

Charnwood Local Plan Examination

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HEARING SESSION AGENDA

30 June 2022 09.30 am and 2.00pm

Please Note: All participants are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Hearing Statements (and any relevant evidence) produced by the Council and other parties in respect of the matters addressed at this session. These are available on the examination website.

The Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) relating to this session are appended for ease of reference. The MIQ number is listed on the left of this agenda together with the bullet points on which the Inspectors require further information or clarification and which will form the basis of the discussion at the hearing sessions.

1. Inspectors' introduction
2. Participant introductions
3. Follow Up Items
4. **Matter 3: Climate Change and the Natural and Built Environment**

Key Documents

Charnwood Borough Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (2021 - EB/CC/1; 2018 - EB/CC/2)

Development Strategy and Site Selection Topic Paper Exam 7

Wind and Solar PV Energy Landscape Sensitivity Assessment 2019 (EB/CC/4)

Charnwood Local Plan Viability Study 2021 (EB/I&D/1)

Charnwood Local Plan Pre-Submission Stage Sustainability Appraisal Report 2021 (SD/5)

Water Stressed Areas – Final Classification, Environment Agency 2021 (EXAM 22)

Charnwood Forest Landscape Character Assessment 2019 (EB/ENV13)

Borough of Charnwood Landscape Character Assessment 2012 (EB/ENV/8)

Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications (Exam 4)

Issue 1 – Whether the policies relating to climate change and the natural and built environment, are positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy

MIQ

3.1 The effectiveness of the approach to the management of flood risk

3.2 in relation to:

- recommendations to meet the second element of the exception test
- the drainage hierarchy

3.3 Whether any main modifications are necessary for effectiveness in
3.4 relation to:

3.5

- Policy CC1
- Policy CC2

3.6 The justification and effectiveness of policy CC3 having regard to
3.7 the Wind and Solar PV Energy Landscape Sensitivity Assessment
2019 (EB/CC/4) including Policy Map 2

3.8 Discussion on the conclusions of landscape sensitivity relating to
wind and solar PV energy (Table 8 of the plan p.170)

3.9 Whether any modifications to Policy CC4 are necessary in relation
3.11 to:

- Development viability
- Water efficiency standards

3.12 The effectiveness of the approach to sustainable transport

3.13

3.15

- 3.16 The effectiveness of Policy EV1 in protecting and enhancing landscape character having regard to the evidence base
- 3.17
- 3.18 The approach to Green Wedges (Policy EV2)
- 3.19
- The approach to Local Areas of Separation (Policy EV3)
- 3.22
- 3.23 Whether Policy EV6 will be effective, having particular regard to:
- 3.25
- 3.26
- 3.27
- Biodiversity net gain
 - the consistency between policies DS3 and EV6
 - Water quality
 - designated sites
 - Tree planting and tree retention
- 3.28 Whether any modifications are necessary for effectiveness in relation to heritage assets
- 3.29 The effectiveness of Policy EV9 in protecting, enhancing open spaces and the future designation of open spaces
- 3.30
- 3.31
- 3.34 Whether policy EV12 is justified with regard to its location
- 3.35 The approach to design in Policy DS5

Review of Matter 3 main modifications necessary for the soundness of the Plan

5. Follow up items and close of hearing session

MATTER 3 – CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Issue 1 - Whether the policies relating to climate change and the natural and built environment, are positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy

Policy CC1 – Flood Risk Management

- 3.1 How has national policy been taken into account in the formation of the policy and the allocation of sites including with regard to (i) the sequential Test and (ii) the drainage hierarchy?
- 3.2 Is there evidence to indicate that development will not increase flood risk to people and property at Shepshed?

Policy CC2 – Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

- 3.3 Is the policy consistent with the supporting text at paragraph 7.21 regarding the provision of clear evidence that SuDS would be inappropriate?
- 3.4 As Policy CC2 refers to major development, how will the policy ensure minor developments incorporate SuDS as referred to in Policy CC1?
- 3.5 Will policies CC1 and CC2 be effective in minimising surface water flood risk from developments of 9 dwellings or less?

Policy CC3 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Installations

- 3.6 How will the application of the policy ensure that there are no unacceptable cumulative effects from wind and solar energy development given the spread of suitable locations for each shown on Policies Map 2?
- 3.7 How has the Wind and Solar Energy Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (EB/CC/4) informed the identification of sites for wind turbines and solar energy installations on Policies Map 2?
- 3.8 How will the guidance set out in Table 8, page 170 of the Plan operate in conjunction with Policy CC3?

Policy CC4 – Sustainable Construction

- 3.9 Will the policy be effective in adapting to and mitigating against climate change?

3.10 Will the policy be effective in maximising the potential for development at the Sustainable Urban Extensions to achieve a reduction in carbon emissions and if so, how?

3.11 Is there evidence of a clear local need for the water efficiency standard set out in the criteria?

Policy CC5 – Sustainable Transport

3.12 Will the policy facilitate a reduction in the need to travel and support alternatives to the use of private motorised transport including walking, cycling and public transport?

3.13 How will 'excellent accessibility' to key facilities by walking, cycling and public transport referred to in the policy be defined?

Policy CC6 - Electric Vehicle Charging Points

3.14 Is the policy necessary given the changes to the Building Regulations scheduled to come into force on 1 June 2022?

Policy EV1 – Landscape

3.15 Is the policy sufficiently robust to protect and enhance the Borough's distinctive landscape character and if so, how will that be achieved?

3.16 Has the policy been informed by up-to-date evidence and if so, what?

Policy EV2 – Green Wedges

3.17 Is the policy sufficiently clear with regard to what constitutes small-scale development and how will it be applied to avoid unacceptable cumulative effects from such schemes?

3.18 Will the policy enable Green Wedges to fulfil their function in conjunction with the Housing Allocations?

Policy EV3 – Areas of Local Separation

3.19 Will the policy be effective in maintaining Areas of Local Separation and the separate identity of settlements?

Policy EV4 – Charnwood Forest and the National Forest; Policy EV6 – Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Policy EV7 – Tree Planting

3.20 Will these policies be effective in meeting the National Forest vision?

Policy EV5 – River Soar and Grand Union Canal Corridor

3.21 Is the policy sufficiently ambitious to protect and enhance these features?

Policy EV6 - Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity and Geodiversity

3.22 Is the figure of 10% biodiversity net gain sufficiently justified?

3.23 Is the policy based on up-to-date evidence in relation to Local Wildlife Sites and Candidate Local Wildlife Sites?

3.24 Is the policy sufficiently robustly worded to ensure that there will be no worsening of water quality?

3.25 Is the approach to internationally, nationally and locally designated sites consistent with national policy?

Policy EV7 – Tree Planting

3.26 Is the policy sufficiently clear in what it sets out to achieve given that its title is 'Tree Planting' but that it also makes reference to tree retention?

3.27 Is tree retention sufficiently addressed by Policy EV6?

Policy EV8 – Heritage

3.28 Will the policy be effective in conserving and enhancing heritage assets? (Note the drafting error referring to Policy DS6)

Policy EV9 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation

3.29 Is the evidence base supporting the policy robust and up-to-date?

3.30 Does the policy clearly reflect national policy?

3.31 How would local green spaces be designated in the future?

Policy EV10 – Indoor Sports Facilities

3.32 Is the evidence base supporting the policy robust and up-to-date?

Policy EV11 – Air Quality

3.33 Will the policy be effective and does the supporting text in paragraph 8.89 set out more stringent requirements than the policy? How will air quality be monitored over the Plan period?

Policy EV12 – Burial Space

3.34 Will the policy be effective in securing a sympathetic form of development taking into account landscape character?

Policy DS5 – Design

3.35 Will the policy secure inclusive and accessible design as required by the NPPF? Is it clear what scale and type of development will trigger the requirements for design codes and independent design review? Should the policy make reference to density requirements and health impact assessments?

3.36 Overall, does the Plan set out a positively prepared strategy to address the causes of and mitigate the impact of climate change and to conserve and enhance the natural and built environment? Are any main modifications necessary for soundness?