

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION

INSPECTOR'S NOTE 1 – Initial Matters Concerning the Soundness of the Core Strategy

Following from my early appraisal of the Core Strategy the following information and clarification is requested from the Authority to assist my examination of its soundness. I stress that at this stage I have not read all of the evidence base or representations. In my Matters, Issues and Questions papers (MIQs), which I shall issue in due course, several other matters and detailed questions will be raised, upon which I shall request the response of the Authority. However, to minimise these, the Authority's full answers to the matters listed below are requested ASAP and by 21 January 2011 at the latest.

This note, together with the Authority's responses, should be allocated CD numbers, added to the Examination Library list and displayed on the Authority's LDF website.

If the Authority wishes to suggest any changes to the Core Strategy in response to these matters they should be set out in a schedule, which should also be allocated a CD number, added to the Examination Library list and displayed on the Authority's LDF website.

The suggested changes schedule will be a 'living' document for the duration of the Core Strategy examination. For transparency, the stages at which changes are suggested and indication of whether they go to the heart of the soundness of the DPD or are desirable to 'improve' the plan should be clarified in their individual referencing. I suggest that any changes to be suggested in response to the publication stage consultation are pre-fixed 100.XX, any suggested in response to this note are pre-fixed 200.XX, any suggested in response to my MIQs are pre-fixed 300.XX and those suggested during the Hearing sessions are pre-fixed 400.XX. Those that are necessary for soundness should be additionally pre-fixed S. Thus a change suggested in response to one of my questions below may be referenced S200.01.

- 1 To assist my examination of the justification for and the soundness of the policies of the Core Strategy please can a schedule of the evidence source for each of the policies be provided, with reference to the CD Examination List.
- 2 I appreciate that at the time of the publication of the Core Strategy, the Secretary of State had indicated that Regional Strategy (RS) was revoked and thus did not form part of the development plan for the National Park. However, as you are aware, the RS has been reinstated and for the time being, forms part of the development plan. For soundness the Core Strategy should be in general conformity with it. Clarification is required of which Regional Spatial Strategy(s) (RSS) form part of the development plan for the National Park.

- 3 Clarification is also required of which policies of the Core Strategy were amended in response to the temporary revocation of RSS, the nature of those changes, and if in the light of the re-instatement of RSS those changes are sound. Any other policies that are not in general conformity with the RSS should be identified and the reasons for their non-conformity should be explained.
- 4 In addition, the few references in the Core Strategy to the revocation of the RSS should be removed by a suggested change. I acknowledge that it is likely that RS will be revoked by legislation before the Core Strategy is adopted, and possibly prior to the end of its examination, so it may be prudent to word such suggested changes with this eventuality in mind.
- 5 The Core Strategy delivery plan, which is contained in a separate document, acknowledges that to be sound the Core Strategy should be demonstrably deliverable. However, I am not satisfied that it contains sufficient information to show who the main delivery partners are in respect of each of the policies, when policies are intended to be delivered, what necessary funding sources are necessary, potentially available and/or secured. Furthermore, in the absence of clear and meaningful indicators and targets for each policy, it is not clear how the Core Strategy will be monitored or how its policies and proposals will be managed to ensure that its vision and objectives are achieved. I would suggest that this information should be contained in implementation and delivery schedules that should be added to the Core Strategy document, either as an additional section or as additional appendices.

Shelagh Bussey

Inspector
11 January 2011