



Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan Examination

Matter 1 – Legal Compliance and Overarching Issues

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MATTER 1: LEGAL COMPLIANCE AND OVERARCHING ISSUES

Matter 1a – Legal compliance

1.1 In preparing the Plan did the Council engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with neighbouring authorities and other relevant organisations on cross-boundary issues, in respect of the Duty to Co-operate?

1.1.1 In the main, Gladman acknowledges that the Council has engaged constructively with its neighbouring local authorities on cross-boundary issues, in respect of the Duty to Co-operate. This is set out in more detail within Core Document CD11.

1.1.2 CD11 demonstrates that the Council has undertaken a proactive and structured approach to compliance with the Duty to Co-operate throughout the preparation of the Local Plan. It has undertaken structured discussions and ongoing engagement with neighbouring authorities, infrastructure providers and key stakeholders, and has demonstrated collaborative working on the strategic priorities set out in the NPPF.

1.3 Has the Plan been prepared in accordance with the adopted Local Development Scheme (CD12 2023)?

1.1.3 Yes, however it is pertinent to note that the Council has published a more recent Local Development Scheme in February 2025 which is available to view via the footnote hyperlink overleaf and is discussed in more detail in response to question 1.12.

1.11 Does the 'policies' map (CD02) correctly illustrate geographically the application of policies of the Plan?

1.1.4 Yes, the submitted policies map does correctly illustrate geographically the application of policies of the Plan. However, a suggested amendment to the Policies Map is recommended on the Loggerheads map as Policy LW87 was deleted from the Final Draft Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan (Regulation 19) version due to the Former Petrol Station benefiting from detailed planning permission.

Matter 1b – Overarching matters

1.12 - Is the Plan period (2020 – 2040) justified, effective and consistent with national policy which requires strategic policies to look at least 15 years ahead from adoption? Should the requirements/timescales for review of the Plan be set out in policy?

1.1.5 Paragraph 22 of the NPPF sets out that strategic policies should look ahead over a minimum 15-year period from adoption. The term minimum is notable as it makes it explicit that the requirement is 15 years or more, not around 15 years which could justify a lower plan period being advanced.

1.1.6 Gladman comment that in terms of the timescales for the emerging Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan 2020-2040, we suggest there is merit in extending the plan period by a further 12 months until 2041, which would allow for a suitable buffer to account for any minor setbacks in the examination process whilst still ensuring that the Plan will look ahead over a minimum 15-year period from the date of adoption.

1.1.7 The Council published its most recent Local Development Scheme in February 2025¹ which anticipates that the emerging Local Plan will be **adopted by 19th November 2025**. Gladman believe this anticipated adoption date to be quite optimistic and doesn't allow for any flexibility to account for any delays in the examination process. If there are any significant delays experienced, it is highly likely that the 15-year plan period, as required by national policy, would not be met. Therefore, a more realistic adoption date would be a date in 2026 which Gladman would deem as being more appropriate.

1.1.8 An extended plan period would result in the need for the Council to allocate additional sites to meet an increased minimum overall housing requirement. Gladman are promoting a suitable site in land south of Eccleshall Road, Loggerheads, which is consistent with the settlement hierarchy set out in draft Policy PSD3, that represents

¹ <https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/downloads/file/1985/local-development-scheme>

a suitable and deliverable opportunity that can be delivered in the short-term to boost the Council's housing land supply position in the early years of the plan period.