

Shropshire Council Local Plan Examination

Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs)

Representor name: Bruton Knowles on behalf of Shifnal Matters Shifnal town Council and Tong Parish Council

Name of participant: Richard Brogden on behalf of Bruton Knowles

Introduction

- This Statement is being submitted in response to the Inspectors Matters, Issues and Questions related to the Stage 2 proceedings of the Shropshire Local Plan Examination.
- This statement has been prepared by Bruton Knowles on behalf of Shifnal Matters, Shifnal town Council and Tong Parish Council.
- The Inspectors have stated that comments made in earlier hearings or submissions will still be taken into account and this I do not intend to repeat previous statements made.
- Additionally, it is noted that the Council will produce a statement in response to the MIQ and thus we reserve the right to respond to those at the Hearings

Matter 1 – Legal/Procedural Requirements (policy SP3) – see MM005

Issue

Whether the Council has complied with the relevant procedural and legal requirements.

Questions

Updated Sustainability Appraisal

1. Are the likely environmental, social, and economic effects of the Plan adequately and accurately assessed in the updated Sustainability Appraisal (SA)?
2. Does the updated SA test the Plan against the preferred options chosen and all reasonable alternatives?

BK Comment:

No, please see previous submissions. The starting point of the SA was too narrow and thus any updates also preclude a full assessment of all alternative sites in the County.

- 3 Have any concerns been raised about the updated SA methodology and what is the Council's response to these?

BK Comment:

No, please see previous submissions. The starting point of the SA was too narrow and thus any updates also preclude a full assessment of all alternative sites in the County.

4. Have the requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) been met?

Habitat Regulations Assessment

5. What is the latest position in relation to nutrient neutrality and are there any outstanding objections from Natural England or the Environment Agency to the Plan proposals? If so, what are these and how is the Council working to overcome them?

6. Is the Local Plan's approach to nutrient neutrality justified, effective and consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework) and the requirements of HRA?

Plan Period

7. Is the Local Plan period of 2016 to 2038 consistent with national policy? If not, is there justification for this?

BK Overall Response:

No further comments to those already submitted save that we do not believe the latest position overcomes those concerns raised. I attach my response to the Updated Green Belt Topic Paper Housing and Employment Topic Paper. The updated Sustainability Appraisal has clearly not sought to address to all reasonable alternatives but sought to take forward the previous position.