

Examination of the Sheffield Plan: Our City, Our Future

Supplementary Matters, Issues and Questions for Stage 1 Hearings

Introduction

This document sets out Supplementary Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQ) for Stage 1 Hearings regarding the soundness of the Sheffield Plan: Our City, Our Future (the Plan). Prior to the forthcoming hearing sessions, responses are invited from participants on the Supplementary MIQs for Stage 1 Hearings. Participants should have regard to the recently published Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (EXAM38 – 42)(April 2024).

Stage 1 Hearings cover predominantly strategic matters, while Stage 2 and Stage 3 Hearings respectively address viability, site allocations and housing supply, and development management policies.

The Examination will be focussed on the tests of soundness set out in paragraph 35 and other requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework) published in September 2023.

Participants should only respond to the questions which directly relate to the written representations they submitted to the consultation on the Publication Draft Sheffield Plan.

Further information about the Examination is provided in the Guidance Note V2 and the latest published Provisional Hearings Programme, which should be read alongside the Stage 1 MIQ.

Please respond to the MIQ with separate statements for each Matter, with page and paragraph numbers to allow for ease of reference.

The deadline for submission of the supplementary MIQs for Stage 1 Hearings is 5 June 2024 (electronic copies) and 7 June 2024 (paper copies).

Matter 1: Procedural/Legal Requirements

Issue 1: Whether the Council has complied with relevant procedural and legal requirements in preparing the Plan?

Integrated Impact Assessment (including Sustainability Appraisal)

- 1.6a What information has been used to inform the flood risk findings for the options considered within the IIA and are the assumptions used reasonable in light of the findings of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 and 2 work completed to date?
- 1.6b Paragraph 160 of the Framework confirms that strategic policies should be informed by a strategic flood risk assessment, and should manage flood risk from all sources. Diagram 1: Taking flood risk into account in the preparation of strategic policies of the Planning Practice Guidance Paragraph 7-007-20220825 sets out a flowchart for key steps involved in preparing strategic policies.

Was the aforementioned policy and guidance set out in the Framework and the Planning Practice Guidance followed by the Council? Given that the Council has proposed development within areas of flood risk now or in the future and has undertaken a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 2, has the Council then gone on to assess alternative development options using the IIA, transparently balancing flood risk against other planning objectives and used the IIA to inform the allocation of land in accordance with the Sequential Test?

Matter 4: The Spatial Strategy

Issue 3: Is the Plan's Spatial Strategy soundly based?

- 4.9a Noting Policy SP1 n) and the Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 2 (EXAM38 – 42)(April 2024), how have flooding constraints been taken into account in determining the spatial distribution of development? Is the Plan consistent with paragraph 161 of the Framework?
- 4.9b Planning Practice Guidance Paragraph 7-025-20220825: How can the Sequential Test be applied in the preparation of strategic policies? states that the Sequential Test needs to be applied to the whole local planning authority area to increase the possibilities of accommodating development which is not exposed to flood risk, both now and in the future. The Council is requested to set out clearly how the initial screening of sites, known flood risk

vulnerability and the need to apply the Sequential Test have been taken into account in terms of developing the Spatial Strategy and the allocation of sites.

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INSPECTORS