

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

Matter 6: Is the SADMP based on a robust assessment of required supporting infrastructure and does it set out effective mechanisms for monitoring and implementation?

Blackpool Council Statement

November 2021

Blackpool Council

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Introduction

This Statement has been produced by Blackpool Council to outline its response to the Matters, Issues and Questions raised by the Inspector for the Hearings into the Blackpool Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Document (SADMP) ([SD001](#)).

The Statements form the main basis for the Council's submission to the Hearings. Where appropriate the Statements draw upon and cross reference to the main sources of information used in the preparation of the SADMP. To assist, document numbers are referenced and links are provided where appropriate.

The Council also wishes to respond and engage constructively with the Inspector and in the Council report of February 2021 the Council formally requested, pursuant to Section 20 (7c) of the 2004 Act, that the Inspector recommends any necessary modifications to the Plan to make the Plan satisfy the appropriate requirements and soundness.

References:

- [SADMP – SD001](#)
- Infrastructure and Delivery Plan Update ([SD008](#))
- [Housing Topic Paper \(EB003\)](#)

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Position of the Council regarding Matter 6

Issue (xvi): Is the SADMP based on a robust assessment of required supporting infrastructure?

1. Is the SADMP based on a robust assessment of the required supporting infrastructure?

1.1 The Council considers the SADMP is based on a robust assessment of the required supporting infrastructure.

1.2 With respect to the housing allocations, the site proformas in Schedule 1 of the SADMP identify requirements for infrastructure in the 'Highways Considerations' and 'Key Development Considerations' sections. Furthermore, Section 5 of the [Housing Topic Paper \(EB003\)](#) discusses Transport Impact. One such example is HSA1.2: Former Bispham High School where a number of infrastructure requirements are identified in Schedule 1. These include vehicular access to the site and requirements for good pedestrian linkages to both Bispham Road and Devonshire Road, where public transport is available. The access junction from Bispham Road needs to be designed to the satisfaction of the Local Highway Authority. Schedule 1 recognises that development of the open space within the site will require compensatory measures including the provision of improved quality meeting the required standards. Part of the eastern section of the site is identified as playing fields that was associated with the previous school use. Further information can be found in the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Update Draft - December 2020. Mitigation through a Section 106 agreement will be required with monies to be invested informed by the draft PPS and Action Plan. Schedule 1 also recognises that provision needs to be made for the Air Cadet Training Centre, which is currently located on the site.

1.3 With respect to the mixed use town centre site (MUSA1) and allotment site, Appendix B and Appendix C respectively highlight requirements for infrastructure, where relevant, in the 'Highways Considerations' and 'Key Development Considerations' sections.

1.4 It should also be noted that Core Strategy Policy CS11: Planning Obligations sets out the requirements for developers to enter a legal undertaking or agreement to meet the additional needs arising from the development including infrastructure provision. Planning contributions will be sought to ensure that the particular facilities required for a proposed

development including the provision of necessary infrastructure, services and community facilities are met.

1.5 The supporting text to CS11 highlights that the Council works with other infrastructure providers, including the Highways Agency, United Utilities and the Environment Agency, to develop an understanding of existing infrastructure provision and future requirements as well as funding sources and responsibility for delivery. The most up-to-date position is reflected in the Infrastructure and Delivery Plan Update ([SD008](#)) which accompanies the SADMP. In addition, the Council works with neighbouring authorities to take account of the need for/support the delivery of sub-regional infrastructure, particularly in relation to developments close to the Blackpool boundary.

Issue (xvii): Does the SADMP set out effective mechanisms for monitoring and implementation?

Questions:

1. Does Appendix E set out a clear set of indicators against which to assess the effectiveness of the SADMP's policies and allocations?

1.1 The Council considers that the Monitoring and Implementation Plan sets out clear indicators which to assess the effectiveness of the SADMP policies and allocations.

1.2 The Monitoring and Implementation Plan at Appendix E of the SADMP ([SD001](#)) sets out how the Council is intending to measure the effectiveness of both the Core Strategy and SADMP in meeting the Core Strategy spatial vision, goals and objectives and that it can deliver the intended outcomes.

1.3 The Monitoring and Implementation Plan identifies key indicators, targets or intended policy outcomes, potential risks to delivery, contingencies to address changes or shortfalls, and also identifies the implementation and delivery mechanisms and partners that will help to achieve the Core Strategy Spatial Vision to 2027.

1.4 It is also important that the effectiveness of the Local Plan can be monitored to establish if the policies contained within it are achieving the intended spatial vision, goals and objectives. The performance and effects of the Local Plan policies are monitored and reported on annually as part of the Council's [Authority Monitoring Report](#) (AMR) and [Housing Monitoring Report](#) (HMR).

2. Does Appendix E set out clear actions that could be taken should development not come forward at the rate anticipated in the SADMP? Is the SADMP clear in terms of the triggers for such action?

2.1 For each policy in Appendix E, a number of potential risks and contingencies have also been identified to demonstrate how both the Core Strategy and SADMP can deal robustly with changing circumstances. The triggers for action are set out in the 'Potential Risks' column. Where necessary, the Authority Monitoring Report and Housing Monitoring Report may identify any actions or contingencies that need to be taken to address issues identified as part of the monitoring process in order to improve the implementation and delivery of the Core Strategy and SADMP.