

North Norfolk Local Plan Examination

Examination Hearing Statement for Matter 1

Response on behalf of Broadland District Council

5 January 2024

Contents

Introduction ... 2

Matter 1 – Duty to co-operate, other legal requirements, and whether the plan is consistent with national policy ... 3

Introduction

1. This Hearing Statement has been prepared by Broadland District Council, in respect of the Council's representations submitted in response to the Regulation 19 Publication of the North Norfolk Local Plan Proposed Submission Version (Publication Stage – Regulation 19).
2. Broadland District Council had previously submitted representations to the Regulation 18 consultation on the North Norfolk First Draft Local Plan (Part 1) in June 2019. Substantively, the content of these initial representations related to the same issue subsequently addressed in the Council's Regulation 19 representations.

Matter 1 – Duty to co-operate, other legal requirements, and whether the plan is consistent with national policy

Question 1.1 Duty to Co-operate

3. On the basis of the evidence before it, the Council considers that traffic generated by the planned development at North Walsham will have a significant impact on the B1150 at Coltishall. As such, it is therefore a strategic matter to which the duty to co-operate applies.
4. At the time of making its representations to the publication of the North Norfolk Local Plan Proposed Submission Version (Publication Stage – Regulation 19), direct engagement between North Norfolk District Council and Broadland District Council comprised:

15 June 2021 – Meeting arranged by Broadland District Council with Norfolk Norfolk District Council

This meeting discussed North Norfolk District Council's intention to carry out a transport assessment to address, amongst other things, transport concerns raised by Broadland District Council in its representations on the North Norfolk First Draft Local Plan (Part 1) submitted in June 2019, and expressed North Norfolk District Council's intention to engage with Broadland District Council on the preparation of this evidence.

5. Unfortunately, there was limited further correspondence between the two Council's after this meeting and ahead of the publication of the North Norfolk Local Plan Proposed Submission Version (Publication Stage – Regulation 19) on 17 January 2022. This resulted in the Council expressing its concern that it could not see how North Norfolk had met its obligation under the Duty to Cooperate at that point in time.
6. Following the end of the period for representations on the draft plan on 7 March 2022 and the subsequent submission of the plan on 11 May 2023, limited further engagement did take place between the two authorities. Based on the Council's records, this engagement comprised:

28 July 2022 - Meeting arranged by Broadland District Council involving North Norfolk DC, Norfolk CC and representatives of Scottow Enterprise Park to discuss transport issues and impact of growth on B1150 at Coltishall

Amongst other things, this meeting confirmed that neither Norfolk County Council nor Broadland District Council considered the Transport Assessment completed for the Regulation 19 publication of the Plan to be adequate and that North Norfolk understood that a Transport Impact Assessment for North Walsham, including updated traffic counts, was underway on behalf of the site promoter.

4 October 2022 – Broadland District Council invited to a meeting by Norfolk County Council that involved North Norfolk District Council, Norfolk County Council, AECOM (as Transport Consultants for promoters of the NW62/A site) and Broadland District Council.

This meeting confirmed that the scope of a new transport impact assessment (TIA) was in the process of being agreed with Norfolk County Council as Highway Authority. AECOM also agreed to meet with Broadland District Councillors about the transport assessment once its scope has been agreed.

As part of the agreement of scope, Broadland District Council were subsequently given the opportunity by Norfolk County Council to provide a list of local highway concerns that were passed to AECOM as part of the scoping process for the TIA. AECOM have subsequently had regard to these concerns in preparing their TIA.

Conclusions

7. The Council remains disappointed about the extent of North Norfolk District Council's proactive engagement with Broadland District Council in the preparation of its local plan prior to its submission for Independent Examination.
8. The Council does not, at this time, take a formal position in terms of North Norfolk's compliance with its legal requirements under the Duty to Co-operate. As such, the Council considers this to be a matter that is best determined by the appointed Inspector, based upon the material facts that are before the examination.

Post Submission Engagement

9. Whilst having taken place after the submission of the plan, the Council welcomes, and is grateful for, the extensive engagement, including public consultation, that has taken place recently between the promoters of the NW62/A site, North Norfolk District Council, Norfolk County Council, Broadland District Council and other local stakeholders in respect of the TIA that is being prepared and its consideration of the traffic impacts at Coltishall.