

CP/01/n2304

Ms Carole Crookes
Programme Officer
c/o Council Offices
Castle House
Newcastle-under-Lyme

Sent via email to: n-u-l@iposolutions.online

30th April 2024

Dear Carole,

Re: Examination of the Newcastle Under Lyme Local Plan (Regulation 22) – Response to MIQ's

nineteen47 are acting on behalf of Keele University in responding to the Newcastle Under Lyme Local Plan Examination Matters, Issues and Questions v2 (9th April 2025).

Keele University's interests in the Borough comprise the Keele University Campus, to the west of Newcastle Under Lyme, together with proposed allocations KL13 (Keele Science Park Phase 3) and KL15 (Land South of A525 Keele), which form part of the University campus.

In response to the MIQ's, our client wishes to respond to relevant matters as follows:

- **Matter 2 – A University representative wishes to appear either virtual or in person at this session.** This is to provide verbal representations and further assistance to the Inspector in response to question 2.1(f) *'Is the approach to development at Keele soundly based? Does it adequately address the needs of the University? Plus points 2.2, 2.5 and 2.7'*.

We also refer the Inspector to our Regulation 19 written submissions regarding the omission of a University specific policy or allocation, to reflect the unique circumstances of the University Campus within the Borough, and our objections on the grounds of soundness in respect of the proposed settlement boundaries, the Green Belt boundary and the Open Space Policy designation, where they relate to the University Campus.

- **Matter 6 and Matter 9**– Keele University strongly support the principle of site allocations KL13 and KL15, which form part of the wider University campus and will provide employment and homes, which will strongly support the local economy.

The Statement of Common Ground produced between the Council and the University in March 2025 (as referenced below) confirms that there are however outstanding objections to specific elements of the site allocations and policy requirements under proposed allocations KL13 and KL15, namely the requirement for provision of a new link road between A525 Keele Road and Whitmore Road.

It is considered appropriate for the link road to be discussed in full under Matter 11 as below, **however should the Examiner consider it appropriate for this issue to be considered under**

questions 6.3, 9.4, and 9.6(f), we request the right to appear virtually or in person at the relevant hearing sessions in order to provide further verbal submissions.

- Matter 10 – We do not wish to appear at this session and refer the Examiner to our Regulation 19 written submissions regarding the soundness of proposed settlement boundaries and the Open Space Policy designation in so far as it relates to the University Campus.
- Matter 11 – **We wish to attend this session either in person or virtually to make representations on behalf of Keele University.** This is in response to question 11.1, and the soundness of the requirement within draft policy IN1 for a link road between A525 Keele Road and Whitmore Road.

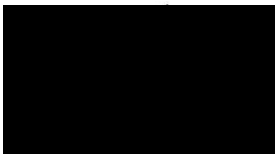
A Hearing Statement on Matter 11 is included herein for the Examiners consideration.

With regard to all other relevant matters, Keele University refers the Inspector to our previous **Regulation 19 written representations** submitted in September 2024.

Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council and Keele University have also prepared a **Statement of Common Ground (SoCG – signed 26.3.25)**, which have been provided by the Council for inclusion in the Examination Library. As this does not appear within the online Examination Library at the time of writing, the SoCG is provided alongside this response for review.

Should the Examiner have any queries regarding these submissions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully



Clare Plant MRTPI
Director

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