

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT
1990 (AS AMENDED)**

**Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan
Examination – Response to Inspector's
Matters, Issues and Questions**

MATTER 1

On Behalf of Richborough

Site:

Land South of Newcastle Golf Club (Site
Reference TB19) and Land at Cemetery
Road (Site Reference SP23)

Document Ref: RIC1271/1/ACK/LP/MIQ

Document date: April 2025

1. **MATTER 1 – OVERARCHING MATTERS**

Matter 1b – Plan Period

- 1.1 Is the plan period justified, effective and consistent with national policy which requires strategic policies to look at least 15 years ahead from adoption?
- 1.2 The Local Plan covers the period 2020-2040. Paragraph 22 of NPPF23 states that strategic policies should look ahead over a minimum 15 year period from adoption. Assuming that the plan were to be adopted during 2025, then the plan period for the LP would comply with this requirement.
- 1.3 Should the requirements / timescales for reviews of the plan be set out in policy?
- 1.4 National policy set out in NPPF23 at paragraph 33 sets out that policies should be reviewed at least once every 5 years and completed 5 years from the adoption of the plan.
- 1.5 On 27 February 2025, the Government published a response¹ to the proposed plan-making reforms emerging from the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023. The Government intends to proceed as set out in the consultation, subject to some changes identified in the response, with necessary regulations, policy and guidance, which is to be finalised later in 2025.
- 1.6 The Council has already published an updated Local Development Scheme, and set out in Examination Document reference EX/NBC/02 that it intends to proceed with preparing a new Local Plan when the provisions of LURA are brought into force later in 2025.
- 1.7 It is not considered that the above is required to be set out as a specific Local Plan policy, but instead, reference to a Local Plan review can be included in any supporting or introductory text to the Local Plan and cross-referenced in the supporting text to any strategic policies where relevant.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/plan-making-reforms-consultation-on-implementation/outcome/government-response-to-the-proposed-plan-making-reforms-consultation-on-implementation>