



Charnwood Local Plan Examination – Additional Hearing Statements

Matter 1: Duty to Cooperate and Other Legal Requirements

Define Planning and Design Ltd on behalf of Bloor Homes Ltd

Issue 3: Whether the Plan has been prepared in compliance with other legal requirements

Supplementary Question 1: Are any adjustments to the plan period (2021–37) necessary to accord with NPPF paragraph 22 which states that strategic policies should look ahead for a minimum 15 year period from adoption, having regard to the delays in the Examination process?

It is recognised that the current end date of 2037 does not meet the requirement of NPPF paragraph 22 for local plans to cover a minimum 15-year period from the point of their adoption. However, it is entirely achievable for the Charnwood Local Plan (CLP) to be adopted within the next 12 months (at the most) and therefore the start and end dates of the plan period should simply move on by a year, covering the period to 2022 to 2038.

Indeed, that would mean that the new plan period would not have any implications for the housing requirement (as opposed to an approach where the plan period, and thus the housing need, would 'increase' by a year). It is understood that Charnwood Borough Council (CBC) are confident that the plan can accommodate appropriate uplifts to the capacities of some proposed allocations in order to provide a sufficient buffer above the revised housing requirement, therefore meeting its own housing needs across the 16-year plan period whilst also contributing towards the unmet needs of Leicester City Council (LCC). Critically, that would not need CBC to identify additional allocations, which would require an extra round of consultation that would, itself, delay the adoption of the plan yet further; potentially resulting in the need for an additional extension to the plan period.

Given that the CLP must be adopted at the earliest possible opportunity to allow for the allocation sites to begin delivering much-needed housing to meet CBC's housing needs (which are currently not being met, in absence of a five year supply of housing) and contribute towards meeting LCC's long-standing and substantial unmet needs, it would be appropriate to pursue the least disruptive approach.