

Blackpool Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies

Proposed Main Modifications Consultation

Guidance Note

These notes are intended to assist you in making comments on the Proposed Main Modifications to the Blackpool Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies.

The Council submitted the Local Plan Part 2 to the Government in June 2021. A Government Planning Inspector (Mr Luke Fleming) has since been undertaking an Examination in Public. The Inspector held hearing sessions during December 2021 and formally requested the Council to prepare a list of changes (Main Modifications) to the Plan.

The Council is now proposing Main Modifications to several parts of the plan to address the points raised by the Inspector. The Council can only adopt the Plan if the Inspector finds that the Plan, as modified, complies with the law and is sound.

The Council is consulting on the Main Modifications from 27th July to 7th September 2022 at 5pm. Comments are being sought specifically on the proposed Main Modifications to the Plan. This is because parts of the Plan which are unchanged have already been subject to consultation and discussed at the Examination hearings. The modifications to the Plan are shown in the **Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications**, along with the reasons for each change.

Following on from the consultation, the Council will:

- Include the representations received in a Report of Consultation
- Forward the representations to the Inspector for him to consider
- Following any further actions that the Inspector may require, await receipt of the Inspector's Report
- Seek to adopt the Plan early 2023

Making Representations

Representations must be submitted to Blackpool Council during the formal consultation period between 27th July to 7th September 2022 at 5pm.

- The Council will not accept representations received after the deadline.
- The Council cannot accept anonymous representations.

It is strongly recommended by the Planning Inspectorate that you use the form provided by the Council to help ensure that your representations relate to the issues of legal compliance or soundness, and to assist the procedures relating to the examination process.

Please complete the Representation Form (found at www.blackpool.gov.uk/lpp2examination) and email it to planning.strategy@blackpool.gov.uk or alternatively post it to Planning Department, Blackpool Council, PO Box 17, Corporation Street, Blackpool FY1 1LZ.

Respondents should note that representations are not confidential and that they will be published on the Council's website and made available for public inspection.

What should representations relate to?

The purpose of this consultation is to consider whether the proposed Main Modifications are legally compliant and meet the tests of soundness.

Representations received on the Main Modifications **must** address these matters.

Legal Compliance

The requirements for legal compliance are set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). Before making a comment on legal compliance you should consider the following:

- Is the Local Plan Part 2 identified in the current Local Development Scheme (LDS) and have the key stages been followed?
- Was the process of community involvement for the Local Plan Part 2 in general accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement? Has the Local Plan Part 2 been prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012? Information on key consultation stages is set out in the Consultation Statement, which was published as a supporting document to the Local Plan Part 2.
- The Council is required to prepare a Sustainability Appraisal Report and Habitats Regulation Assessment as part of the Local Plan process. Have these documents been prepared effectively and their recommendations taken into account?
- Has the Council appropriately engaged with adjoining Local Authorities under the Duty to Co-operate?

Soundness

To be sound, the Local Plan Part 2 should be:

- **Positively prepared** - This means that the plan should be prepared based on a strategy that seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.
- **Justified** - This means that the plan should be the most appropriate strategy when considered against the reasonable alternatives and based on proportionate evidence.
- **Effective** - This means that the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities.
- **Consistent with national policy** - This means that the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework.

If you wish to make a representation seeking a change to one of the Main Modifications, you should make clear the way in which the main modification does not comply with the law or fails the four tests of soundness set out above.

You should try to support your representation with evidence showing why the Main Modifications are inappropriate and (as precisely as possible) how you think the Plan should be changed further.

Representations should succinctly cover all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested change, as there may not be an opportunity to submit further details to back up your representation.

Further Information

Further guidance on the preparation, publication and examination of Development Plans is provided in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which can be found at: [National Planning Policy Framework - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/431424/NPPF-Guidance.pdf)

Alternatively, you can contact Blackpool Council's Planning Strategy Team by email at: planning.strategy@blackpool.gov.uk or by phone on 01253 476239.