IN INVOLVEMENT OF HYNDKBURN COUNCIL

During the course of the Pre-Hearing Meeting, the Inspector will seek the assistance of the Council’s representatives on the following matters:

1. Introduction of the Council’s team

Simon to introduce team and say a few opening words:

Simon Prideaux  Chief Planning and Transportation Officer  HBC
Joanne Macholc  Principal Planning Officer     HBC
Anne Hourican   Senior Environmental Initiatives Officer  HBC
Farooq Rafiq    Assistant planning Officer     HBC

2. Legal & Procedural questions:

Can the Council confirm that the Core Strategy & Accrington AAP:

a. Have been prepared in accordance with the latest Local Development Scheme in terms of timetable and content;

Council’s response

I can confirm that both the Core Strategy and the Accrington AAP have been prepared in accordance with the latest Local Development Scheme (April 2011) (see CS_Supp3.4).

b. Comply with the Statement of Community Involvement, including the consultation undertaken;

Council’s response

I can confirm that both The Core Strategy and the Accrington AAP comply with the Statement of Community Involvement 2006 (see CS_Sub3.1).

c. Have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal, with a Final Report of the findings of the appraisal;

Council’s response

I can confirm that both the Core Strategy & Accrington AAP have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal throughout their preparation. (The formal SA processes and reporting requirements have been carried out by an external independent consultant. And this SA work has been advised by workshop discussions with a Sustainability Appraisal
Panel including representation from various disciplines within HBC together with statutory agencies, voluntary and community representatives.)

SA reports have been prepared and consulted on at all stages. The final reports are included with the submission documents (see CS_Sub1.5, 1.6, 1.7 and AAAP_Sub1.3 and 1.4).

d. Have had regard to national planning policy;

Council’s response

The Core Strategy and the Accrington AAP have had regard to national planning policy.

e. Are in general conformity with the approved Regional Spatial Strategy, and any issues arising from the proposed revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy;

Council’s response

The Council consider that the Core Strategy and the Accrington AAP are in general conformity with the approved Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West (CS_Supp1.1).

f. Have had regard to the Sustainable Community Strategy covering its area;

Council’s response

Both the Core Strategy and the Accrington AAP have had regard to the Hyndburn Sustainable Community Strategy (CS_Supp3.1). The Core Strategy and the Accrington AAP are seen as key tools in delivery the spatial aspects of the SCS.

g. Comply with the 2004 Regulations (as amended), in terms of publication, availability and advertisement of documents, notification of DPD bodies and list of superseded saved policies;

Council’s response

The Council is satisfied that the Core Strategy and the Accrington AAP comply with the relevant Regulations. Further details of this are set out in the Legal Compliance Self Assessments (CS_Sub1.9 and AAP_Sub1.5).

h. Have taken account of the Council’s other plans and strategies and those of adjoining local authorities and other agencies/bodies;

Council’s response

The Core Strategy and Accrington AAP take full account of each other and the Council’s other plans. They have also been prepared with full regard to other plans and strategies at the regional (the North West) and sub-regional levels (Lancashire / Pennine Lancashire).
Both documents have also been prepared taking account of neighbouring Local Authorities plans.

i.  *Have been subject to a Self-Assessment of Soundness;*

**Council’s response**

A Self-Assessment of Soundness has been undertaken post submission on both the Core Strategy and Accrington AAP. These are available on the examination web site.

**Can the Council also confirm:**

j.  *Whether they have identified any fundamental procedural shortcomings in terms of the Examination*

**Council’s response**

The Council has identified no fundamental procedural shortcomings in terms of the Examination relating to either document.

k.  *The programme for preparing other Development Plan Documents in the current Local Development Scheme*

**Council’s response**

The Local Development Scheme (CS_Supp3.4) sets out the production of two further Development Plan Documents:

- the Site Allocations DPD (including Proposals Map); and
- Development Management Policies DPD.

Work on these two documents has commenced with the adoption envisaged to be in September 2013.
3. Representations made at publication stage:

a. Confirm the state of play on the representations made, both at Publication and Revised Publication stages, including the number of representations made and whether any late representations have been made and/or accepted;

Council’s response

In relation to the Core Strategy:
- 160 representations from 40 consultees were received to the Publication version of the Core Strategy,
- 51 representations from 18 consultees at the Revised Publication stage.

In relation to the Accrington AAP:
- 45 representations from 9 consultees were received to the AAAP at publication stage.

The Council has not rejected any late representations.

Subsequent discussions with some of the representors has resulted in the withdrawal of some objections e.g. from Burnley BC, and from Blackburn with Darwen Council in relation to one specific matter.

b. Confirm that copies of the representations are available on the Council’s web-site;

Council’s response

Copies of all the representations are available on the submission pages of the Council’s website (see CS_Supp3.5, AAAP_Sub3.5 and CS_Sub3.5a)

c. Confirm that the representations made at Publication and Revised Publication stages have been considered by the Council and that all the required changes have been made in the published Schedules of Changes;

Council’s response

Firstly in relation to consideration of the representations, I can confirm that all the representations received at the Publication stage have been considered by the Council for both documents (and the Revised Publication stage for the Core Strategy).

The Council has published its response to the representations made at Publication stage for both documents in the Reg 30 (1)(e) statements.

In relation to the representations made at the Revised Publication stage for the Core Strategy the Council has yet to publish its response. We anticipate this will be completed early next week.
Secondly, in relation to changes:

For the Core Strategy where changes to the plans are required, these have been included in one of the three Schedules of Changes.

- The Schedule of Changes – Completed (CS_Sub2.1) contains changes made to the Publication version that resulted in the Submission version.

- The Schedule of Proposed Changes (CS_Sub2.2) contains proposed changes to the Submission version which accompanied the submission of the Core Strategy (May 2011).

- The Schedule of Further Proposed Changes also contains proposed changes to the Submission version produced post submission (July 2011). This Schedule also contains a list of changes that the Council stated would be actioned in the Regulation 30 (1) (e) statement but have not subsequently pursued.

There are just a few areas where changes remain outstanding in relation to the Core Strategy: A change to reflect the introduction of a policy to articulate the Balanced Development Strategy; and about three further minor changes to reflect the Council’s responses to the representations to the Revised Publication edition. These will be added to the Schedule of Further Proposed Changes as soon as possible.

Changes to the Accrington AAP Publication version that resulted in the Submission version have also been incorporated into a Schedule of Changes document (AAAP_Sub2.1). Further changes post submission will be included in a Schedule of Proposed Changes.

d. Confirm that the Council wishes the inspector to consider and recommend in favour of all the proposed changes being made to the submitted Core Strategy & Accrington AAP;

Council’s response

The Council can confirm that it wishes the inspector to consider and recommend in favour of all proposed changes being made to both documents.

e. Confirm whether any meetings are being held with representors to discuss key issues relating to the soundness of the Core Strategy & Accrington AAP, and the state of play of any discussions;

Council’s response

The Council has met and will continue to meet with representors to discuss key issues relating to the soundness of both plans.
• It has met with Burnley and Blackburn Councils as referred to previously;
• We have met with the Environment Agency regarding representations made to the Accrington AAP. As a result we are undertaking further work in relation to flooding issues with a view of agreeing to a further statement.
• We are setting up meetings with the main parties who have raised objections in relation to the Huncoat policies.

In general we will seek to continue dialogue with representors to try and address outstanding issues before the examination.

4. Further Proposed Changes – details of any further proposed changes that the Council wishes to make to the wording of policies and text in the Core Strategy and Accrington AAP (including any changes to the policies/proposals for Huncoat)

Council’s response

As I referred to in my answer to 3c, the Council has prepared a Schedule of Further Proposed Changes (July 2011) for the Core Strategy. This contains the proposed changes to the policies and proposals for Huncoat.

I also referred to the outstanding need for further changes which will be added to the Schedule of Further Proposed Changes.

As a general point the Schedule may be further updated prior to the hearing sessions statements deadline (26\(^{th}\) August 2011) if the need arises.

A similar schedule of further proposed changes will be produced for the Accrington AAP.

5. Programme for the hearings and Matters & Issues for Examination:

a. Confirm whether the Council will be legally represented at the hearing sessions;

Council’s response

The Council has considered the matter of legal representation and at this stage does not propose to be legally represented at the hearings. The matter will be kept under review and the Council reserves the right to alter its decision should the need for legal representation arise.

b. confirm whether any particular bodies/agencies/ participants should be invited to the hearing sessions;

Council’s response

The Council does not consider at this stage that any further participants need to be invited to the hearing sessions. If as a result of further discussions or further proposed changes,
the Council consider that particular participants do need to be involved, we will seek the advice of the Inspector accordingly.

6. Details of further statements to be submitted and the deadlines for submission

Council’s response

Prior to the hearing sessions, the Council will produce the required statements relating to each of the matters by 26th August. The Schedule of Further Proposed Changes will also be updated and where possible further statements will be produced and agreed with the relevant representors (e.g. with the Environment Agency).

7. Examination Library

a. confirm that an initial list of the Submission & Supporting Documents has been prepared, including the evidence base and other relevant documents;

Council’s response

Yes, an initial list of Submission and Supporting documents has been prepared.

b. Confirm that documents in the Examination Library are publicly available, with links on the Council’s web-site;

Council’s response

Yes, all the documents in the library are publicly available and can be accessed on the Council’s website.

c. Confirm whether any outstanding reports/studies/documents are to be submitted;

Council’s response

In addition to the documents referred to already, at this stage the Council does not expect to submit any further reports, studies or documents. However, if in the process of preparing our statements, the Council consider the need for further supporting documents we will seek the advice of the Inspector accordingly.

d. Confirm whether any further topic papers are likely to be prepared and likely publication date;

Council’s response

The Council does not anticipate preparing any further topic papers at this stage.
e. **Responses to Inspector’s initial and further questions.**

**Council’s response**

Both documents (Post_1.1 and Post_1.2) form part of the examination library and are available on the Council’s website.

8. **Confirmation that the Council will provide the inspector with an itinerary of relevant sites, areas and locations they wish me to visit;**

**Council’s response**

The Council will provide the Inspector with such an itinerary. Please could the Inspector confirm when he will require this?

9. **The current position on the Screening Opinion in relation to Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive, including confirmation of Natural England on the approach taken;**

**Council’s response**

The Council can confirm that there are no outstanding issues relating to the Appropriate Assessment Screening Opinion.

The Screening Report concluded that "the Core Strategy and the Accrington Area Action Plan would not have any significant effects, either alone or in combination, on the function or viability of any Natura 2000 sites or prevent any of the Natura 2000 sites from maintaining their species or habitats in favourable condition."

At Publication stage Natural England commented, saying "Natural England commented upon the draft appropriate Assessment Screening Report in our letter of 22 January 2010. Our advice appears to be reflected in the revised document, and we have no additional comments to make at this time."

10. **The current position in relation to a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and confirmation of the Environment Agency on the approach taken;**

**Council’s response**

The Council has completed a level 1 SFRA and there are no outstanding issues in relation to this. The approach adopted in producing the document was subject to discussion and agreement with the Environment Agency.
The Inspector is aware that there are outstanding issues in relation to the Accrington AAP and flood matters. As mentioned previously, the council is undertaking further work to address these matters raised by the Agency.

**11. Confirmation of arrangements for note-taking at hearing sessions;**

**Council's response**

The Council has arranged for notes to be taken. Note-takers will be briefed prior to the hearing sessions.

**12. Any other issues the Council wishes to raise – prior notice of any specific questions would be helpful**

**Council's response**

At this stage, I would like to thank the Inspector for his constructive guidance and input to the process so far. The Council will continue to seek to work in a collaborative manner with the Inspector and representors to ensure that both plans are found sound.