

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN 2016-2036 EXAMINATION

MATTER 1: Legal requirements, the Duty to Co-operate and the Public Sector Equality Duty

HEARING AGENDA

Monday 11 January 2021, commencing at 09:30

The agenda sets out the order of this opening session of the hearings and the topics for discussion, taking account of the submitted evidence, representations and written statements.

1. Opening announcement by the Inspector
2. Opening statement by Wyre Forest District Council
3. Compliance of the Plan with the relevant requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the 2012 Regulations (as amended), taken as a whole: This item relates to question 1.1 of my Main Matters and Questions (Doc ED16).
4. Compliance with the requirements for Sustainability Appraisal (SA): The discussion will be focused on the adequacy of the SA evidence and not on the way in which the SA and other evidence has informed the Plan, since that will be considered in later hearing sessions. The key questions are whether the SA is fit for purpose, is it free of any fundamental flaws and if not, how might these be addressed?
5. Compliance of the Plan, taken as whole, with s19(1A) of the Act: In the light of the Council's response to my question 1.3 (ED16), it will be helpful to explore briefly in this session whether the Plan as a whole satisfies the legal requirement. The implications for climate change of the Plan's policies and proposals will be returned to in other hearing sessions as required.
6. The legal Duty to Co-operate: Participants should be aware that I have found no substantive evidence to date that the legal 'Duty' had not been met when the Plan was submitted for examination. It will be helpful in this part of the agenda to consider the provisions within the Plan to address strategic, cross-boundary matters that are on-going or may arise in the future, and the topic of this 'on-going Duty' will be returned to in other hearing sessions as necessary.
7. The Public Sector Equality Duty: The details of the Plan's provisions for people or groups with protected characteristics under the law will be considered in other hearing sessions. The principal question for this

session is whether the Council has carried out the necessary work to identify and assess the needs of these people or groups, the potential effects of the Plan upon them, and whether any mitigation of the effects may be required.

Mary Travers

Inspector