

1. Background

- 1.1. This hearing statement has been prepared on behalf of Taylor Wimpey UK Limited and BDW Trading Limited (“TW and BDW”).
- 1.2. TW and BDW control the majority of the land which is covered by Policy EN33 Rushden East Sustainable Urban Extension (“the SUE”), in the East Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2 (“the Local Plan”).
- 1.3. BDW and TW have been involved in the planning for development at the SUE for some 8 years.

2. Purpose of the Plan and consistency with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS)

Question 5. Is the Plan’s Approach to strategic policies justified and effective?

- 2.1. North Northamptonshire Council’s (“the Council”) response to IQ1: a) Are there any strategic policies in the Plan?, does not include Policy EN33 as it refers to Appendix 1 of the Local Plan which identifies Policy EN33 as non-strategic for the reasons given.
- 2.2. We consider that Policy EN33 is a strategic policy because it addresses one of the Council’s priorities for the development and use of land in its area, under Policy 33 of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, as required under Section 19 (1B-1E) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 2.3. We consider that the Council should propose this as a modification to the Local Plan.

3. Plan preparation and public consultation

Question 11. Does the content and timescale for the preparation of the Plan accord with the latest version of the Local Development Scheme (LDS)?

- 3.1. The LDS submitted under document reference: A-06 is dated September 2020. This LDS identifies adoption of the Local Plan in early 2022 following examination in late summer 2021 and therefore preparation of the Local Plan does not accord with this LDS.
- 3.2. We consider that a new LDS should be submitted by the Council.