

11th January 2012

St.Helens Core Strategy Examination

Dear Sir / Madam,

Further to your representations in respect of the St.Helens Core Strategy and the Exploratory Meeting of the 2 August 2011, I write to inform you that a Pre-Hearings Meeting (PHM) will take place on **Tuesday 7 February 2012 at 14:00 in Room 8 at St.Helens Town Hall, Victoria Square, St.Helens, WA10 1HP**. The Hearing Sessions themselves are programmed to take place between **Monday 19 March and Friday 23 March 2012** and between **Monday 2 April and Thursday 5 April 2012**, also at Room 8 of the Town Hall. Mr Malcolm Rivett BA (Hons) MSc MRTPI has been appointed as the Inspector who will carry out the Examination

This PHM is designed to help the Inspector and all interested parties to prepare for the Hearing Sessions. Enclosed with this letter is an agenda for the PHM. Guidance notes for the PHM and Hearing Sessions can be found on the Core Strategy Website (<http://localdevelopment.sthelens.gov.uk/site.do?id=800>) however if you are unable to access this and would like a paper copy then do not hesitate to contact myself to request one. The Guidance Note sets out guidelines for the procedure of the Hearing Sessions and as a result it is hoped the PHM will be able to concentrate largely upon any questions you may have as a result of your reading of the note. The PHM will be purely procedural in nature and will not be an opportunity to discuss soundness issues as such or the merits of individual cases. A note of the meeting will be circulated shortly afterwards to all those who attend and will be placed on the Examination website.

If you wish to request to speak at the Hearing Sessions please let me know by telephone or email by **Tuesday 31 January 2012**. If you wish to speak at the Hearing Sessions then you should also make every effort to attend the PHM and please also advise me by 31 January if you will be attending this meeting. Anyone who does not wish to speak at the Hearing Sessions is nonetheless welcome to attend the PHM and in order that arrangements can be made for the relevant numbers, these people should also advise me of their intention to attend by 31 January. However, should you be unable to attend the PHM it will not prejudice your future involvement in the Examination – the Inspector will be taking all submitted representations into account when determining whether the Core Strategy is sound.

Shortly before the PHM all those who have indicated their attendance at the meeting will receive a draft Programme and Timetable for the Hearing Sessions together with a list of 'Matters and Questions for the Examination' so that work can start on any necessary further statements. The draft Programme will be discussed at the PHM, finalised shortly afterwards and circulated to those present at the meeting. It will also be placed on the Examination website and all participants should keep a close eye on the website, or in contact with me, in the run-up to the Hearings in case of any late changes to the Programme or Timetable.

If you have any queries at this stage please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Darren Neal - Programme Officer

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PRE-HEARINGS MEETING

To be held at 14:00 on Tuesday 7th February 2012
Room 8, St.Helens Town Hall, Victoria Square, St.Helens, WA10 1HP

AGENDA

The matters to be covered are largely set out in the Guidance Note

1. Opening and Introductions
2. Purpose of the Pre-Hearings Meeting
3. The Inspector's role
4. Role of the Programme Officer
5. Number and scope of representations
6. Progressing your representations
7. The hearing sessions & the "Matters & Questions for Examination"
8. Statements of Common Ground
9. Statements – submission deadline of 28 February 2012
10. Handling any further suggested changes to the Core Strategy
11. Site visits
12. The hearings programme – any queries?
13. **Legal compliance:** Has the DPD been prepared in accordance with the Local Development Scheme? • Is the DPD in general accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement and public consultation requirements? • Has the DPD been subjected to Sustainability Appraisal? • Has the DPD had regard to the Sustainable Community Strategy? • Has the DPD had regard to national policy? • Has a Habitat Regulations Assessment been prepared, and have its conclusions been taken into account in the DPD?
14. Any further questions?
15. Closing and thanks