

REF: WOE 02

Lisa Bartlett

SRO for the JSP

23rd July 2018

Robert Young
JSP Examination Programme officer

Dear Robert,

West of England Joint Spatial Plan: Councils' Response to Inspectors letter ED02

Please will you thank the Inspectors for the further questions raised on the 28th June. The West of England Councils' response to the Inspectors' questions is set out in the table attached, and a summary of the key points included in this letter.

The Inspectors have highlighted the need to set out in a brief paper the ways in which the Councils have demonstrated meeting the Duty to Cooperate, in preparation of the plan.

In considering this request, the Councils are suggesting they prepare a paper which sets out the ways in which the authorities have met the Duty to Cooperate as outlined in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 in both correspondence between the West of England Authorities themselves and through working on a collaborative and constructive basis with Neighbouring authorities. Additionally, the role of prescribed bodies and key partners who have been integrated throughout the development of the JSP, will also be outlined. We will provide this paper by the end of September to the Inspectors.

We understand that the Inspectors have asked us to consider and review the additional evidence proposed to respond to the issues the Inspector(s) have raised both in their initial letter (ED01) and further letter (ED02). To confirm the Councils will prepare further work on the Sustainability Appraisal, Habitat Regulation Assessment and other additional technical work (including transport) in response to the areas of consideration set out in the Inspectors second letter.

We note the support from the Inspectors of the Councils' intention to undertake further HRA work, recognising that the Councils could not reasonably have anticipated the need for this work in preparing the plan for submission.

In considering the Inspector's comments on the publishing of additional evidence and considering both the statutory requirements for consultation, ensuring that the Examination progresses as quickly as possible and avoiding confusion amongst Examination participants,

the Councils propose a single public consultation in 2018, followed by a single-staged hearing period in 2019.

The Councils agree with the Inspector's recommendation to publish and consult on all evidence and revert to a single stage consultation.

In reviewing the timetable, the Councils have considered the need to ensure that the public are engaged and not prejudiced, that due time is allowed for the Inspectors to set issues and matters ahead of the consultation and that respondents are allowed time to respond to those matters. The proposed timetable is as follows:

- Consultation 12th Nov to 21 Dec 2018
- Key issues report by 15 Feb 2019
- Inspectors set Issues and Matters by 8 March 2019
- Respond to Issues and matters by 19th April 2019
- Hearings to start 13th May 2019

The councils would welcome the Inspector(s) review and feedback on the updated timetable.

Yours Sincerely

Lisa Bartlett

SRO JSP