

THISTLEBERRY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Response to Inspector's Queries re the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan

MATTER 11 – INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT AND DELIVERY

11.1 (a) Don't know as the original plan was based on out of date data. Inspector to decide.

11.1.(b) Not sure. Inspector to check.

11.1.(c) Don't know. Inspector to query.

11.1 (d) Probably not. The infrastructure within the borough we are told is out of date. If cycle paths are infrastructure then some of these on the development in Thistleberry have yet to be delivered. The extra wide pavements to be shared with cyclists are currently car parking spaces. Cyclist residents tell the TRA that some cycle paths are not satisfactorily maintained for use. Some are being used by motorised vehicles – eg scooters and motorbikes etc.

11.1 (e) Don't know. If some policies are too 'flexible' it means they can be evaded when it comes to implementation.

11.1 (f) Don't know. Inspector to decide.

11.2 (a) Not that we could see. Parking is a key issue in this borough. People are not going to stop using their cars if there is no alternative to cater for their transport needs. Reducing car parks and carparking spaces on all developments is not necessarily the answer. In rural areas buses might be once every hour during the week and none on Sundays.

11.3 Don't know. Community facilities are often reliant on market forces – use or lose - even the non-profit facilities. Inspector to decide re omissions from the policy.

11.4 Don't know. In rural areas speed of the broadband is an issue. But again companies rely on market forces to deliver or not. Inspector to decide on omissions.

11.5 Don't know. Inspector to decide.

11.6 Not really. Monitoring is always an issue since that involves self scrutiny of implementation, in many cases. Sometimes the policy is fine but

the implementation is poor and implementation relies on the skill, expertise and calibre of individuals applying the policy. Owing to staff shortages, some officers are required to multi-task. The Inspector should decide how clear and what level of monitoring is feasible.

Dr A Drakakis-Smith

Chair

TRA

29 April 2025