

## **Matter 1: Introduction to the Hearings, Legal Compliance, Procedural Requirements, and the Duty to Cooperate**

*Policies to be covered by Matter 1: Policies SP1 and HP1 (in respect of the DtC and SA)*

### **Main Evidence Base**

*SDPR01 – Publication draft Schedule of Revisions to the Wyre Local Plan (2011-2031) [November 2021]*

*SDPR03 – Sustainability Appraisal [November 2021]*

*SDPR07a, 7b and 7c – Statements of Common Ground and Duty to Cooperate Statements and annexes [April 2022]*

*SDPR08a, 8b and 8c – Statement of Consultation and annexes [April 2022]*

*SDPR10 – Statement of Community involvement [updated March 2022]*

### **Issue 1: Consultation and community engagement**

*The Planning Act requires that the local planning authority (LPA) prepares a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and complies with it. The Council recently updated its SCI following a consultation process in April/May 2021 (SDPR10).*

- 1. Is there any evidence that the Council has not complied with the SCI, not met the minimum requirements for consultation or that consultation and publicity has otherwise been inadequate at various stages of the LP Partial Review process?*

### **Issue 2: The Duty to Cooperate**

*The Planning Act requires that LPAs engage constructively, actively, and on an on-going basis with one another in order to maximise the effectiveness of plan preparation.*

*SDPR07a, 7b and 7c have been provided by the Council to support its position that the DtC has been complied with.*

- 2. Is there any evidence that the Council has not engaged constructively, actively, and on an on-going basis on strategic matters with other LPAs and other relevant bodies?*

*Following examination and adoption in December 2021, the Partial Review of the Fylde Local Plan met Wyre's identified unmet housing need of 380 dwellings. Fylde now considers that, with a reduced housing requirement, it no longer needs to assist in meeting unmet needs. It is acknowledged by Wyre that, subject to the reduced housing requirement being accepted, it can meet all of its housing needs.*

- 3. Does the LP (and/or the supporting information such as the DtC statement) need to be modified to reflect the position that Wyre can now meet all of its housing need, notwithstanding the provisions of the Partial Review of Fylde Local Plan?*

- 1. The HBF does not consider that the reduced housing requirement is sound and as such considers that there is likely to still be unmet need to be addressed by Fylde. However, if the Inspectors considers that the reduced housing requirement is*

appropriate then it is likely that the DtC Statement will need to be modified to reflect that position.

**Issue 3: The Sustainability Appraisal and its consideration of reasonable alternatives**

*The Council's position is that the SA has considered the need for an assessment of reasonable alternatives and concluded there are no reasonable alternative options to the local housing need of 296 dwellings per annum (dpa). This is on the basis that there are no exceptional circumstances to justify an alternative approach over the standard method.*

- 3.** *Does the SA meet statutory and legal requirements in relation to the assessment of reasonable alternatives? In particular should the SA have assessed, as reasonable alternatives, housing requirements in excess of the local housing need figure?*