

Planning Policy Team
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Date: 18th December 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Examination of the Breckland Local Plan (2011 – 2036)
Inspector's Initial Questions**

Introduction

1. This note sets out some initial questions and seeks some clarification from the Council.

Provision for Travellers and Travelling Show people

2. Policy HOU 08 of the Plan identifies a need for 10 additional pitches for gypsy and traveller households, of which 7 should be provided for in the first five years of the Plan. In addition, there is a requirement for 2 plots for travelling show people that need to be delivered in years 11-15 of the Plan. Does this mean within the first 5 years of the Plan period (2011-2016) or from the adoption of the Plan (anticipated 2018)?
3. The Council has not sought to make provision for this identified need through site allocations, but relies on a criteria based policy. What is the justification for this approach, given that there is an identified need within the first 5 years of the Plan? In addition, what efforts have been made to identify potential sites? Is this set out in the evidence base for the Plan?

Approach to Saved Policies

4. There are several 'Saved' policies / allocations that are imbedded into the Local Plan that were adopted as part of the Breckland Site Specific Policies and Proposals Development Plan Document and the Thetford Area Action Plan (AAP). These include:
 - Saved Policy D5 – Land at Dereham Business Park
 - Saved Policy SW2 – Land to the North of the Eco-Tech Centre
 - Saved Policy SW3 – Land to the West of the Eco-Tech Employment Area
 - Saved Policy TH30 – New Employment Land (of the Thetford AAP)

5. I would like clarification on the Council's approach to these policies. For example, the Plan at Pages 28 and 29 identifies the policies of the Thetford AAP that will remain and those that will be replaced. This includes Policy TH30 – New Employment Land. However, later in the Plan on Page 192 Policy TH30 is set out in full and appears to repeat the supporting text set out in the AAP. In addition, representations have been made about these policies. My assumption therefore, is that these policies (including TH30) appear to form a part of the Plan which has been submitted for examination. Please confirm.
6. On a related matter, the Council has not included a list of policies that will be replaced by the policies of the Local Plan, once adopted. This is a formal requirement and I request that the Council provide a list as soon as possible.
7. I would be grateful if the Council could respond to these initial questions by 4 January 2018.

Yours faithfully



Charlotte Brennan
Programme Officer