

Wyre Forest District Local Plan (2016-36)

Guidance Note for Respondents on the Main Modifications Consultation

Introduction

1.1 Wyre Forest District Council has produced the Local Plan (2016-36) to guide future development in the district. Following the Local Plan Examination hearing sessions in January and February 2021, we received notification from the Inspector Ms M Travers that several changes to the plan are considered necessary to address issues of soundness. These changes are known as 'Main Modifications'.

1.2 The proposed Main Modifications include changes to the wording of some policies together with alterations to the proposed uses on some of the site allocations.

1.3 These proposed Main Modifications are required to make the Plan sound in the light of issues identified during the examination. This is without prejudice to the Inspector's final conclusions and, following the close of this consultation, all representations will be passed to the Inspector for consideration before publication of her final report. Her conclusions and reasons for recommending the final main modifications will be set out in her report.

1.4 The changes are set out in the following documents:

- Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to the Wyre Forest District Local Plan (2016 – 2036) (September 2021) (ED57)
- Sustainability Appraisal of the main modifications to the Submission Wyre Forest District Local Plan (September 2021) (ED58)
- Schedule of proposed changes to the policies map to reflect the proposed main modifications to the draft Local Plan (July 2021) (ED59)

1.5 The Council is now seeking views on the modifications put forward to the Submission Local Plan (SD01) and Policies Map (SD02). These changes are documented in the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications (ED57) and illustrated in the proposed changes to the Policies Map document (ED59). Please be aware that the consultation is only on the proposed Main Modifications and any policies map changes required as a result. No other aspects of the Plan can be commented on at this stage. You may wish to make comments on the Sustainability Appraisal report (ED58) as part of this consultation.

1.6 The consultation period runs from 9am on Thursday 14 October 2021 to 12pm on Friday 26 November 2021. Late responses will not be accepted.

Legal Compliance and Soundness

2.1 The Inspector will assess whether the proposed modifications meet all the legal and procedural requirements and whether the Local Plan is 'sound'. Modifications which are legally compliant have been prepared in line with the statutory regulations and meet the legal requirements such as the production of Sustainability Appraisals.

2.2 The assessment of the soundness of the Main Modifications will consider their content and if they meet the four tests set out in paragraph 35 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). In order to meet these tests, plans should be:

- Positively prepared – providing a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed needs; and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development;
- Justified – an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence;
- Effective – deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground; and
- Consistent with national policy – enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the NPPF and other statements of national planning policy, where relevant.

How to Comment

3.1 You can view the consultation documents and make comments directly using the online consultation portal [Wyre Forest District Council - Consultation Home \(objective.co.uk\)](http://Wyre Forest District Council - Consultation Home (objective.co.uk))

3.2 Alternatively, you can access the consultation documents and download the response form from the Council's website at www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/localplanmainmods. Printed copies of the consultation documents are also available at the district's local libraries.

3.3 Completed response forms should be either emailed to LPR@wyreforestdc.gov.uk or Posted to: Planning Policy Team, Wyre Forest District Council, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY11 7WF.

3.4 Please note that it is not necessary to repeat any comments already made on any other aspects of the Plan as these are already being considered by the Inspector. This consultation is confined to the proposed Main Modifications and the associated supporting documents. No representations should be made about parts of the Plan not proposed for modification. The Inspector will not consider such representations.

3.5 Please also note that the Schedule of Additional (Minor) Modifications does not formally form part of this consultation and is only provided for completeness. No representations should be made on it.

Next Steps

4.1 All representations will be made publicly available with personal details redacted. All valid responses will be forwarded to the Planning Inspector for consideration.

4.2 If you wish to be notified of when the Inspector's Report is published or when the Wyre Forest District Local Plan (2016-36) has been adopted please request this on the response form.