

## North Norfolk Local Plan Examination

Russell Williams  
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North Norfolk District Council  
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NR27 9EN

6 December 2024 (Received 13 December 2024, NNDC)

Dear Mr Williams

### **NORTH NORFOLK LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION**

1. Following my post hearings letters dated 24 May 2024<sup>1</sup> and 30 August 2024 your officers have helpfully kept me informed of developments via the programme officer. I am pleased that the Council has made good progress and has now agreed and published a series of proposals for consultation that seek to address the main soundness issues raised.
2. I thought it would be helpful at this stage to set out how I see the next steps.
3. Following the end of the consultation period the Council should produce a schedule of the responses received, summarised as necessary. It would be helpful if this could follow the order of the consultation document, namely:
  - (i) Proposed New or Amended Allocations (2.1 to 2.11)
  - (ii) Proposed Additional Small Growth Villages (including the detailed boundaries in Appendix 3)
  - (iii) Proposal to increase Small Growth Village growth to 9%
  - (iv) Any general comments about the revised housing provision or distribution proposed
  - (v) Responses to the proposed Gypsy, Traveller & Travelling Showpeople's Accommodation section of the plan (4.0.1 – 4.0.14 & Policy HOU7) in the light of the September 2024 report from RRR Consultancy
  - (vi) Any miscellaneous points raised not covered in (i)–(v)
4. The schedule should be published and considered by the Council in order to confirm whether or not, in the light of the responses, the Council believes that the proposals should be included in the plan in order to address the main soundness issues.
5. The schedule should include, in the light of the responses received, whether the Council believes any amendments should be made to the proposals, e.g.

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<sup>1</sup> Not released until 19 July 2024 due to the general election.

changes to the new or amended allocations, the detailed wording of the content in 2.1 – 2.11, or the additional small growth villages.

6. Assuming the Council confirms the proposed changes to the plan and that substantive comments have been received, resumed hearings will be required to cover the matters listed in 3 (i)-(v) above. Matters covered during the initial hearings in January – March 2024 will not be revisited unless directly affected by the new proposals. All those who make relevant comments during the current consultation period will be entitled to speak at the resumed hearings if they so wish.
7. Once the schedule described in 3 and 5 above is available I will be able to prepare a set of agendas for the resumed hearings setting out the issues and questions to be discussed and a draft hearing timetable. Six weeks' notice of the resumed hearing sessions will need to be given.
8. It would be helpful to know the potential date the schedule is likely to be made available and the likely dates of any member meetings if these are required. It is appreciated that these dates will depend to some extent on the scale and nature of the responses that are received and this may not yet be clear.
9. One piece of work which should be put in hand for the resumed hearings is the preparation of a revised schedule of housing sites and projected delivery rates and the associated housing trajectory to cover the revised plan period 2024-40. This should be consistent with the conclusions in the post hearings letters, include the revised proposals and demonstrate likely housing delivery during the plan period and five-year supply period 2025-30.
10. Following the resumed hearings, if the plan can be made sound by a series of main modifications, these will be advised to the Council and will need to be the subject of a final round of public consultation. These will include those arising from the initial hearings as well as the resumed hearings.
11. This letter together with your reply should be placed on the examination website for information. I will ask the programme officer to inform existing hearing participants when it is published but I am not inviting or accepting comments from other parties at this stage.

*David Reed*

INSPECTOR