

Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan Consultation Response

Thank you for giving North West Leicestershire District Council the opportunity to comment on your pre-submission draft Local Plan. Our comments are as follows:

We recognise the ambitions you have for the growth of Melton, and that you have, like North West Leicestershire, concluded that you cannot delay the progression of your plan to wait for the publication of the new HMA-wide Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA). We therefore do not raise any objections to this approach, although you will appreciate that this may carry some risks for you.

With regard to the Gypsy and Traveller section, we consider that the Plan needs to make clear that the 2016 Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA), in which both Melton and North West Leicestershire Councils are partners, has not yet been completed, and therefore the quote attributed to it in paragraph 5.10.10 is not correct and should be removed. We would also like to clarify that, while Melton Borough Council is entitled to review its evidence base as it sees fit, North West Leicestershire District Council, alongside other partner authorities, has not agreed to an evidence base review in autumn 2018.

In addition, we consider that it should be made clear that the 'summary' of the GTAA included within the evidence base is instead Melton Borough Council's interpretation of a summary of advanced draft findings of the GTAA obtained by Melton from the consultants undertaking the assessment. The information contained in this relates to Melton Borough Council findings only, and does not form a draft of the GTAA. Finally, although the contents of the 'summary' have not been agreed by North West Leicestershire District Council or any of the other participating authorities, we would stress that we are committed to continuing to work with Melton Borough Council, and the other local authority partners involved in the GTAA, to ensure that the final report, when completed, forms robust and credible evidence.

Regards,



Ian Jordan
Team Leader – Planning Policy

