

**WHITBURN
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
Submission Draft Version**

**Commencement of Examination Procedural Note
Whitburn Neighbourhood Plan
by Independent Examiner, Rosemary Kidd**

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NPIERS Independent Examiner
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Whitburn Neighbourhood Plan

I am writing to confirm that I have commenced the examination of the Whitburn Neighbourhood Plan. All contact will be through a named representative of the Local Planning Authority. They will be responsible for forwarding all correspondence (except for contractual matters) to the representative of the Qualifying Body. All correspondence between myself, the Local Planning Authority and the Qualifying Body (except for contractual matters) should be placed on the Local Authority's website to ensure that the examination is conducted in an open and transparent manner.

From my initial appraisal of the submitted documents I consider that it is unlikely that a hearing will be necessary, provided that I receive satisfactory answers to any questions and matters for clarification.

I have undertaken a detailed appraisal of the background documents to check that the legal requirements have been satisfied and that adequate consultation has taken place to meet the requirements of the Regulations. I am satisfied that all legal requirements have been met. There are a number of matters that have been raised in the representations that I would welcome comments from the Qualifying Body and / or Local Planning Authority and these are set out in my separate list of questions. I would appreciate your response by 31 January, if possible.

I have undertaken a detailed appraisal of the Plan and the policies to ensure that they satisfy the Basic Conditions, taking account of any representations. I have undertaken an unaccompanied site visit. I wrote to the Local Planning Authority and Qualifying Body on 30 December 2021 to seek clarification on a number of matters or to request further information.

- I anticipate that I will present my Examination Questions and matters for clarification to the Local Planning Authority by 30 December 2021. This will also seek agreement to any significant wording changes to policies.
- I will allow 4 weeks for a response by the Local Planning Authority and Qualifying Body. (31 January 2022)
- Following receipt of responses to my questions and matters of clarification, I will prepare my draft Examination Report for fact checking.
- I will allow 7 days for a response by the Local Planning Authority and Qualifying Body.
- I anticipate that I will issue my final report to the Local Planning Authority and Qualifying Body by mid March.

All dates are indicative at this stage and may be revised, if necessary, should significant issues or additional questions arise or extensions of time be requested by the Local Planning Authority and/or Qualifying Body.

Rosemary Kidd MRTPI Independent Examiner