

In a letter dated 24 May 2018, the Inspector - Sarah Housden – provided comments on the Post Stage 4 Main Modifications stage of the Barnsley Local Plan Examination. The letter sets out a number of changes the Inspector recommends for the Local Plan in order for it to be considered sound.

The recommended changes are:

- With regards to employment land requirement – Reduce the amount of land to be allocated in Policy E1 and Policy E2, and review Policy MM11 and Policy MM290 accordingly;
- With regards to the Policies Map – Remove employment site UB16, and identify the site as a proposed housing allocation instead; and
- With regards to housing land requirement:
 - a) The figure in Policy H1 to be 21,546 with consequential changes to reflect updated evidence;
 - b) Include reference to the requirement for the relevant 5 year period of 7345 dwellings, and to the shortfall in housing delivery since the start of the plan period (identified as 1352 dwellings) and how this is to be recovered over the remaining plan period and the additional buffer to be 20%; and
 - c) Update the housing trajectory to take account of the site deletions and additional sites to show the changes to the overall supply, timing of delivery over the plan period, and the five year supply.

The Inspector also provided comments on the SD30 'List of Minor Modifications proposed to Publication 2016' document, key of which are as follows:

- A brief explanation of the reason for the Main Modification to assist consultees should be included;

- The Inspector cannot recommend main modifications to the Policies Map as it is not defined in statute as a Development Plan document, however, a number of changes to the Map will be required to correspond with the published Main Modifications, and where this is the case there should be text explaining the corresponding change included in the schedule;
- In the interests of both clarity and fairness with regards to soundness - Changes to the geographic illustration of policies should be consulted upon alongside the Main Modifications in a separate document titled 'Proposed Changes to Submission Policies Map';
- The Sustainability Appraisal of the proposed Main Modifications should be made available as part of the consultation; and
- The Council should assess whether any further assessment is required to comply with the Habitats Regulations, and if so, this should be made available as well.

Other matters addressed in the Inspector's letter:

- Proposed housing allocation site H73 should correspond with the proposed Map change 23 in SD30 V1.5;
- The extent of Green Belt designation in proposed map change 23 appears to carry forward the designation from the Unitary Development Plan Proposals Map;
- The areas around Elmhirst Farm and Darley Cliff were inset from the Green Belt in the Unitary Development Plan, and it would therefore be helpful for the Council to confirm the proposed designation of the sites; and
- An updated final version of the EB104a Supplement to Green Belt Review document should be prepared to take account of the comments made in the Inspector's letter dated 24 May 2018.