



Matter 1: Procedural and legal requirements

1: Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

Relevant Inspector questions: Issue 1, Questions 2, 5 and 6 — how the SA informed strategic options and site selection; whether its scoring and conclusions are robust; and whether it provides a clear and justified audit trail of the Plan's strategic choices.

Furthermore, at pages 1–2, the Inspectors question whether the Sustainability Appraisal provides a robust assessment of site selection, whether its scoring and conclusions are sufficiently justified, and whether there is a clear audit trail supporting the Plan's strategic choices. BAPC considers these matters particularly relevant to the selection of Frolesworth Road and the extent to which reasonable alternative sites have been properly assessed.

BAPC therefore asks the Inspector to examine the site-selection methodology, the evidence underpinning HDC's decision and the extent to which reasonable alternatives were assessed on a consistent and transparent basis.

BAPC acknowledges that the views expressed through a local consultation do not, by themselves, determine the planning merits of individual sites. Nevertheless, the results constitute relevant evidence of local opinion and identify matters that the site-selection process should properly address alongside technical assessments and other material planning considerations.

The Parish Council considers that the four alternative sites should therefore be assessed transparently and consistently against the same relevant criteria applied to the proposed Frolesworth Road allocation.

BAPC considers that the matters set out in this representation raise questions about whether the proposed Frolesworth Road allocation has been justified through a proportionate and robust assessment of reasonable alternatives.

BAPC recognises that the Inspector must assess the Local Plan against the applicable statutory requirements and soundness tests, having regard to the submitted evidence and relevant national planning policy.

The Parish Council's concern is that the selection of Frolesworth Road should not be treated as justified solely because it has been identified as HDC's preferred option. Its suitability and deliverability must be demonstrated through the evidence, and reasonable alternatives must be considered fairly.