

Examination of the Bristol Local Plan 2022-2040

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Examination webpage: [Local plan examination \(bristol.gov.uk\)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/local-plan-examination)

IN4: Matters, Issues and Questions

Dear Mr Chapman

Introduction

1. Thank you for your responses to our questions, as set out in IN2 and IN3. These have been extremely helpful. We are now in a position to move forward to the hearings. These will start on the week beginning **24 February 2025**.
2. We understand the venue for the hearings is to be confirmed. As required by the relevant regulations, notification of the date, time and place at which the hearing will be held must be made at least 6 weeks before the opening. We trust the Council have this in hand, but should there be any issues, please let the Programme Officer know as a matter of urgency.
3. **Appendix 1** to this letter sets out the Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) that we shall wish to discuss during the hearing session. These will help us decide whether the Plan is sound and legally compliant and, if not, how it could be modified to ensure that it is.
4. We are inviting written statements in relation to the MIQs. The Council should submit written statements that respond to all our MIQs. Any representor may also submit a written statement or statements. However, these should only be in response to questions that relate to their original representations made during the consultation period that ran between November 2023 and January 2024. Written statements must be prepared in accordance with the advice in **Appendix 2**.
5. Document **IN5**, sent alongside this letter, includes a draft programme for the hearings. This will be subject to change once we have a clearer idea of who wishes to attend the sessions and hearing statements have been prepared. Those wishing to participate should let the Programme Office know by the dates set out below.
6. Key dates are as follows:
 - Inform Programme Officer of intention to attend sessions in weeks 1-3:
5pm on 15th January 2025

- Inform Programme Officer of intention to attend sessions in weeks 4-7:
5pm on 29th January 2025
 - Hearing statements for weeks 1-3: **5pm on 7th February 2025**
 - Hearing statements for weeks 4-7: **5pm on 7th March 2025**
7. No written material will be accepted after the relevant deadline unless it has been specifically requested by us.
 8. Written statements will be published on the examination website as soon as possible after the deadlines so that they are available to all participants and anyone else who wishes to read them. As they will be available on the website, they will not be circulated directly to participants. Anyone who is unable to access them on the website should contact the Programme Officer.
 9. Where relevant our MIQs refer to the Council's suggested main modifications¹ and other responses to our preliminary questions. We will take account of the Council's suggested main modifications along with all the published evidence, representations made in accordance with regulation 20, and written statements in coming to our conclusions at the end of the examination. However, we can only recommend main modifications if we decide that they are essential to make the Plan sound or legally compliant. We cannot recommend a modification because it would "improve" the Plan, irrespective of the wishes of the Council or any interested party.
 10. Any queries about this letter should be taken up with the Programme Officer.

Yours sincerely

Louise Gibbons Steven Lee Benjamin Clarke

11 December 2024

¹ These are set out in document EXA002.1.