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YOUR REFERENCE
DPSPAC002

OUR REFERENCE
LDP2019/BCC/PS

DATE
27th August 2020

Independent Examination Belfast City Council Local Development Plan: Plan Strategy

Dear Mr Thatcher

Thank you for your response of 31 July 2020, which has provided useful clarification and consolidation of various evidential sources. The Commissioners have considered it and propose to proceed to the organisation of the public hearings in order to examine the identified topics and issues raised by representations in respect of the Belfast Local Development Plan Draft Plan Strategy 2035 (dPS). Having taken account of your response to the Commission's letter, they see no need for an exploratory meeting.

It is important to stress that no matters have been pre-determined or pre-judged. The Independent Examination (IE) is an iterative process of which the public hearing sessions are only one element. The Commission's letter of 3 July and your response to it are both part of the on-going IE.

The Commission is now moving to the pre-hearing stage of the IE process. In view of the current pandemic the Commissioners are considering how best to facilitate the oral hearing sessions. This may be through remote sessions or in person gatherings with limited numbers in attendance. The Commission will be corresponding with the parties who have indicated that they wish to participate in the public hearing sessions to apprise them of the change in circumstances and to confirm if they still want to be heard or if they wish to rely on their written submission. Once those responses have been received, collated and considered I will be in touch as soon as possible with regard to further associated details including indicative dates.

In response to your question about the use of requested documentation, in addition to being used by the Commissioners, it would be published on the Commission's web-site as part of the Examination library. It would be helpful if this could be forwarded, in the requested formats, **within one week** of receipt of this letter.

In Appendix 1 that accompanied your letter of 3 July 2020, at paragraph 4.1.2 you refer to a letter from the DFI's Chief Planner and Director of Regional Planning, dated 25 September 2019, which accompanied the publication of the revised HGIs. As you do not appear to have forwarded a copy of this in evidence, please do so **within one week** of receipt of this letter. Again, it will be made available in the Commission's Examination library on its web-site.

At paragraph 1.2.2 of the aforementioned appendix you refer to an updated version of the City Council's time-table. As this has not been submitted as part of the Examination documentation, a copy of this is also required **within one week** of receipt of this letter. This will also be published on the Commission's web-site as part of the Examination library.

As part of its submission of the draft Plan Strategy for IE, the City Council provided a four page "Schedule of Documents" Ref:20200102DPSPACSubLetter. The References set out thereon are those used in the Commission's letter of 3 July 2020. Your response includes hyperlinks that use different references for those documents. If the Council has renumbered/referenced its suite of documents since submission for IE, please provide an updated schedule of documents that shows the references set out on the aforementioned schedule alongside any new references. It is vital that all parties share the same set of document references from this stage forward in the IE process

If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact me using the email address or telephone number at the top of this letter.

Yours faithfully



James Bickerstaff
Programme Officer

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