



Economy and Place Directorate
Forward Planning Team
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Date: 25 February 2021

Dear Mr Berkeley and Mr McCormack

Thank you for your letter of 29 January on moving forward with York's Local Plan Examination.

The Council is fully committed to continuing the Examination. Since our previous correspondence, additional steps have been taken to ensure that progress is as expeditious as possible. We explain this below, with particular reference to the Green Belt Topic Paper Addendum, after responding to the other matters raised in your letter.

First, we confirm that the Green Belt Topic Paper Addendum [EXCYC50] and its annexes (including Annex 1 [EX/CYC/50a] and Annex 2 submitted with this letter) supersede the first TP1 Addendum [EX/CYC/18 and EX/CYC/18a-f]. However, the evidence base called 'Approach to York's Green Belt' [SD107A-C], as referenced in the updated TP1 Addendum (2021) (paragraph 5.11-5.27 [EX/CYC/50]) and Annex 1 [EX/CYC/50a], remains relevant.

Second, we understand from your letter that in order to proceed to the next phase of hearing sessions, consultation must take place on documents submitted to the Examination by the Council since the Phase 1 hearing sessions. We also understand that (subject to further consideration following consultation) matters pertaining to housing requirements and Green Belt discussed at Phase 1 Hearing Sessions would fall to be revisited at the next session.

We would welcome confirmation that the documents for consultation include those on the agreed schedule of further work [EX/CYC/33] resulting from discussions at Phase 1 Hearing Sessions. For clarity, we understand this to be the following documents, as referenced in the Examination Library:

Document Ref.	Key Evidence and Supporting Documentation	Date Added	Submitted By
EX/CYC/29	York Economic Outlook December 2019 Oxford Economics	10 December 2019	City of York Council
EX/CYC/32	CYC Annual Housing Monitoring and MHCLG Housing Flow Reconciliation Return	11 December 2019	City of York Council
EX/CYC/36	Affordable Housing Note Final February 2020	3 March 2020	City of York Council
EX/CYC/37	Audit Trail of Sites 35-100 Hectares	5 June 2020	City of York Council
EX/CYC/38	Joint Position Statement between CYC and Selby DC Housing Market Area April 2020	5 June 2020	City of York Council
EX/CYC/43a	G L Hearn Housing Needs Update September 2020	7 Oct 2020	City of York Council
EX/CYC/45	HRA 2020	11 Jan 2021	City of York Council
EX/CYC/45a	HRA 2020 Appendices	11 Jan 2021	City of York Council
EX/CYC/46	Key Diagram Update	11 Jan 2021	City of York Council
EX/CYC/49	Statement of Community Involvement Update November 2020	15 Jan 2021	City of York Council
EX/CYC/50	Topic Paper 1: Approach to defining Green Belt (Addendum) January 2021	15 Jan 2021	City of York Council
EX/CYC/50a	Topic Paper 1: Approach to defining Green Belt (Addendum) January 2021 – Annex 1	15 Jan 2021	City of York Council

Additionally, we assume, subject to any views you may have, that the consultation process should repeat that followed for the submission the Plan (Regulation 19).

Third, we welcome your request for a new comprehensive schedule of modifications, which can also be the subject of consultation.

Fourth, we welcome your view in relation to proceeding with virtual hearing sessions. This is compatible with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement Update (2020) [EXCYC49], which currently suspends face-to-face meetings in line with the prevailing health advice. The Council can confirm that we currently use Zoom as a virtual meeting platform for Member Committees. We also understand that PINs use MS Teams, which the Council can access. We are in discussion with the Programme Officer, Ms Crookes, to ensure the Council can host virtual hearing sessions compatible with the projected format of the meeting.

Fifth, we note your concerns about the evidence base for the Local Plan remaining up-to-date as the Examination of the Plan continues. We are committed to ensuring our evidence supporting the Plan remains relevant and are keeping it under review to ensure that policies are examined on the basis of relevant information and assessment on which participants are given the opportunity to comment. This continues our approach taken prior to the previous hearing sessions with the

submission of the York Economic Outlook (2019) [EXCYC29], demonstrating that our employment forecasts remain valid. Subsequently, this has informed a requested update in relation to York's housing requirement in our Housing Need Update (2020) [EXCYC43a]. We trust that this approach remains acceptable.

Sixth, following your letter of 29 January [EX/INS/21], we have carefully considered the timetable for submission to enable completion of the annexes as soon as possible.

As per our previous correspondence, we are transposing the annexes to ensure conformity with the format of the clarified methodology set out in the TP1 Addendum [EX/CYC/50]. Our work has confirmed that the overall results of the boundary-setting exercise remain essentially the same as that which resulted in the draft Plan already before the examination

Since our last letter Annex 2 (our evaluation of the outer Green Belt boundaries) has been completed and is submitted with this response for your consideration.

The timetable to deliver the remaining annexes takes into account the volume of boundaries to transpose into the updated format (which is already before you), as well as officer and consultant resources, which we have decided to strengthen since our recent correspondence.

On this basis, we suggest staged submissions to demonstrate progress. For the inner boundary, we suggest splitting the 8 boundary sections previously set out into 3 parts for submission to be expeditious.

TP1 Addendum Annex	Content	Submission
Annex 1: Evidence base	Submitted in 15 January 2021 [document EXCYC50a]	
Annex 2: Outer Boundary	Appended to this letter	
Annex 3: Inner Boundary	Part 1 (Sections 1-4: 52 boundaries)	31 March 2021
	Part 2 (Sections 5-6: 64 boundaries)	30 April 2021
	Part 3 (Sections 7-8: 61 boundaries)	30 April 2021
Annex 4: Other Urban Areas within the General Extent	Includes villages within and inset from the green belt	30 April 2021
Annex 5: Site Allocations		31 March 2021
Annex 6: Proposed modifications summary	Modifications to boundary proposed to be confirmed	30 April 2021
Annex 7: Trajectory update	Update to show progress against the submitted housing trajectory	30 April 2021

As this timetable demonstrates, the annexes to the Addendum will be completed by the end of April. Should we be able to submit information ahead of this timetable, we will of course seek to do so. We will ensure that the remainder of the consultation package and consultation arrangements are prepared in advance of this date so that consultation can take place as soon as possible after the completion of the final annex. In all the circumstances we respectfully consider that this does not require

any formal request to suspend the examination and we would be grateful for your confirmation that this is an acceptable approach.

Thank you again for your helpful letter and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Ferris', with a stylized, cursive script.

Neil Ferris
Corporate Director - Economy and Place