

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET - CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION**INSPECTOR'S UPDATE FOR THE HEARINGS****1. *Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)***

The Government published the PPG on 6 March 2014. There are no transitional arrangements, so the Guidance is relevant to this Examination. It is available to view here:

<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/>

Where relevant, reference can be made to the Guidance in the forthcoming hearings.

Given that hearings have already taken place on the geographic scope of the SHMA and the assessment of housing need and those matters are not intended to be repeated in the forthcoming hearings, I am providing an opportunity to comment on the relevance of the Guidance for the issues previously discussed. Any party who has previously made representations on the scope of the SHMA and the assessment of housing need can make further written comment on whether the guidance changes any representation or the soundness of the Plan in relation to those matters.

Any comments should be confined solely to whether the Guidance results in any change of approach to that previously set out in representations or the Council's justification and, if so, why. I will not take into account representations which restate or otherwise supplement previous statements where not directly related to a change arising from the Guidance which was not previously addressed. I am aware that many representations already refer to the Beta Guidance published in August 2013.

The deadline for any further written comment on this matter is **25 April** to allow for 2 clear weeks after the end of the hearings. Comments should be sent to the Programme Officer.

2. *Minister's letters on Inspectors reports concerning the Green Belt*

There has been an exchange of correspondence between the Planning Minister (Mr Boles) and the Chief Executive of the Planning Inspectorate concerning the approach taken to Green Belt reviews. The letters can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspectors-reports-on-local-plans--2>

At the hearings concerning the Green Belt, participants may refer to this correspondence if they wish where relevant to the matters under discussion.

Simon Emerson
Inspector
18 March 2014