

## **Examiner's Clarifying Questions and Information Requests put to Malton and Norton Town Councils and North Yorkshire Council**

### **Questions and Information Requests to Town Councils (05 Jan 2024)**

#### **Question TC1:**

Please can you confirm for the purposes of my report that both Town Councils are jointly the qualifying body which is what the documents suggest and that it is not a case of one Town Council being the qualifying body in consultation with the other.

#### **Question TC2**

Given the extremely short plan period remaining to 2027 is it the Councils' intention to commence a review as soon as the North Yorks Local Plan is sufficiently advanced to do so.

#### **Question TC3**

Most neighbourhood plans have a clear thread that runs from identified key issues to vision and objectives and then to policies and proposals in response. The MNNP doesn't identify early on what the key issues are although as the reader progresses through the plan it becomes clear. I will be suggesting that the Councils provide a short section of text at the end of section 2 that sets out what the key issues for the towns are today that has emerged out of the preparation and consultation process and which can then lead into the vision and objectives. It would be helpful if that could be provided before the examination completes. A bullet point summary will be sufficient.

#### **Question TC4**

The start of Policy TM1 states development should be compatible with and contribute to the footpath, cycle and bridleway network. This is not clear – what do you actually mean? – do you mean development should provide good connections to the network and where opportunities exist improve the network?

#### **Question TC5**

Policy E2 implies that development that enhances a Local Green Space will be supported. Given that development can only be allowed on LGS in very special circumstances, is the intention that this policy relates to development outside but close to an LGS?

#### **Question TC6**

Can you clarify the intention of Policy E4 which seems on the policies map to identify large tracts of land as Green and Blue infrastructure areas north of Malton and south of Norton when the policy talks specifically about 'corridors' ie presumably linear areas of protection. From the description at Appendix 2 it only seems to be the Howardian Hills that may relate to areas rather than corridors. Also although Appendix 2 refers to the Wolds Area this is not listed in Policy E4.

#### **Question TC7**

Policy E6 identifying and protecting gateway locations is not well supported by the Appendix. There is a need for the Appendix to be clearer as to exactly what is the essential landscape character to be protected. Some of the entries are better at this

than others but it would be helpful if the Councils could provide a replacement Appendix that specifically sets out the essential character to be protected and that development must respect at each gateway.

**Question TC8**

Re Policy E7 – Is this intended to relate to all development in the neighbourhood Area which is what it says or should it relate to development in and adjoining the AQMA?

**Question TC9**

Regarding Policy HR13 – Is this aimed at horse related development likely to be using or dependent on footpaths and bridleways and again as per question TC4 by 'contribute to it' are you meaning that development should improve the network?

**Question TC10**

In the text relating to Area 2 in Policy HD6 the reference to 'Policy HD8 below' should presumably be 'HD3 above' as it relates to shopfronts?

**Question TC11**

In para 4.8.1 it quotes statistics from the 2011 Census . It would be useful to have this updated from the 2021 census. Similarly at 4.9.2 the 2001 census is quoted. Again an update would be helpful.

**Questions to North Yorkshire Council**

**Question NYC1:**

What is the current updated position regarding the preparation of the North Yorks Local Plan and its timetable?

**Question NYC2**

Is the Council satisfied with the housing supply position in Malton and Norton Neighbourhood Area and that there is no need for any further release of land in the plan period up to 2027?

**Question NYC3**

There is reference in para 4.3.25 to former Ryedale District Council monitoring air quality. As Ryedale no longer exists is this something that NYC continues to do?

**Question NYC4**

Is it NYC's position that the identification of additional Visually Important Undeveloped Areas should be a strategic matter for the emerging Local Plan or does it accept this is a relevant matter for the Neighbourhood Plan?

Note – As I continue the examination I may have additional questions of clarification and these will be forwarded on.

P. D. Biggers

Independent Examiner 05 Jan 2024