



Planning Inspectorate

Examination of the South Tyneside Local Plan

Inspector: David Spencer BA(Hons) DipTP MRTPI

Programme Officer: Mrs Annette Feeney

Tel: 07775 771026

Email: annette.feeney@southtyneside.gov.uk

Examination Website: [Local Plan examination - South Tyneside Council](#)

Inspector's Note – 6 May 2025

Dear Mr Inch

Thank you for your correspondence dated 2 May 2025 in response to my initial letter of 17 April 2025. The additional information provided on updates to evidence since Regulation 19 in January-March 2024 is very helpful. I am also pleased to see the Council's positive approach in seeking to engage further with Natural England, to update the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and to potentially further consider viability factors.

You raise the important and valid point around which version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) the soundness of the submitted Plan will be examined against. The Council is correct, for the reasons given in your correspondence, that the version will be the September 2023 NPPF and not the December 2023 version referenced at the top of page 3 of my initial letter. I trust my initial oversight will not cause too much confusion. I will make clear in my guidance notes and Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) that this examination will be assessing the submitted Plan against the version of the NPPF published on 5 September 2023. For those actively engaged and interested in the plan examination an archived version of the September 2023 National Planning Policy Framework can be found online at [National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK](#).

David Spencer

Examining Inspector.