take place to enable him to consider responses to the MMs. The Inspector has to be satisfied the changes proposed will address the soundness issues he has identified. This does not mean the Inspector has endorsed the changes. All MMs remain subject to the Inspector's consideration of responses made during this consultation.

What Does Legally Compliant Mean?

Legally compliant means asking whether or not the Plan (and the MMs) has been prepared in line with statutory regulations, the duty to cooperate and legal procedural requirements such as the Sustainability Appraisal (SA). Details of how the plan has been prepared are set out in the published Consultation Statements and the Duty to Cooperate Statement, which can be found at:

www.doncaster.gov.uk/localplan

What Does Soundness Mean?

To be found sound, the Local Plan Inspector needs to be satisfied that the Plan (and the MMs) is:

- **Positively Prepared** - *providing a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed needs; and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development;*
- **Justified** - *an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence;*
- **Effective** - *deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground; and*
- **Consistent with national policy** - *enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in this Framework.*

What happens after the consultation?

All representations on the proposed MMs will be sent directly to the Inspector who will then consider them along with all other representations submitted earlier in the process. The Inspector will then finalise the examination report. Further hearing sessions will not usually be held, unless the Inspector considers them essential to deal with substantial issues raised in the representations.

When will the Inspector's Report be produced?

The timetable for the production of the report will be a matter for the Inspector. However, it is expected that the responses to the consultation will be with the Inspector in early April. This would mean that the earliest possible date for the production of the Inspector's Report would be May / June 2021.

Any Further Questions?

Please contact the Planning Policy and Environment Team on (01302) 734419 or by email at: localplan@doncaster.gov.uk