

Examination of Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document

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IN33 Next steps in the examination following the programmed hearing sessions

This note sets out the next steps in the examination following the close of the last programmed hearing session on Thursday 29 March 2023.

We will publish any action points arising from the week 11 hearing sessions in due course.

Following the publication of the GMCA responses to our action points from weeks 9, 10 and 11, we will ask GMCA to prepare a revised version of the schedule of proposed main modifications (to replace PMM3 published on 3 January 2023). The revised schedule should include the latest version of all of the proposed main modifications. Where relevant, they should supersede any modifications proposed earlier in the examination. They should be presented in the conventional way using strike through and underline, without seeking to indicate any earlier modifications that have been altered.

We can only recommend main modifications in our report at the end of the examination if we decide they are necessary to make the Plan sound and/or legally compliant. We will consider all of GMCA's proposed main modifications in the context of all of the written material in the examination library and everything that we heard at the hearing sessions. We will then publish a note setting out whether:

- any of GMCA's proposed main modifications need to be amended or deleted;
- any further main modifications are required; and/or
- any other actions are required.

The note referred to above will be published after the local elections have taken place on 4 May 2023. A deadline or deadlines will be set for GMCA to respond. We would then consider that response and subsequently advise of the next steps to be taken in the examination. If at that stage we decide that the next steps should

include a further hearing session, our provisional plan is that it would take place during the week commencing 3 July 2023.

It is also possible that, in advance of publishing the note referred to above, we decide that we need further written information from GMCA and/or particular representors. If so, we will publish a note setting out what is required.

No further written material should now be submitted by GMCA or any other party unless requested by us.

In December 2022, the Government published for consultation changes it intends to make to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The consultation ended on 2 March 2023. If a revised version of the NPPF is published during the examination we will consider what, if any, further steps we need to take in addition to those referred to above.

Any main modifications that we do decide should be made to the Plan will need to be subject to sustainability appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment as appropriate. Following that, the modifications (and updated sustainability appraisal and Habitat Regulation Assessment reports) will be subject to public consultation before the end of the examination. We would ask GMCA to arrange that consultation at the appropriate time. The nature and duration of the consultation will need to reflect that for the consultation held at regulation 19 stage.

Following the main modifications consultation, we will consider all representations made. We will only hold a further hearing session after that if we consider it to be essential to deal with substantial issues raised in the representations or to ensure fairness.

Any queries about this note should be taken up with the Programme Officers.

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30 March 2023
