

Next Steps in the Examination

The Inspector has now completed his report and it has been through the Planning Inspectorate's Quality Assurance process, as outlined in the 'Procedure Guide for Local Plan Examinations' ('the Procedure Guide'). The Procedure Guide can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/examining-local-plans-procedural-practice/procedure-guide-for-local-plan-examinations#section-8-quality-assurance-fact-check-procedure-and-delivery-of-final-report-to-the-lpa>

Under the arrangements set out in a letter from the (then) Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, dated 18 June 2019, to the Chief Executive of The Planning Inspectorate, the report has now been sent to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on a 'for information' basis, for a period of at least 48 hours. The full text of that letter can be found here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/932241/Local_Plan_examinations_letter_to_the_Chief_Executive_of_the_Planning_Inspectorate.pdf

Once this period has passed, the Inspector's report will be issued to the Council for a 'fact-check', as set out in the Procedure Guide. The primary purpose of the fact-check process is for the Council to draw attention to any factual errors or inconsistencies in the report. The Council may not question the conclusions and recommendations in the report, although they may seek clarification on any that they consider to be unclear. The Council will not publish the report at that stage because it is not in its final form.

Once the fact check has been completed and the Inspector has dealt with any points raised, the final report will be sent to the Council. That step will mark the completion of the examination.

The Inspector will not now accept any further representations. If any further material is submitted it will be returned by the Programme Officer.

6 June 2022