KETTERING LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC OCTOBER 2020

Historic England Statement

1.0 Overview

1.1 Historic England has been involved with the Plan process throughout, including responding to consultations on the Site Specific Development Document and amended sites in 2015/6, the Draft Plan and SA in December 2018, and the Regulation 19 consultation in February 2020. We can confirm that we have no concerns in respect of Duty to Co-operate matters.

2.0 HE Current position in relation to the Submission Plan

2.1 Historic England (HE) maintains its response as set out 11 February 2020.

3.0 HE Current position in relation to the Matters, Issues and Questions Paper


3.2 With regard to the Inspector’s Matters, Issues and Questions Paper, Matter 12 in respect of the plan’s approach to the historic environment I can advise that we consider the omission of a heritage policy within the Submission Plan unsound, since it does not fully address elements relating to the historic environment required by the NPPF as set out in our previous comments.

3.3 Whilst the supporting text is welcomed, together with the detailed village polices, a separate heritage policy should be included in accordance with paragraphs 20 and 185 of the NPPF, as is also being proposed in the forthcoming East Northamptonshire Local Plan.

3.3 Although overarching policy 2 of the North Northamptonshire JCS (adopted July 2016) is acknowledged, a strategic policy within the Local Plan, similar to other strategic policies proposed would provide local emphasis and greater strength in accordance with the aims of the NPPF, which has been revised since the date of the JCS in any case and at a time when authorities are being merged. Policy 41 has a broader Northamptonshire focus such as for key
views, rather than the character of Kettering specifically (para. 185 NPPF) and for example does not reference non-designated heritage assets.

3.4 Historic England would be very happy to assist with wording, as previously offered in our response by way of Statement of Common Ground.

4.0 Summary

4.1 Based on the current content of the Submission Plan and its supporting information Historic England maintains its concerns regarding soundness of the Plan since various elements of the historic environment have not been considered or included. As such, the Plan is not consistent with national policy in the NPPF, including the need to set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment (NPPF Para. 193) conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance (NPPF Para. 193), and the need to consider non-designated assets (NPPF Para. 197).

4.2 It is considered that current HE concerns could be addressed through the addition of a heritage policy which HE would be very happy to assist with the wording of, together with the amendments requested in relation to DES2.

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