

Examination of the Chichester Local Plan 2021-2039

Further Statement in Respect of

Matter 2: Strategic Policies

Submitted on behalf of:

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Document Management

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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 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. CD03 – (Local Development Scheme 2024-2027) was last revised in February 2024. Based on the timetable for the preparation of the Chichester Local Plan as set out in the table under paragraph 6.2, the Examination Hearings are scheduled to take place in Summer/Autumn 2024 with adoption in Spring 2025.
2. Assuming there is no deviation from this timetable, at best the new Local Plan would only have 14 years left to run from its adoption date. As such the strategic policies of the plan would not look ahead over a minimum 15-year time period from adoption as required by paragraph 22 of the NPPF.
3. If the Inspectors advise the District Council to make Proposed Modifications to the Plan to make it sound this would require public consultation etc. This would delay the adoption of the Local Plan. In this scenario the time period from the eventual adoption would be even shorter than the current 14 years.
4. On this basis the Plan has not been 'positively prepared' which is one of the four tests of soundness set out in paragraph 35 of the NPPF. As such the plan would not provide a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed needs and would be inconsistent with achieving sustainable development.
5. To remedy this situation the time period for the Local Plan should be extended by at least one year to 2040 if no Proposed Modifications are required; or at least to 2041/42 if further modifications are required. This in turn will require an increase in the dwelling provision/ requirement for Plan which will necessitate additional housing allocations at the more sustainable settlements such as at Hunston.