



## **Examination of the Sheffield Plan: Our City, Our Future**

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23 February 2024

Dear Mr Johnson

### **Inspectors' Letter: Progress of the Examination**

#### *Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 2*

1. At the time of submitting the Plan, the Council highlighted some key areas of the evidence base which had not yet been completed and submitted, including a Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). On submission of the Plan, the SFRA was anticipated for completion and submission by December 2023. However, the Council has now advised that the SFRA is not likely to be submitted to the Examination until 26 April 2024.
2. It is important for all involved in the Examination that the necessary evidence is available for preparation prior to and for discussion at hearing sessions. This avoids additional work being required from participants after the hearing sessions and further hearing sessions having to take place to cover evidence important to the Plan's soundness.
3. In the interests of fairness, all new or updated evidence documents should be available for representors prior to the hearings and they should be able to write their responses to our Matters, Issues and Questions in the knowledge of what those evidence documents cover. Unfortunately, the SFRA's anticipated submission date of 26 April 2024 would not allow sufficient time for the issue of and response to supplementary questions prior to the hearings for Stage 1 commencing on 21 May 2024.
4. With regret and in order to prevent further delay in the Examination process, we have concluded that it is necessary to delay the Stage 1 hearings to no earlier than the week commencing 24 June 2024. This would result in the Stage 1

hearings taking place in the weeks of 24 June and 1 July 2024. Stage 2 and 3 hearings would also need to be rescheduled into the Autumn. We have provided an updated Guidance Note and Provisional Hearings Programme for publication on the Examination website.

*Other outstanding information*

5. The Council has previously offered to provide a note on accessible and adaptable homes. We would be grateful if it could be submitted via the Programme Officer forthwith.
6. Additionally, we request the submission of the following information:
  - a) Any evidence base documents supporting the Council's approach to tall buildings;
  - b) The most recently published Local Aggregates Assessment which covers the Plan area;
  - c) The most recent report of the Yorkshire and Humber Aggregates Working Party, and any other relevant documents published by the Aggregates Working Party;
  - d) Confirmation as to whether there are any existing or proposed Minerals Safeguarding Areas within the Plan area, with full details and maps;
  - e) Maps showing areas with Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences.

Please confirm to the Programme Officer when these documents will be provided.

*Next steps*

7. Please publish this letter on the Examination website. We are not seeking the views of any other party at this stage.
8. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via the Programme Officer.

Yours sincerely

*J Gilbert*      *R Morgan*      *D Troy*

Inspectors