

Colchester Borough Council's response to Inspector's Questions:

Regulations and Scope of the Focused Review

2. Statutory and Regularity Matters

2.1 Is the Council still satisfied (as set out at submission) that all statutory and regulatory matters have been met? I will have regard to the limited representations relating to some of these matters, but have no further questions at this stage.

CBC Response

Yes, the Council is still satisfied that all statutory and regulatory matters have been met as detailed in submission documents CD4 (Legal Compliance Checklist), CD5 (Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist) and CD6 (Duty to Co-operate Statement).

3. Scope of the Focussed Review

3.1 In my note of Preliminary Comments (IED-01, paragraph 2.3) I indicated that I saw no basis to require the Council to undertake a full review of the Local Plan. Any further comments?

CBC Response

CBC considers the approach outlined in paragraph 2.3 of document IED-01 to be entirely appropriate, and the Council is in full agreement with this stance. Paragraphs 1.2 to 1.6 of the Focused Review document provide an explanation of the Council's approach to updating its Local Plan; this approach is considered to be a logical, justified and appropriate response to the publication of the NPPF.

3.2 I also indicated (IED-01, paragraphs 2.4 -2.7) that my preliminary view was not to extend the scope of the Review/Examination to policies not included within the submitted Review, unless necessary to avoid contradictions. I have also suggested additional text to be included in the plan at adoption to make clear the limited scope of the Review/Examination. Any further comments on the appropriateness of this approach? (*I will be having regard to any representations on MAJ2 in CD23.*)

CBC Response

The Council agrees with the approach set out above and detailed in paragraphs 2.4-2.7 of IED-01, with the option to include additional policies where it is necessary to do so in order to avoid contradictions. In the event that something within the Focused Review leads to an inconsistency elsewhere in the Local Plan (such as is the case with DP7), the Council considers that the option to draw these policies into the Focused Review is

important, in order to avoid the risk of associated Focused Review policies being unsound, and/or to avoid undermining overall clarity and consistency. The impact of inclusion of the additional policy, DP7, is considered to be minimal and not to have any requirements to modify any further policies.