

Examination of the Warwick District Council Net Zero Carbon Development Plan Document

Inspector: Andrew McCormack BSc (Hons) MRTPI

Programme Officer: Ian Kemp

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Mr Andrew Cornfoot
Planning Policy & Major Sites Delivery Manager
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Milverton Hill
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CV32 5HZ

12 May 2023

By email only

Dear Mr Cornfoot,

EXAMINATION OF THE WARWICK NET ZERO CARBON DPD – MAIN MODIFICATIONS

Thank you for your letter dated 28 April 2023, the content of which I have now had time to consider. I have had regard to the following documents and additional work that the Council has provided:

- Schedule of Minor Changes and Main Modifications (April 2023)
- The Council's Response to EXAM 12 – Inspectors Post Examination Letter (April 2023) which includes:
 - Action 001: Reference to the use of British Standard BS40101
 - Action 009: Council's Position regarding the Written Ministerial Statement 2015
 - Action 010: Council's Response to Representations made on its Explanatory Note [EXAM11] relating to cost uplift methodology
- The Net Zero Carbon DPD Supplementary Planning Document Scoping paper (April 2023): content and scoping of the further supplementary planning guidance proposed for the DPD.

I can confirm I am satisfied that the content of these documents is acceptable and will be taken account of in my final report. As such, please would the Council ensure that all documents submitted are placed on the Examination Library website as set out in Table 1 of the Council's letter dated 28 April 2023. For the avoidance of doubt this is as follows:

EXAM13	Warwick District Council NZC DPD Examination Response to EXAM12 Inspector's Post Examination Letter
EXAM14	Future Homes Standard summary of responses and government response – January 2021
EXAM15	Written Ministerial Statement of 15 December 2015 from DLUHC (HCWS495)

In addition, please add the following:

EXAM16	Warwick District Council NZC DPD Supplementary Planning Document Scoping (April 2023)
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With regard to the latter document [EXAM16] I note that the Council intends to progress work on a supplementary planning document alongside the examination of the Net Zero Carbon DPD and a timetable for this has been outlined within the scoping document. For the purposes of ensuring

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that the DPD and its policies are as effective as possible, it is important that the production of the SPD is completed as soon as possible.

I note that the other remaining actions to be completed on the schedule I set out in my letter dated 30 March 2023, namely Actions 005, 006 and 007, have been addressed in the schedules produced by the Council for proposed main modifications and minor changes provided on 28 April 2023. Furthermore, Action 011, the production of the composite version of the DPD, will be addressed prior to the forthcoming consultation on main modifications. As a result, I am content that all actions set for the Council following the hearings have now, or will shortly be, addressed.

Attached to this letter is a revised schedule of proposed main modifications which is based on schedules that have been provided by the Council already. There are changes and additions to these initial schedules and the Council should now consider these and include them in the forthcoming proposed main modifications (PMM) consultation. Some of these further PMMs are taken from the proposed minor changes (PMC) set out by the Council as they are considered to be main modifications. Where this is the case, I have set out the soundness reason for including the change as a main modification. For ease of reference, where a PMM has previously been presented as a PMC, the PMC reference has also been identified in the modification number column. However, these PMC references should be removed from the final PMM consultation schedule.

In addition, and for completeness, I have also set out a separate revised schedule for Additional Modifications (previously identified as proposed minor changes – PMC). Although these minor changes are matters for the Council and not for me to determine in this examination, I have made further minor changes which have been identified relating to factual amendments, typographical changes or corrections to the submitted DPD for the Council to consider. Hopefully, in providing this revised schedule, the Council will be assisted in finalising the minor changes and providing a comprehensive collection of all modifications proposed to be made to the submission version of the DPD.

I now ask that the Council considers the attached schedules prior to finalising them for the proposed main modifications consultation. As discussed at the hearings and as set as Action 011 in the schedule of action points, in addition to the final schedules for consultation, I would strongly advocate that the Council produces a composite version of the Net Zero Carbon DPD. This should set out the proposed main modifications and additional modifications within the DPD as indicated in those schedules. This is a useful tool to assist those who wish to comment on the proposed main modifications and to easily reference the comments made.

The Council is also asked to consider and advise as to whether any updates to the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and/or Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) are required as a result of the proposed modifications identified. If so, these must be undertaken prior to, and be included in, the consultation on the Proposed Modifications. Any additional work required in this regard should be factored into the timeline for consultation.

Prior to the proposed main modifications consultation, the Council is to produce the following documents for me to consider:

- Final Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to the Submission Net Zero Carbon DPD
- Final Schedule of Additional Modifications (Minor Changes) to the Submission Net Zero Carbon DPD

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- Possible SA/HRA updates for proposed main modifications (if required)
- Composite version of the Net Zero Carbon DPD showing all proposed modifications (Main and Additional Modifications) as indicated in the consultation schedules.

To ensure that the Council has sufficient time to produce the above documents and other material, I would anticipate that the work involved could be completed by **Monday 22 May 2023**. This would enable the consultation period on the proposed main modifications to commence as soon as possible. However, should this timescale prove unrealistic, then I would welcome the Council's view on when these preparations are likely to be completed by.

Once the above documents have been considered and satisfactorily produced and the proposed main modifications have been finalised, the Council should then progress towards consultation on the proposed main modifications to the DPD. A timeline for this consultation should be identified and published and include a consultation period of no less than six weeks. It should be made clear to all interested parties that representations will be sought on the proposed modifications only and not on any wider aspect of the Plan.

I trust that the above is helpful. Should you have any queries on the above matters, please do not hesitate to contact me via the Programme Officer. Please ensure that a copy of this letter and the documents referred to within it are referenced and added to the examination document library as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew McCormack

Inspector

Attached:

Revised Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to the Published Submission Version of the Warwick Net Zero Carbon DPD (August 2022) - May 2023

Revised Schedule of Additional Modifications to the Published Submission Version of the Warwick Net Zero Carbon DPD (August 2022) - May 2023