

Examination of Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document

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IN17 Action Points from week 1 hearing sessions

Introduction

Further to the discussions at the week one hearing sessions, the following actions are required by GMCA. We consider these to be necessary at this stage of the examination to inform our consideration of whether the Plan is sound and/or how it could be made sound by main modifications. We may decide in due course that other or different main modifications are required, including to the parts of the Plan that we refer to below.

Responses should be submitted to the Programme Officer by **midday on Wednesday 16 November 2022** unless otherwise specified.

JPA9 Walshaw

PMM2 includes main modifications proposed by GMCA in response to our questions, but also includes a proposed main modification to remove allocation JPA9 Walshaw from the Plan.

We have not yet reached a conclusion about any of the proposed main modifications included in PMM2. We will continue to assume that the 9 local planning authorities submitted what they considered to be a sound plan for examination, and there is no provision in the legislation for them to make changes to it once submitted. We can only recommend modifications to the submitted Plan if we consider them essential to ensure soundness or legal compliance.

Whether the inclusion of JPA9 Walshaw, or indeed any other allocation, renders the submitted plan unsound is an issue that we will only come to once we have considered other matters including the spatial strategy; what the housing requirement should be for each district; the available evidence about the existing housing supply, and what it tells us about whether exceptional circumstances exist to

release Green Belt for site allocations; and whether each of the site allocations is suitable and justified.

Once we have considered those matters we would decide what, if any, further steps we would need to take to help us determine if any main modifications are required in relation to site allocations.

AP1. GMCA to remove the proposed main modification in PMM2 that refers to deleting Policy JPA9 and its associated reasoned justification paragraphs and picture.

M1. Legal and procedural requirements and other general matters

Superseded policies in existing local plans

AP2. GMCA to consider whether a further modification to Appendix A is required in relation to policy SP1 of the Wigan Core Strategy relating to Green Belt.

Role of the Plan and its relationship with local plans and neighbourhood plans

AP3. GMCA to amend the proposed main modification to paragraph 11.2 and the proposed additional paragraph to avoid repetition and to clarify what is meant by “objectively assessed needs for housing and other uses” and how that relates to the minimum requirement figures for housing, industrial and warehouse, and office uses set out in policies JP-H1 (Table 7.2), JP-J3 and JP-J4.

AP4. GMCA to draft a main modification so that the Plan states that any strategic policies in local plans will be expected to look ahead a minimum period from their adoption in line with national policy, and that if a local plan looks beyond 2039 the minimum requirement figures set out in policies JP-H1, JP-J3 and JP-J4 should be used on a pro rata basis.

Plan period

The GMCA’s proposed main modification to extend the plan period to 2038 (rather than 2037) is intended to ensure consistency with national policy that expects strategic policies to look ahead over a minimum of 15 years from adoption. However, to achieve this the Plan will need to look ahead to at least 2039. The GMCA is also proposing the Plan be modified to update the existing land supply information to 2022. If we decide that is necessary for soundness, we may also decide that the start date of the Plan should be updated to 2022 (rather than 2021).

AP5. GMCA to draft main modifications to the Plan so that it relates to a plan period of 2022 to 2039.

Existing land supply information 2022

AP6. GMCA to provide a list of the evidence documents used to inform the 2022-based updates to the existing land supply figures provided in response to SQ4.1, and set out when each of those documents was or will be published.

M3. Spatial Strategy

Housing distribution

AP7. GMCA to provide housing completion data for each of the 9 local planning authorities district for (a) previous 10 years and (b) previous 20 years.

M5. Key Diagram

AP8. In addition to those already suggested, GMCA to draft main modifications to the Key Diagram (Figure 3.1) to ensure effectiveness. In particular, the symbols and/or notation for the strategic allocations and locations, the Broad Location, the accuracy of the arrows illustrating spatial strategy, and removing the illustrative Potential Rapid Transit Routes.

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7 November 2022
