

Examination of West Berkshire Local Plan 2022-2039

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IN3: EXAMINATION PROGRAMME UPDATE

My Guidance Notes published on 10 May 2023¹ set out a provisional programme for key events in the examination. This included publication of my matters, issues and questions in June / July and hearing sessions in September to November. This was premised on the Council responding to my preliminary questions² by 23 June. However, the Council wrote to me on 20 June requesting that they now be allowed until the end of September to respond to my preliminary questions³.

I can confirm that I will allow the Council until the end of September to respond to my preliminary questions. I can also confirm that I do not intend to publish my matters, issues and questions, which will be the focus of the examination, until after I have received and considered the Council's response to my preliminary questions.

As the Council's letter acknowledges, this will have a knock-on effect for the examination programme and the timings of the hearings. The Council, through the Programme Officer, should continue to keep me informed about its position with regard to the examination. I will publish a revised provisional programme when I am able to do so. However, I can advise at this stage that the hearings are unlikely now to start until sometime in 2024.

If anyone has any queries about this note, please contact the Programme Officer.

William Fieldhouse

22 June 2023

¹ IN1.

² IN2, published 22 May 2023.

³ EXAM1.