

Our ref: NUL Local Plan/Initial Questions

Date: 25 March 2025

Inspector: Anne Jordan (BA Hons) MRTPI

Programme Officer: Carole Crookes

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Castle House
Barracks Road
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Dear Inspector Jordan,

Re Examination of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan - Inspector's Initial Questions and Comments to the Council

This letter builds on the Borough Council's response to the Inspector's Initial Questions and Comments to the Council (EX/INS/01a) and Council correspondence (EX/NBC/01).

The Council thanks Natural England for their continued engagement on the air quality and ecological interpretation reports prepared by the Council and its consultants. This engagement has now resulted in an agreed Statement of Common Ground focused on the air quality and the Habitats Regulations Assessment matters raised by Natural England in their representations to the Local Plan, at Regulation 19 stage. In line with the above, the Council now encloses with this letter the following documents: -

- Assessment of Air Quality Impact on Habitat Sites (SWECO, 13.02.2025)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan – Interpretation of Air Quality Modelling Data for components of the Midland Meres and Mosses (Phase 2) Ramsar Site (Lepus Consulting, March 2025)
- Statement of Common Ground (Air Quality and Habitats Regulations Assessment) – Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and Natural England (25.03.2025)

The consideration of the outcomes of the air quality and ecological interpretation reports on the draft Local Plan, alongside engagement with Natural England has resulted in two draft proposed modifications. The proposed modifications relate to travel planning requirements for draft allocation AB2 (Land at Junction 16) and reference to the need for project level and site-specific Habitats Regulations Assessment to be included in Policy SA1 (General Requirements). These proposed modifications are detailed in the enclosed Statement of Common Ground document to assist the Inspector in the consideration of the matters raised.

I would be happy to answer any supplementary questions on this matter or any other relating to the Local Plan and its examination.

Yours sincerely,

Allan Clarke

Allan Clarke
Planning Policy Manager
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council