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28th November 2025

Your contact is: Mark Worringham, Planning Section

Dear Sir/Madam,

Examination of the Reading Borough Local Plan Partial Update: Stage 2 Hearings

I am writing to you as you submitted a representation on the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan Partial Update, a consultation on which was held under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 during November and December 2024.

The Local Plan Partial Update (LPPU) was submitted to the Secretary of State on 9th May. Following submission, Planning Inspector Joanna Gilbert MA (Hons) MTP MRTPI was appointed to carry out the independent examination of the LPPU.

We have previously written to you to advise you of Stage 1 hearings as part of the examination, which were held on 11th and 12th November covering the following matters:

- Matter 1: Legal requirements and procedural matters; and
- Matter 2: Housing need and requirement.

The Inspector's letter following the Stage 1 hearings is available on the LPPU examination webpage: [Local plan examination - Reading Borough Council](#) (reference EX030).

Stage 2 hearings to cover all outstanding matters will be held on 3rd - 6th and 10th - 12th February 2026. These will cover the following matters

- Matter 3: Housing, including five-year supply of housing land
- Matter 4: Cross-cutting policies
- Matter 5: Built and natural environment
- Matter 6: Employment
- Matter 7: Transport
- Matter 8: Retail, leisure and culture
- Matter 9: Other uses
- Matter 10: Site-specific policies
- Matter 11: Viability
- Matter 12: Monitoring

The provisional timetable is as follows:

- Tuesday 3rd February at 9.30 AM – Matter 3

- Wednesday 4th February at 9.30 AM – Matter 4
- Thursday 5th February at 9.30 AM – Matters 5 and 9
- Friday 6th February at 9.30 AM – Matters 6 and 7
- Tuesday 10th February at 9.30 AM – Matters 8 and 10
- Wednesday 11th February at 9.30 AM – Matter 10 (continued)
- Thursday 12th February at 9.30 AM – Matters 11 and 12 and wash-up session.

The hearings will be held in person at Reading Town Hall, Blagrove Street, Reading, RG1 1QH. The rooms used will be as follows:

- 3rd, 4th, 6th, 10th, 12th February – Soane Space (Ground Floor)
- 5th, 11th February – Waterhouse Chamber (First Floor)

The following documents have been added to the LPPU examination webpage at [Local plan examination - Reading Borough Council](#):

- EX036 – Inspector's Matters, Issues and Questions for Stage 2 hearings
- EX037 – Guidance Notes for Stage 2 Hearings
- EX038 – Provisional Hearings Programme for Stage 2

Please ensure that you refer to the Local Plan examination page linked above for the most recent documents relating to the examination. Any changes to the timetable or arrangements will be published on that page.

If you wish to participate in the Stage 2 hearings, please contact the Programme Officer, Jane Greenway, on Programme.Officer@reading.gov.uk or 0118 937 4029 by **12th December 2025**.

The deadline for hearing statements for the Stage 2 hearings is **9th January 2026**.

If you have any questions about arrangements for the hearings not covered in the Guidance Notes, please contact the Programme Officer using the details above. If you have any questions about the Local Plan Partial Update itself, please contact the Planning Policy team at planningpolicy@reading.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mark Worringham
Planning Policy Manager