

**PUBLICATION OF NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (1)
IMPLICATIONS FOR APRIL 2012 HEARING SESSIONS**

1. On 27 March 2012 the Government published the National Planning Policy Framework ("the Framework"), accompanying Technical Guidance and a new Planning Policy for Traveller Sites. These policy documents replace the Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance which hitherto have guided the preparation and Examination of the Selby District Core Strategy (CS). Further information regarding the Framework can be found on the Planning Portal:

http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/pins/advice_for_inspectors/npf.pdf

2. Annex 1 to the Framework makes clear that its policies apply from the day of publication. Therefore the Framework now provides the national policy context against which the CS will be assessed for the remainder of the Examination. In these circumstances, it is essential that all representors are given the opportunity to comment on the implications of the Framework (and other new policies) for the published CS. It is equally important that the Council has the opportunity to consider whether it wishes to make any further changes as a result of the Framework, and if so, that representors are able to respond.

3. Hearing sessions for the suspended Examination are programmed to resume on 17-19 April. With the Easter holiday reducing further the limited time before that date, I have been liaising with the Council (through the Programme Officer (PO)) on how best to proceed. Given the wide-reaching nature of the Framework, there is clearly insufficient time for parties to comment on the implications for the CS of the *whole* of the Framework. On the other hand, I and the Council are keen to resume the Examination on the programmed dates if at all possible, especially as many representors will be expecting to attend on these days.

4. I therefore propose to limit the April hearing sessions solely to the 3 matters that comprised the reasons for the suspension – the overall scale of housing development, the scale of housing and employment development proposed for (and redistributed from) Tadcaster, and the strategic approach to Green Belt releases. I will also deal with any legal/procedural points that have arisen from the suspension process. I hope that, by limiting the discussion in this way, all representors will be able and willing to incorporate comments on the Framework in their submissions – indeed, some have already signalled their intention to do this.

5. I have read the representations submitted in January/February 2012 and believe that two days should be sufficient to deal with these 3 topics. To maximise the time available for considering the implications of the Framework and preparing for these sessions, it is proposed to hold the hearings on **Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th April**. If two days

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prove to be insufficient (which I think is unlikely), an overrun could be accommodated on Friday 20th April. I will also aim to carry out the site visit of the Olympia Park strategic development site on Friday 20th. A draft programme for each day, together with an indication of the representors wishing to attend each session, is attached. Detailed agendas for the sessions will follow shortly.

6. The Council has advised me that it intends to submit, by 13th April, the following documents:
 1. A Housing Context paper which sets out the Council's case for the housing scale in response to representations received on the Proposed Changes (January 2012) and in the light of up-to-date evidence (e.g. 2010 based ONS population projections published on 21 March 2012).
 2. A 'NPPF Compliance Statement' setting out how the Council considers the 3 matters comply with the Framework.
 3. A statement setting out the Council's position on the "Duty to Cooperate" legal requirement (as requested by me).

If any representor wishes to submit an additional statement responding to the Framework insofar as it relates to the matters to be examined on 18/19 April, it would be helpful if this could also be submitted to the PO by 13th April. The PO will ensure that all documents are distributed to those attending the April sessions and posted on the Examination page of the Council's website.

7. Following these April sessions the Examination will be adjourned to allow comments to be submitted on the implications of the remainder of the Framework, together with a potential further round of consultation on any further changes the Council proposes in response to the Framework. The Council has indicated that, as soon as practicable following the April hearings, it will publish a further 'NPPF Compliance Statement' concerning the remainder of the Core Strategy policies/those issues already considered at the September 2011 hearings, and any Further Proposed Changes arising out of the April 2012 debate and analysis of implications of the Framework.

8. A final hearing session will be convened in the Summer once this process has been completed. This will also be the appropriate time to deal with any other matters that arise from the Council's proposed changes – in essence, the final day(s) will deal with responses to the Framework and a "mopping up" session. I will set out the timetable and arrangements for this process in a separate note in due course.

9. Any comments on the matters in this note, including requests from representors to be included in or excluded from particular hearing sessions, should be sent to the PO as soon as possible.

Martin Pike

INSPECTOR
4 April 2012