

EXAMINATION OF THE BOOTLE AREA ACTION PLAN

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Examination web pages: <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning-policy-including-local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/bootle-area-action-plan/>

10 February 2025

Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
Ian Loughlin

INSPECTOR'S INITIAL LETTER

Further to the submission of the Bootle Area Action Plan (the Plan) I have commenced the Examination with initial reading of the Plan, the supporting evidence base and representations. Based on what I have read so far, I have a number of initial questions and requests for further information and clarification, which are set out below. These questions are posed to seek clarity and potentially narrow down the focus of my Examination. The Council is asked to provide brief responses with reference to the main relevant evidence.

Responses to these points will help to inform the matters, issues and questions, which I intend to publish within the next few weeks, for subsequent discussion at any hearings, and the timetable for the examination. I am not inviting further submissions from any other party at this stage and will set out in due course when representors may make further submissions.

The Plan being examined

I confirm that I am examining the Bootle Area Action Plan (Regulation 19) Draft July 2024 consulted on from September 2024. The evidence base for the Examination is published in the online document library. In this letter I request that further documents are added to the library, which may expand as my Examination progresses. Representors will be able to reference these documents in the preparation of any hearing statements and they may be discussed during hearing sessions.

The Bootle Area Action Plan (Regulation 19) Draft July 2024 was published for consultation between 13 September 2024 and 11 November 2024. Given the provisions of paragraphs 234 and 235 of the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework) published in December 2024, the Plan will be examined against the

December 2023 Framework. If the Council thinks otherwise, please contact me as soon as possible through the Programme Officer.

Questions

1. Please can the Council confirm if they wish to formally request that I, as the appointed Inspector make recommendations to the Council for any main modifications to the Plan that may be considered necessary to make the plan sound and legally compliant as per Regulation 20 (7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004?
2. Please can the Council confirm if the Suggested Modifications schedule contains all of the changes proposed in the consultation summary (SD10)?
3. Please provide, or direct me to the sub-regional statement of common ground?
4. Please provide, or direct me to the agreement with Liverpool City Council that housing, employment land and retail issues will not have cross-boundary effects?

Conclusion

Please publish this letter on the Examination website. It would be helpful if you could provide an indication of when you will be able to respond to my questions via the Programme Officer. Following receipt of your responses to the above, I will be able to advise you on how I consider that the Examination shall proceed.

Yours sincerely,

S Dean

INSPECTOR