

ID44

Shropshire Local Plan Examination

Inspectors' Note – 19 August 2024

Following the recent publication of the consultation document on proposed changes to the Planning Policy Framework, as well as the 'Outcome of the Proposed Revised Method' spreadsheet and the Written Ministerial Statement – 'Building the homes we need' (WMS)¹ we thought it would be helpful to clarify the situation in relation to this examination.

We are issuing this note so that the Council and representors are aware of the position we will be taking in relation to these recent documents at the hearings in the Autumn.

The Framework changes are out for consultation until the end of September and then after that the Government will need time to consider the responses before they publish a revised version. Even if that version were to be published during the hearings the current proposal is that there would be transitional arrangements in place, as indicated in the consultation document. This would mean that this Plan would still be considered under the July 2021 Framework.

In terms of the revised housing requirement, whilst the spreadsheet referred to above shows a significant increase in the homes needed in Shropshire, the WMS says that this would not need to be taken account of in this plan.

To be clear, this plan has been in examination for a significant period of time, and we do not intend to require any additional work linked to a change in housing numbers as this would be likely to cause further significant delays. One of the Government's goals is to ensure that as many local authorities have an up-to-date plan. Indeed, the WMS says that where plans are already at examination they should be allowed to continue, although where there is a significant gap between the plan and the new local housing need figure that they will expect authorities to begin a plan immediately in the new system. So, based on the WMS it will be for a future plan to grapple with the potentially higher housing need.

Louise Crosby and Elaine Worthington

Inspectors

¹ [Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system)