

EXAMINATION OF BIRMINGHAM CITY PLAN

Cannock Chase District Council – Hearing Statement

The District Council submission relates to the Duty to Co-operate covered by the Matters and Issues identified by the Inspector under the following headings:

1. The current position on the Cannock Chase Local Plan
2. The GBSLEP and evidence gathering
3. The Duty to Co-operate
4. Housing Numbers

1. Current position on the Cannock Chase Local Plan

Cannock Chase Local Plan covers the period 2006 to 2028. It is being produced in two parts. Part 1 provides a Core Strategy (containing strategic and development management policy) and an Area Action Plan for helping to facilitate the regeneration of the town centre of the market town of Rugeley.

Paragraph 1.8 of Local Plan Part 1 contains the following text:

'Following discussions falling under the duty to co-operate Cannock Chase Council recognise that evidence is emerging to indicate that Birmingham will not be able to accommodate the whole of its new housing requirement for 2011-31 within its administrative boundary and that some provision will need to be made in adjoining areas to help meet Birmingham's needs. Cannock Chase Council will work collaboratively with Birmingham and other authorities, including joint commissioning of appropriate evidence to assess the emerging shortfall and the scale and distribution of any such requirement. In the event that the additional work identifies Cannock Chase District as a reasonable option for helping to meet the requirement, this will be addressed further as part of Local Plan Part 2'.

Part 1 was adopted on 11 June 2014 and has not been the subject of legal challenge during the subsequent six week period.

Part 2 will identify site specific allocations and will also help address Birmingham's housing needs should this be necessary following further evidence gathering, either by identifying further capacity within the plan period or safeguarding land for development beyond the plan period. In addition Part 2 will safeguard sites for potential development beyond the plan period to help meet future District needs. Part 2 will be informed by a review of the Green Belt and work on this review has already begun.

2. The GBSLEP and evidence gathering

Cannock Chase District Council is a member of the GBSLEP and attends and contributes to discussions in the LEP Spatial Planning Group and related

project groups, including the group charged with progressing the Strategic Housing Needs Study.

3. Duty to Co-operate

Cannock Chase District Council is completely satisfied that in terms of the ongoing cooperation between the two authorities Birmingham City Council has fully met the legal requirements of the Duty to Co-operate. The engagement is accurately reflected in DC1 and DC2 of the evidence base to the Birmingham Development Plan and the Duty to Co-operate protocol between the two authorities has now been signed by both parties. Both authorities are in regular contact and understand that the duty is a continuing requirement to which both authorities are fully committed.

4. Housing Numbers

Cannock Chase District Council has not made formal representations to the Birmingham Development Plan in respect of the level of housing provision proposed, but considers the plan to take a reasonable and pragmatic approach to dealing with issues relating to the long-term housing growth of the city.

Antony Lancaster
Planning Policy Manager
Cannock Chase District Council

10 September 2014