

Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 Examination

Matter 5: Building a strong, competitive economy

Note for the Inspector Regarding Policy LP24 Tourism and Recreation

Huntingdonshire District Council

3 August 2018

1. Background

- 1.1. In response to Matter 5 hearing sessions (held on 20 July 2018) the Planning Inspector has requested that the Council reflect on the requirements identified in paragraph 6.54 of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036: Proposed Submission (CORE/01, page 93) and consider whether they should be included directly within the criteria of policy LP 24 Tourism and Recreation.
- 1.2. The Council has reflected on paragraph 6.54 and acknowledge that the elements of the text represent policy requirements.

2. Proposed Modification

- 2.1. The Council therefore proposes the following modifications to the Inspector. New text is shown in bold and underlined, and deleted text is shown struck through.

LP 24

Tourism and Recreation

A proposal for a new or expanded tourism, sport or leisure use in the countryside will be supported where it can be demonstrated that:

- a. it is well-related to a defined settlement unless there are robust operational or sustainability reasons why it needs to be located elsewhere;
- b. it does not cause harm to, and where appropriate, enhances the ecological, landscape and heritage significance of the proposed location;
- c. the impact of the scale, character and location of the development on both its immediate surroundings and the wider landscape are minimised as far as possible;
- d. adequate servicing can be provided, including water supply, electricity and for sewage and waste disposal; and
- e. it will not have an adverse impact on any internationally or nationally designated wildlife site through increased visitor pressure.

Where tourist accommodation is approved appropriate planning conditions will be used to prevent occupation as a person's permanent sole or main residential use.

A proposal for tourist accommodation, including touring caravan and camping sites, should be supported by a robust business plan demonstrating that it is viable in the long term.

2.2. Paragraph 6.54 should be correspondingly amended as follows:

'A high proportion of trips to the district are from day visitors and one of the greatest challenges is to encourage overnight stays and longer breaks. Tourist accommodation, including touring caravan and camping sites, facilitates longer visitor stays with potential to increase the contribution of visitors to the local economy. However, a proposal should ~~demonstrate that it expects to be viable and is~~ **be** supported by well thought out research and a business plan, particularly for new build tourist accommodation, **to demonstrate its long term viability**. Where tourist accommodation is proposed in locations where new dwellings would not normally be acceptable planning conditions will be imposed restricting the use to holiday accommodation.'