

Stratton St Margaret Neighbourhood Plan Examination

Request for further information and questions from the Examiner to Swindon Borough Council and Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

I have carried out a preliminary review of the Neighbourhood Plan and the evidence submitted in support of it and there are a few points where I need some clarification or further information. I would therefore be grateful if both Councils could assist me, as appropriate, in answering the following questions.

1.Basic Conditions Statement

In order to meet the basic conditions, the NP should demonstrate how it contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. However, I see no reference to this in the Basic Conditions Statement. Please can you assist?

Table 2 sets out an assessment of how the Neighbourhood Plan conforms with the Adopted Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 and the Minerals and Waste Core Strategies. However, the review of the Swindon Borough Local Plan is now well under way and is currently at the Submission Draft consultation stage. Has there been any assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan against the emerging policies of the new Local Plan?

2.Reg 14 and Reg 16 Consultation Dates

Please can the exact dates for the Regulation 14 and Regulation 16 consultations ie start and end dates be provided?

3.Policy SSM1 and Figure 7

Policy SSM1 refers to development of strategic employment sites which are allocated in the adopted Swindon Borough Local Plan and shown in Figure 7 with orange hatching. Most of these sites are located outside the NP boundary, but some lie within it. Please can names for each of these sites be provided – ideally this could be done by annotating Figure 7 and naming the sites in the key?

4.Policy SSM3 Housing

I have a query regarding the justification for Policy SSM3 Housing which is set out in paragraphs 40 to 47 of the Neighbourhood Plan. The background to this section of the NP is, I think, derived from the Neighbourhood Plan Housing Needs Advice produced by AECOM in 2015. Broadly, that study concludes that there is a housing need in the NP area of around 700 to 750 additional dwellings, the

majority of which have already been built or otherwise committed. This is reiterated in paragraph 41 of the Neighbourhood Plan. I think ,therefore, that the statement in paragraph 47 of the Neighbourhood Plan which states that the NP's share of the Swindon total requirement as 416 dwellings is incorrect and should be deleted. Please can the local authority and the Steering Group give their views?

On a related point, it would be very helpful to have an indication of the number of homes that have been completed in the Parish since 2015 and the number of outstanding commitments.

Thank you for your assistance with these questions. Once I have received your responses, I may need to ask for further clarification or further queries may arise as the examination progresses.

Please note that these questions and requests for information is a public document and the answers and any associated documents will also be in the public domain. Both my questions and the responses should be placed on the Councils' websites as appropriate.

Barbara Maksymiw

16 January 2020