CHESTERFIELD LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION
MATTER 1 – LEGAL COMPLIANCE & GENERAL PLAN-MAKING

Inspector’s issues and questions in bold type.

This Hearing Statement is made for and on behalf of the HBF which should be read in conjunction with our representations to the pre submission Local Plan consultation dated 22nd February 2019. This representation answers specific questions as set out in the Inspector’s Matters, Issues & Questions document dated 9th August 2019.

Issue 2 : Duty to Co-operate

1.6 Has the Council engaged constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with all relevant organisations on strategic matters of relevance to the plan’s preparation, as required by the Duty to Co-operate?

The Council has engaged with relevant organisations on strategic matters during the preparation of the Chesterfield Local Plan as set out in the submitted Duty to Co-operate Statement (Document KSD5) however there are some notable deficiencies in the outcomes of this engagement (see answers to questions below).

1.7 What mechanisms have been established between authorities on cross boundary strategic matters? Are the outcomes reflected in signed Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) that demonstrate effective and on-going joint working, as per NPPF paragraph 27 and PPG paragraphs 61-009-20190315 to 61-017-20190315?

At the time of the pre-submission consultation the Council had not provided any SoCG explaining cross boundary working. Subsequently a signed SoCG between the North Derbyshire & Bassetlaw Housing Market Area (HMA) authorities has been provided but this document has not been updated since May 2018. The SoCG provided for the Sheffield City Region (SCR) is only in draft form and it is unsigned. A key element of Local Plan Examination is ensuring that there is certainty through signed formal agreements that an effective strategy is in place to deal with strategic matters when Local Plans are adopted.

1.9 Are there any unmet housing needs from other authorities within the North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw Housing Market Area (HMA)? Has there been any need to update to the May 2018 HMA Statement of Common Ground (as per paragraph 4.2 of this statement of common ground)?

The SoCG between the North Derbyshire & Bassetlaw HMA dated May 2018 states that the four HMA authorities will meet their own housing needs within their respective administrative boundaries. There is no updated version.
1.10 Are there any duty to cooperate issues regarding unmet housing needs within potential wider housing market areas – notably Derbyshire Dales and Sheffield City? Does Appendix 6 to the Duty to Cooperate Statement and representations at the Regulation 19 stage confirm that there has not yet been any formal request to Chesterfield to assist in meeting unmet needs?

In the past unmet housing needs were identified in both Derbyshire Dales and Sheffield City. Now it is understood that all authorities will be meeting their housing needs in full within their own administrative boundaries. However as noted in answer to Question 1.7 the SCR SoCG is only in draft form and unsigned. The Council should confirm that an effective strategy is in place across the SCR to deal with the strategic matter of housing need so that no unmet housing needs arise.

1.12 Is there evidence of engagement and agreement on strategic cross boundary planning matters within the wider Sheffield City Region (SCR) as intimated at paragraph 3.8 of the Duty to Cooperate Statement? In particular, the LEPs Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) ambition to deliver 70,000 net additional jobs (2014-2024) and the development of a SCR Integrated Infrastructure Plan (SCRIIP)?

The unsigned Draft SCR SoCG dated 25th June 2019 sets out agreement to deliver the LEPs SEP's ambition for 70,000 new jobs between 2014 – 2024. In the Chesterfield Local Plan the allocation of employment land reflects the Draft SoCG however the proposed housing requirement is inconsistent with the Draft SoCG. This disconnect between housing and economic growth may jeopardise delivery of the LEPs SEP. The soundness of the Council’s approach will be discussed in greater detail during the Matter 3 Examination Hearing Session but a key element of the Examination is ensuring that there is certainty through signed formal agreements that an effective strategy is in place to deal with strategic matters when Local Plans are adopted.