

Questions for Clarification Hengrove & Whitchurch Park Neighbourhood Development Plan.

I am Deborah McCann, the independent examiner of the Hengrove and Whitchurch Neighbourhood Development Plan 2017-2030. I seek clarification on the following policy/supporting information. This question is directed to the Qualifying Body.

The revised National Planning Policy Network has been published however this will not impact on my examination of the Hengrove and Whitchurch NDP. The revised NPPF sets out transitional arrangements as follows:

214. The policies in the previous Framework will apply for the purpose of examining plans, where those plans are submitted (69) on or before 24 January 2019. Where such plans are withdrawn or otherwise do not proceed to become part of the development plan, the policies contained in this Framework will apply to any subsequent plan produced for the area concerned.

(69) For neighbourhood plans, 'submission' in this context means where a qualifying body submits a plan proposal to the local planning authority in accordance with regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

During the transitional period for emerging plans submitted for examination (set out in paragraph 214), consistency should be tested against the previous Framework published in March 2012.

Local Green Spaces

"The NPPF states:

76. Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

77. The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;*
- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and*
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.*

78. Local policy for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts.

Policy HWP5: Local Green Space in Hengrove and Whitchurch Park includes the proposal to designate "7. Hengrove Park (as remodelled in new development) and Green Fingers, St Giles Estate."

In accordance with the NPPF it is clear that Local Green Space designation is intended to apply to existing spaces not proposed.

Please can you clarify how you consider this allocation would meet the criteria and the Basic Conditions.

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