

Your ref
Our ref
Ask for Simon Fletcher
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Lichfield, Staffordshire WS13 6YU**

FAO: Inspector J Gilbert & Inspector D McCreery
Mrs Kerry Trueman
Programme Officer
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30 March 2023

Dear Mrs Trueman,

Monthly progress update – March 2023.

The below provides the monthly progress update for March 2023 as requested by the Inspectors in their letter dated 11th October 2022.


1. As noted in the previous update the new Principal Planning Officer started at the District Council in late January 2023. There remains a number of vacancies within the Spatial Policy team and the Council are in the process of resourcing the team both in the short and longer term.
2. The team has prepared a programme of works which is now being used to guide work on the local plan and other work streams to ensure key targets are being met.
3. The suite of monitoring documents for 2021-2022 (the Authority Monitoring Report, Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessments and Five-Year Supply) have now been completed and are in the process of being quality checked and approved for publication in accordance with the Council's internal processes. Once completed these documents will be published on the Council's website and submitted to the examination. It is anticipated this will be by the end of April.
4. In addition to the completion of the 2021-2022 monitoring data, the team has put into place resources to ensure that data for 2022-2023 is brought up to date and maintained in order that data for the 2022-2023 monitoring year will be available in due course following the close of the year. This will ensure the Council is in a position to provide the latest data available to the examination where requested.

5. The team has continued to engage with Duty to Cooperate partners in particular those where Statements of Common Ground had been progressed those which have yet to be completed. The Statement of Common Ground with South Staffordshire District Council which had previously been agreed at officer level and submitted to the examination (SD5-7) has now been signed by the appropriate elected member at both authorities. This Statement of Common Ground has been submitted to the programme officer.

6. The team has begun progressing Statements of Common Ground for the proposed Strategic Housing Allocations which will need to be agreed with the promoters/developers of the respective sites in due course. As part of this process the technical work which has been submitted in support of the draft allocations is also being collated. This work will enable the Council to provide a response to request 5d in due course.

7. A further meeting has been held between officers at the District Council and Staffordshire County Council in relation to transport evidence. Officers shared the work programme, and it was agreed that transport work would be completed by Summer 2023 in order to provide time for this work to be considered and taken account of in the wider evidence base (including SA and HRA).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SFL', is positioned above the printed name.

Simon Fletcher

Chief Executive