

Chichester Local Plan Examination – Hearing Statement

Matter 2: Strategic Policies

Question 12

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Matter 2: Strategic Policies

This hearing statement has been produced as part of the examination of the Chichester Local Plan. It answers the Inspectors' question 12, relating to **Matter 2: Strategic Policies**

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Matter 2: Strategic Policies

Issue: Whether the strategic policies of the Plan would look ahead over a minimum of 15 years from adoption as per paragraph 22 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)?

Q.12 The strategic policies of the Plan would cover the period 2021 to 2039. Given the anticipated adoption date of the Plan as set out in the LDS, the strategic policies would not look ahead over a minimum of 15 years from adoption as per NPPF paragraph 22. What is the justification for this, and is the Plan positively prepared in this regard?

- 1.1 The main purpose of paragraph 22 of the NPPF is to anticipate and respond to long-term requirements and opportunities with a plan area; for example issues related to infrastructure. As set out elsewhere in other MIQ responses and proposed Main Modifications (MM), the council has identified that further work on transport matters is necessary. This further work will undoubtedly have relevance to longer term requirements within the plan area, therefore by pursuing an extension to the plan period for 1 year and the subsequent need to identify further sites for development; which would only be necessary to be delivered in 2040, would unnecessarily protract this examination and plan making process of the plan further. The council considers this to be a pragmatic and reasonable approach and would facilitate the allocation of land for development to meet the areas needs, for the first time since July 2015.
- 1.2 However, the council anticipates the plan, will be adopted by spring 2025 which would allow for a 14 year plan period from the date of adoption. As set out in CDC02, the proposed main modification reference CM379 commits the council to an early review of the plan. The council therefore considers that, alongside the proposed MM CM379 the plan period is positively prepared.
- 1.3 As set out in the council's response to Q10 of the Inspector's letter of 22 July 2024 (CDC02), the plan has been positively prepared, as at the time of publication of the Regulation 19 Proposed Submission Plan, the plan period was sufficient to ensure a 15 year plan from adoption, which was timetabled for summer/autumn 2024. The complexity of ongoing work to resolve the transport issues resulted in a delay to submission of the plan until May 2024, and a subsequent erosion of the 15 year period from adoption. This was unavoidable and necessary to ensure that the council's suggested modifications addressed the issues raised, particularly in regard to highways.