



TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Item 10 – Development Committee

7th August 2024

TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Report To Development Committee

Report Author	Colin Hill – Project Manager
Tel No	07933713958
Email	projectmanager@todmorden-tc.gov.uk
Date	7 th August 2024
Subject	Neighbourhood Plan – Examiners Clarification Letter

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members that a response seeking clarification has been received from the Examiner – see Appendix 1.
2. To provide for Members a proposed response and if in agreement with this, to seek Members approval to submit this- see Appendix 2.
3. To inform Members that once we have a final response from the Examiner it is likely that some changes to policy wording will be necessary.

Background

4. Any policy within the Neighbourhood Plan has to withstand scrutiny that from a planning use point of view it would withstand legal challenge.
5. Part of that process to ensure the plan is robust is to subject it to independent scrutiny and that is the role of the Examiner in seeking clarifications on some of the policies proposed.
6. The proposed response has been prepared by the Project Manager (in conjunction with our consultant advising on this) to propose a response that is felt to be appropriate, but is open for this Committee to amend as is it may wish to do.
7. Following submission of this response there may be further clarifications sought by the Examiner or a final report issued with recommendations for the Town Council to consider.
8. If the Examiner is satisfied that basic conditions have been met, a formal report will be issued. If this requires further policy changes, the normal process would be using the Examiners Guidance to amend some policies accordingly and then following Full Council approval, submit to Calderdale MBC for agreement that conditions are met.

9. There may at that stage be further dialogue with Calderdale MBC before they then determine that the plan is “fit for purpose” to proceed to Referendum.

Financial

10. There are no immediate financial implications at this stage, but following agreement with Calderdale MBC, there may be a need to reprint the plan itself to include all policy changes made.

Recommendation

11. That Members receive the Examiners Clarifications Letter.
12. That Members consider the proposed response and if in agreement, authorise the response as per Appendix 2 to be sent by the Town Clerk.

Reasons For Recommendation

13. Development Committee, as the Committee overseeing production of the Neighbourhood Plan, must consider the Examiners Clarification Letter.
14. Development Committee has delegated powers to respond.

Policy Implications:

15. Todmorden Town Council has committed to take forward a Neighbourhood Plan

Details Of Consultation:

16. Various formal stages of consultation have been completed as identified in the Consultation Statement accompanying this plan.

Climate Change:

17. Policies where relevant, have been included within this plan.

IMPACT EQUALITY ASSESSMENT

18. Accessibility and Dementia have been considered in the plan.

Supporting Papers:

- Appendix 1 – Examiner Clarifications Letter.
- Appendix 2 – Proposed Response.
- Appendix 3 – Relevant Policies requiring clarification

Further Information, Please Contact: Colin Hill