**From:** Deeming, Roslyn <Roslyn.Deeming@naturalengland.org.uk>
**Sent:** 20 August 2021 16:50
**To:** localplans@charnwood.gov.uk
**Subject:** Charnwood Local Plan Pre-submission consultation
**Attachments:** 359788 Charnwood LP - CC4 Sustainable construction.pdf; 359788 Charnwood LP - Policy EV6 Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity and Geodiversity.pdf; 359788 Charnwood LP Response Form - DS5 design.pdf; 359788 Charnwood LP Response Form - Green Infrastructure.pdf

Please find attached Natural England's responses to the Charnwood Local Plan Pre-submission consultation.
Regards
Roslyn

Roslyn Deeming
Senior Planning Adviser
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www.gov.uk/natural-england.

During the current coronavirus situation, Natural England staff are working remotely and from some offices to provide our services and support our customers and stakeholders. Although some offices and our Mail Hub are now open, please continue to send any documents by email or contact us by phone to let us know how we can help you. See the latest news on the coronavirus at http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus and Natural England's regularly updated operational update at https://www.gov.uk/government/news/operational-update-covid-19.

Wash hands. Cover face. Make space.

Thriving Nature for people and planet

NATURAL ENGLAND

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Charnwood | **Charnwood Local Plan 2021-2037**<br>Publication Stage Representation Form | **Ref:**<br><br>**(For official use only)** |

**Please return to Charnwood Borough Council by 5PM on 23rd August 2021 by:**

- **Email: localplans@charnwood.gov.uk**
- **Post: Local Plans, Charnwood Borough Council Southfield Road, Loughborough, LE11 2TX**

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This form has two parts –
Part A – Personal Details: need only be completed once.
Part B – Your representation(s). Please fill in a separate sheet for each representation you wish to make.

# Part A

| 1. Personal Details* | | 2. Agent's Details (if applicable) |
|---|---|---|
| Title | Mrs | |
| First Name | Roslyn | |
| Last Name | Deeming | |
| Job Title (where relevant) | Planning Adviser | |
| Organisation (where relevant) | Natural England | |
| Address Line 1 | Natural England | |
| Line 2 | Ceres House | |
| Line 3 | 2 Searby Road | |
| Line 4 | Lincoln | |
| Post Code | LN2 3LP | |
| Telephone Number | 02080268500 | |
| E-mail Address (where relevant) | roslyn.deeming@naturalengland.org.uk | |

**If an agent is appointed, please complete only the Title, Name and Organisation (if applicable) boxes below but complete the full contact details of the agent in 2.*

# Part B – Please use a separate sheet for each representation

Name or Organisation:

3. To which part of the Local Plan does this representation relate?

| Paragraph | | Policy | Policy CC4: Sustainable Construction | Policies Map | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

4. Do you consider the Local Plan is (please tick as appropriate):

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4.(1) Legally compliant | Yes | √ | No | |
| 4.(2) Sound | Yes | | No | √ |
| 4 (3) Complies with the Duty to co-operate | Yes | √ | No | |

5. Please give details of why you consider the Local Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound or fails to comply with the duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible.
If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Local Plan or its compliance with the duty to co-operate, please also use this box to set out your comments.

Whilst Natural England generally welcomes this policy, we consider that it should contain greater emphasis on nature-based solutions to climate change within the policy wording. We acknowledge that the policy includes references to green roofs and walls, and sustainable water management but we suggest that the policy should also include the creation of a better linked natural habitat and the green infrastructure network by conserving, creating or enlarging existing habitats which will build up resilience to climate change. This would comply with the guidance set out in paragraph 154a of the NPPF.

In addition we advise that the phrase “our most versatile agricultural land” used in the last bullet point of the policy wording is explained further in the accompanying text i.e. that it is Best & Most Versatile (BMV) land which specifically refers to agricultural land classifications 1,2 & 3a. The plan should safeguard the long-term capability of BMV land as a resource for the future in line with National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 170.

(Continue on a separate sheet /expand box if necessary)

6. Please set out the modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant and sound, in respect of any legal compliance or soundness matters you have identified at 5 above. (Please note that non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). You will need to say why each modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put

forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

Natural England suggests that the following points should be included within the policy wording:

- creation of a better-connected natural habitat and green infrastructure network by conserving, creating or enlarging existing habitats which will build up resilience to climate change.

In addition, we advise that a definition of "versatile agricultural land" is included either in this policy or in a separate policy and the importance of protecting this land is included within the plan as follows:

- The plan should safeguard the long-term capability of best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a in the Agricultural Land Classification) as a resource for the future in line with National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 170.

(Continue on a separate sheet /expand box if necessary)

***Please note*** *In your representation you should provide succinctly all the evidence and supporting information necessary to support your representation and your suggested modification(s). You should not assume that you will have a further opportunity to make submissions.*

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7. If your representation is seeking a modification to the plan, do you consider it necessary to participate in examination hearing session(s)?

| | | | |
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| √ | **No**, I do not wish to participate in hearing session(s) | | **Yes**, I wish to participate in hearing session(s) |

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9. Signature: Roslyn Deeming Date: 20/08/2021

**Guidance Note for Representation Form**

## 1. Introduction

1.1. The plan has been published by the Local Planning Authority [LPA], Charnwood Borough Council, in order for representations to be made on it before it is submitted for examination by a Planning Inspector. The *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004*, as amended, [PCPA] states that the purpose of the examination is to consider whether the plan complies with the relevant legal requirements, including the duty to co-operate, and is sound. The Inspector will consider all representations on the plan that are made within the period set by the LPA.

1.2. To ensure an effective and fair examination, it is important that the Inspector and all other participants in the examination process are able to know who has made representations on the plan. The LPA will therefore ensure that the names of those making representations can be made available (including publication on the LPA's website) and taken into account by the Inspector.

## 2. Legal Compliance and Duty to Co-operate

2.1. You should consider the following before making a representation on legal compliance:

- The plan should be included in the LPA's current Local Development Scheme [LDS] and the key stages set out in the LDS should have been followed. The LDS is effectively a programme of work prepared by the LPA, setting out the plans it proposes to produce. It will set out the key stages in the production of any plans which the LPA proposes to bring forward for examination. If the plan is not in the current LDS it should not have been published for representations. The LDS should be on the LPA's website and available at its main offices.

- The process of community involvement for the plan in question should be in general accordance with the LPA's Statement of Community Involvement [SCI] (where one exists). The SCI sets out the LPA's strategy for involving the community in the preparation and revision of plans and the consideration of planning applications.

- The LPA is required to provide a Sustainability Appraisal [SA] report when it publishes a plan. This should identify the process by which SA has been carried out, and the baseline information used to inform the process and the outcomes of that process. SA is a tool for assessing the extent to which the plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.

- In London, the plan should be in general conformity with the London Plan (formally known as the Spatial Development Strategy).

- The plan should comply with all other relevant requirements of the PCPA and the *Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012*, as amended [the Regulations].

2.3. You should consider the following before making a representation on compliance with the duty to co-operate:

- Section 33A of the PCPA requires the LPA to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with neighbouring authorities and certain other bodies over strategic matters during the preparation of the plan. The LPA will be expected to provide evidence of how they have complied with the duty.

- Non-compliance with the duty to co-operate cannot be rectified after the submission of the plan. Therefore, the Inspector has no power to recommend modifications in this regard. Where the duty has not been complied with, the Inspector cannot recommend adoption of the plan.

**3. Soundness**

3.1. The tests of soundness are set out in paragraph 35 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Plans are sound if they are:

- **Positively prepared** – providing a strategy which, as a minimum seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed needs, and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring authorities is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development;

- **Justified** – an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence;

- **Effective** - deliverable over the plan period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground; and

- **Consistent with national policy** – enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the NPPF.

3.2. If you think the content of the plan is not sound because it does not include a policy on a particular issue, you should go through the following steps before making representations:

- Is the issue with which you are concerned already covered specifically by national planning policy (or, in London, the London Plan)?

- Is the issue with which you are concerned already covered by another policy in this plan?

- If the policy is not covered elsewhere, in what way is the plan unsound without the policy?

- If the plan is unsound without the policy, what should the policy say?

## 4. General advice

4.1. If you wish to make a representation seeking a modification to a plan or part of a plan you should set out clearly in what way you consider the plan or part of the plan is legally non-compliant or unsound, having regard as appropriate to the soundness criteria in paragraph 3.1 above. Your representation should be supported by evidence wherever possible. It will be helpful if you also say precisely how you think the plan should be modified.

4.2 You should provide succinctly all the evidence and supporting information necessary to support your representation and your suggested modification. You should not assume that you will have a further opportunity to make submissions. Any further submissions after the plan has been submitted for examination may only be made if invited by the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he or she identifies.

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4.4. Please consider carefully how you would like your representation to be dealt with in the examination: whether you are content to rely on your written representation, or whether you wish to take part in hearing session(s). Only representors who are seeking a change to the plan have a right to be heard at the hearing session(s), if they so request. In considering this, please note that written and oral representations carry the same weight and will be given equal consideration in the examination process.

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| 1. Personal Details* | | 2. Agent's Details (if applicable) |
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| **If an agent is appointed, please complete only the Title, Name and Organisation (if applicable) boxes below but complete the full contact details of the agent in 2.* | | |
| Title | Mrs | |
| First Name | Roslyn | |
| Last Name | Deeming | |
| Job Title (where relevant) | Planning Adviser | |
| Organisation (where relevant) | Natural England | |
| Address Line 1 | Natural England | |
| Line 2 | Ceres House | |
| Line 3 | 2 Searby Road | |
| Line 4 | Lincoln | |
| Post Code | LN2 3LP | |
| Telephone Number | 02080268500 | |
| E-mail Address (where relevant) | roslyn.deeming@naturalengland.org.uk | |

# Part B – Please use a separate sheet for each representation

Name or Organisation:

3. To which part of the Local Plan does this representation relate?

| Paragraph | | Policy | Policy DS5: High Quality Design | Policies Map | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

4. Do you consider the Local Plan is (please tick as appropriate):

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4.(1) Legally compliant | Yes | √ | No | |
| 4.(2) Sound | Yes | | No | √ |
| 4 (3) Complies with the Duty to co-operate | Yes | √ | No | |

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Whilst Natural England generally welcomes this policy, we consider that it should contain greater emphasis on how design should maximise opportunities to incorporate measures which enhance the biodiversity value of development. It should encourage the retention of natural features including hedgerows, trees, and waterbodies particularly where these features offer a valuable habitat to support biodiversity. The policy should more closely reflect the guidance set out in the National Design Guidance which specifically recommends that nature should contribute to the quality of a place, and to people's quality of life, and it is a critical component of well-designed places.

(Continue on a separate sheet /expand box if necessary)

6. Please set out the modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant and sound, in respect of any legal compliance or soundness matters you have identified at 5 above. (Please note that non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). You will need to say why each modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

Natural England suggests that the following points should be included within the policy wording:

- Incorporate and retain as far as possible existing natural features including hedgerows, trees, and waterbodies particularly where these features offer a valuable habitat to support biodiversity, aligned with policies in the Environment chapter of the Local Plan;
- Incorporate appropriate landscape and boundary treatments to ensure that the development can be satisfactorily assimilated into the surrounding area, maximising opportunities to deliver diverse ecosystems and biodiverse habitats, strengthening wildlife corridors and green infrastructure networks, and helping to achieve wider goals for climate change mitigation and adaptation and water management.

(Continue on a separate sheet /expand box if necessary)

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| Title | Mrs | |
| First Name | Roslyn | |
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| Job Title (where relevant) | Planning Adviser | |
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| Address Line 1 | Natural Engalnd | |
| Line 2 | Ceres House | |
| Line 3 | 2 Searby Road | |
| Line 4 | Lincoln | |
| Post Code | LN2 3LP | |
| Telephone Number | 02080268500 | |
| E-mail Address (where relevant) | roslyn.deeming@naturalengland.org.uk | |

# Part B – Please use a separate sheet for each representation

Name or Organisation:

3. To which part of the Local Plan does this representation relate?

| Paragraph | | Policy | Policy EV6: Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity and Geodiversity | Policies Map | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

4. Do you consider the Local Plan is (please tick as appropriate):

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4.(1) Legally compliant | Yes | √ | No | |
| 4.(2) Sound | Yes | | No | √ |
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Whilst Natural England is supportive of this policy and the accompanying text, we consider that it should include reference to the government's 25 year Environment Plan and the goals set out within it. This includes the Nature Recovery Network which is a major commitment within this plan and intends to improve, expand and connect habitats to address wildlife decline and provide wider environmental benefits for people.

Local ecological networks will form a key part of the wider Nature Recovery Network (NRN) and where development is proposed, opportunities should be explored to contribute to the enhancement of ecological networks. We suggest that the Local Plan could also identify possible sites which would contribute to the Nature Recovery Network. Potential sites for biodiversity net gain could also be identified. The aim would be to link these identified areas together to enhance the NRN.

We also suggest that your authority may want to consider adopting a Supplementary Planning Document for Biodiversity Net Gain where more detailed information, including targets and biodiversity opportunity mapping could be included.

(Continue on a separate sheet /expand box if necessary)

6. Please set out the modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant and sound, in respect of any legal compliance or soundness matters you have

identified at 5 above. (Please note that non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). You will need to say why each modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

Natural England suggests that the additional wording should be added to this bullet point of the policy wording:

- supports nature recovery particularly in areas which have protected species and priority habitats, **contributing to the Nature Recovery Strategy**.

In the accompanying text of the policy the following paragraph should be included:

The Nature Recovery Network is a major commitment in the UK Government's 25-Year Environment Plan and intends to improve, expand and connect habitats to address wildlife decline and provide wider environmental benefits for people. Maintaining and enhancing a network of habitats, species and wildlife sites, and linkages between them, will be important to achieving the vision and aims of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Leicestershire.

(Continue on a separate sheet /expand box if necessary)

***Please note*** *In your representation you should provide succinctly all the evidence and supporting information necessary to support your representation and your suggested modification(s). You should not assume that you will have a further opportunity to make submissions.*

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| √ | **No**, I do not wish to participate in hearing session(s) | | **Yes**, I wish to participate in hearing session(s) |

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2.3. You should consider the following before making a representation on compliance with the duty to co-operate:

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- Non-compliance with the duty to co-operate cannot be rectified after the submission of the plan. Therefore, the Inspector has no power to recommend modifications in this regard. Where the duty has not been complied with, the Inspector cannot recommend adoption of the plan.

**3. Soundness**

3.1. The tests of soundness are set out in paragraph 35 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Plans are sound if they are:

- **Positively prepared** – providing a strategy which, as a minimum seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed needs, and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring authorities is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development;

- **Justified** – an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence;

- **Effective** - deliverable over the plan period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground; and

- **Consistent with national policy** – enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the NPPF.

3.2. If you think the content of the plan is not sound because it does not include a policy on a particular issue, you should go through the following steps before making representations:

- Is the issue with which you are concerned already covered specifically by national planning policy (or, in London, the London Plan)?

- Is the issue with which you are concerned already covered by another policy in this plan?

- If the policy is not covered elsewhere, in what way is the plan unsound without the policy?

- If the plan is unsound without the policy, what should the policy say?

## 4. General advice

4.1. If you wish to make a representation seeking a modification to a plan or part of a plan you should set out clearly in what way you consider the plan or part of the plan is legally non-compliant or unsound, having regard as appropriate to the soundness criteria in paragraph 3.1 above. Your representation should be supported by evidence wherever possible. It will be helpful if you also say precisely how you think the plan should be modified.

4.2 You should provide succinctly all the evidence and supporting information necessary to support your representation and your suggested modification. You should not assume that you will have a further opportunity to make submissions. Any further submissions after the plan has been submitted for examination may only be made if invited by the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he or she identifies.

4.3. Where groups or individuals share a common view on the plan, it would be very helpful if they would make a single representation which represents that view, rather a large number of separate representations repeating the same points. In such cases the group should indicate how many people it is representing and how the representation has been authorised.

4.4. Please consider carefully how you would like your representation to be dealt with in the examination: whether you are content to rely on your written representation, or whether you wish to take part in hearing session(s). Only representors who are seeking a change to the plan have a right to be heard at the hearing session(s), if they so request. In considering this, please note that written and oral representations carry the same weight and will be given equal consideration in the examination process.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Charnwood | **Charnwood Local Plan 2021-2037**<br>Publication Stage Representation Form | **Ref:**<br><br>**(For official use only)** |

**Please return to Charnwood Borough Council by 5PM on 23rd August 2021 by:**

- **Email: localplans@charnwood.gov.uk**
- **Post: Local Plans, Charnwood Borough Council Southfield Road, Loughborough, LE11 2TX**

**The Privacy Statement can be found at: www.charnwood.gov.uk/privacy**

This form has two parts –
Part A – Personal Details: need only be completed once.
Part B – Your representation(s). Please fill in a separate sheet for each representation you wish to make.

# Part A

| 1. Personal Details* | | 2. Agent's Details (if applicable) |
|---|---|---|
| Title | Mrs | |
| First Name | Roslyn | |
| Last Name | Deeming | |
| Job Title (where relevant) | Planning Adviser | |
| Organisation (where relevant) | Natural England | |
| Address Line 1 | Natural Engalnd | |
| Line 2 | Ceres House | |
| Line 3 | 2 Searby Road | |
| Line 4 | Lincoln | |
| Post Code | LN2 3LP | |
| Telephone Number | 02080268500 | |
| E-mail Address (where relevant) | roslyn.deeming@naturalengland.org.uk | |

**If an agent is appointed, please complete only the Title, Name and Organisation (if applicable) boxes below but complete the full contact details of the agent in 2.*

# Part B – Please use a separate sheet for each representation

Name or Organisation:

3. To which part of the Local Plan does this representation relate?

| Paragraph | 8.9 and 8.10 | Policy | | Policies Map | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

4. Do you consider the Local Plan is (please tick as appropriate):

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4.(1) Legally compliant | Yes | √ | No | |
| 4.(2) Sound | Yes | | No | √ |
| 4 (3) Complies with the Duty to co-operate | Yes | √ | No | |

5. Please give details of why you consider the Local Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound or fails to comply with the duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible.
If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Local Plan or its compliance with the duty to co-operate, please also use this box to set out your comments.

Whilst Natural England welcomes the strategic Green Infrastructure policies within the Local Plan (i.e. National Forest and Charnwood Forest, River Soar and Grand Union Canal corridors) and also the requirements for GI within the individual development policies we nevertheless consider that the Plan would benefit from an overarching policy on Green Infrastructure. We consider that this would comply more closely with the guidance set out in paragraph 154a and 175 of the NPPF.

(Continue on a separate sheet /expand box if necessary)

6. Please set out the modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant and sound, in respect of any legal compliance or soundness matters you have identified at 5 above. (Please note that non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). You will need to say why each modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

Natural England would like to see a specific overarching policy on Green Infrastructure which covers the following points:

- Safeguarding of green infrastructure in Charnwood from inappropriate development and the maintenance and improvement of the quantity, quality, accessibility and management of the green infrastructure network.

- Proposals that cause loss or harm to the green infrastructure network will not be supported. Where adverse impacts on green infrastructure are unavoidable, development will only be supported if suitable mitigation measures for the network are provided.
- Development proposals should ensure that existing and new green infrastructure is considered and integrated into the scheme design from the outset. Where new green infrastructure is proposed, the design and layout should take opportunities to incorporate a range of green infrastructure to maximise the delivery of multi-functionality and ecosystem services, support climate change adaptation and encourage healthy and active lifestyles.
- Development proposals must protect the linear features of the green infrastructure network that provide connectivity between green infrastructure assets, including public rights of way, bridleways, cycleways and waterways, and take opportunities to improve and expand such features.
- Developers will be expected to make a contribution, proportionate to the scale of a proposal, towards the establishment, enhancement and on-going management of green infrastructure.

(Continue on a separate sheet /expand box if necessary)

***Please note*** *In your representation you should provide succinctly all the evidence and supporting information necessary to support your representation and your suggested modification(s). You should not assume that you will have a further opportunity to make submissions.*

***After this stage, further submissions may only be made if invited by the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he or she identifies for examination.***

7. If your representation is seeking a modification to the plan, do you consider it necessary to participate in examination hearing session(s)?

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| √ | **No**, I do not wish to participate in hearing session(s) | | **Yes**, I wish to participate in hearing session(s) |

Please note that while this will provide an initial indication of your wish to participate in hearing session(s), you may be asked at a later point to confirm your request to participate.

8. If you wish to participate in the hearing session(s), please outline why you consider this to be necessary:

***Please note*** *the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate in hearing session(s). You may be asked to confirm your wish to participate when the Inspector has identified the matters and issues for examination.*

9. Signature: Roslyn Deeming Date: 20/08/2021

**Guidance Note for Representation Form**

## 1. Introduction

1.1. The plan has been published by the Local Planning Authority [LPA], Charnwood Borough Council, in order for representations to be made on it before it is submitted for examination by a Planning Inspector. The *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004*, as amended, [PCPA] states that the purpose of the examination is to consider whether the plan complies with the relevant legal requirements, including the duty to co-operate, and is sound. The Inspector will consider all representations on the plan that are made within the period set by the LPA.

1.2. To ensure an effective and fair examination, it is important that the Inspector and all other participants in the examination process are able to know who has made representations on the plan. The LPA will therefore ensure that the names of those making representations can be made available (including publication on the LPA's website) and taken into account by the Inspector.

## 2. Legal Compliance and Duty to Co-operate

2.1. You should consider the following before making a representation on legal compliance:

- The plan should be included in the LPA's current Local Development Scheme [LDS] and the key stages set out in the LDS should have been followed. The LDS is effectively a programme of work prepared by the LPA, setting out the plans it proposes to produce. It will set out the key stages in the production of any plans which the LPA proposes to bring forward for examination. If the plan is not in the current LDS it should not have been published for representations. The LDS should be on the LPA's website and available at its main offices.

- The process of community involvement for the plan in question should be in general accordance with the LPA's Statement of Community Involvement [SCI] (where one exists). The SCI sets out the LPA's strategy for involving the community in the preparation and revision of plans and the consideration of planning applications.

- The LPA is required to provide a Sustainability Appraisal [SA] report when it publishes a plan. This should identify the process by which SA has been carried out, and the baseline information used to inform the process and the outcomes of that process. SA is a tool for assessing the extent to which the plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.

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