

Examination of the Cannock Chase Local Plan 2018 – 2040

Inspector: Andrew McCormack BSc (Hons) MRTPI
Programme Officer: Ian Kemp

Dean Piper
Head of Economic Development & Planning
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Sent via Email

26 March 2025

Dear Mr Piper

Examination of the Cannock Chase Local Plan 2018 – 2040 Schedule of Matters, Issues and Questions

As you are aware, I am the Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State to conduct an Examination in Public of the above development plan which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 29 November 2024. Since the submission of the Plan, the Examination of the Cannock Chase Local Plan 2018 – 2040 with the Council and its officers over the coming months. I have been undertaking my initial review of the document and the evidence supporting it. This initial review is now complete, although my assessment of the Plan and the supporting evidence remains ongoing throughout the Examination.

As such, I am now able to publish my Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) (attached) regarding the submitted Plan and which I have identified following my initial review. The Schedule of MIQs will form the basis and structure of the programme for the forthcoming hearing sessions which are to be held over three weeks between 13 May and 11 July 2025. An initial draft of the Hearing Programme (V1) (also attached), having had regard to the Schedule of MIQs, is published along with this letter to assist those who will be participating in the Examination

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Council and its officers for their assistance in scheduling the hearing sessions in liaison with myself and the Programme Officer, Ian Kemp and making arrangements for a suitable venue to be available at which to conduct the Examination.

In addition, I have also published a Guidance Note for those participating in the Examination (also attached) which provides further information and details about the Examination and some key dates relating to responses to the MIQs over the coming weeks. I strongly advise all participants in the Examination to read this Note and keep its contents in mind throughout the Examination.

Please ensure that all of the attached documents will be placed on the examination webpages by the as soon as possible. The documents will also be circulated by the Programme Officer to all those who made representations on the submitted Plan.

To make the Examination workload more manageable for all involved, and to reflect the phased nature of the hearing sessions, I have phased the response deadlines for hearing statements to be submitted regarding

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the Matters identified in the Schedule of MIQs. The details of this are set out within my Guidance Note and again I would encourage all participants to keep these dates in mind.

In addition to these details, I have also identified a date (Friday 11 April) by which all those who have a right to appear at the Examination Hearings and who wish to do so are to inform the Programme Officer of their intention. By doing so, this will greatly assist the smooth and efficient running of the Examination and in amending the Hearing Programme should that be necessary.

Should you have any queries regarding any of the documents published today or the progress of the Examination that you wish to raise, please contact the Programme Officer, Ian Kemp in the first instance.

I trust that you find this letter helpful, and I look forward to hearing from you in due course concerning the matters, issues and questions I have provided regarding the submitted Plan and to progressing the Examination of the Cannock Chase Local Plan 2018 – 2040 with the Council and its officers over the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

A McCormack

Inspector

Attached:

Schedule of Matters, Issues and Questions (26 March 2025)

Inspector's Guidance Note for people participating in the Examination (26 March 2025)

Draft Hearing Programme (as at 26 March 2025) – V1