

## Local Plan Examination Matter 2

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Hallam Land

September 2024

### INTRODUCTION

1. Our response to Matter 2 has been prepared on behalf of Hallam Land, who has submitted representations at successive stage of the emerging Local Plan including the Regulation 19 plan.
2. On this occasion, our hearing statement concerns Matter 2 and in particular the length of the plan period.
3. The District Council intend for the Local Plan to cover the period 2021 – 2039.
4. Its most recent Local Development Scheme (PS/CD03a), prepared in July 2024, anticipates that the Local Plan will be adopted in spring 2025.
5. Accepting for the present time that this is correct, at that point there would remain only 14 years of the plan period.
6. This is less than the minimum required by paragraph 22 of the NPPF. That paragraph is not subject to potential amendment in the current consultation relating to the NPPF and hence it remains a wholly relevant consideration in determining the soundness of the Local Plan. The reason why a minimum plan period is specified is *“to anticipate and respond to long-term requirements and opportunities, such as those arising from major improvements in infrastructure”*. That is highly germane to this Local Plan.
7. On this basis, the plan period should be extended by at least one year, in order to be consistent with national policy, which is itself a test of soundness.
8. CDC002, the District Council’s response to the Inspector’s Preliminary Questions, prays in aid the length of time taken to reach this point and that extending the plan period would cause further delay on account of additional work associated with this. The requirement for a minimum 15-year plan period is not new. The need to achieve this would have been known throughout the plan making process and indeed at various points the plan period was extended accordingly.
9. The suggested alternative is to commit to an immediate review (SD10.01). However, that does not overcome the inconsistency with national policy.
10. In the event that the Local Plan examination becomes protracted in order to remedy other failings in soundness and the date of adoption extends much later than spring 2025, the significance of the less than the minimum plan period will increase.