

Date:25/06/2024

Your Ref:

Our Ref:



**Mr David Kaiserman**  
**Penny O'Shea Consulting**

**Planning Strategy**  
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Dear Mr Kaiserman,

### **Council response to Examiner Question 2 (EQ2) regarding the Over Hulton Neighbourhood Plan**

Thank you for your letter dated 12/06/24 in which you outline your concerns about taking forward the Over Hulton Neighbourhood Plan examination due to the plan's failure to take necessary account of what you regard as clearly major shifts in the context for its preparation.

You outlined that you wanted Bolton council, alongside the neighbourhood forum, to consider the following options in taking the plan forward:

1. that they ask me to proceed with my examination; or
2. that they ask me to suspend the examination to allow modifications to be made which would take into account the new circumstances; or
3. that they withdraw the Plan in its present form.

Having consulted informally with the forum, the forum has stated that it wishes to pursue option 2. It will be confirming this separately to yourself.

Bolton council is keen to see that the plan progresses; to ensure that the considerable efforts put into planning for the local area by the forum, with the involvement of the wider community, are not wasted. The council supports option 2 as the most appropriate course of action. It is also willing to assist the forum (alongside its own technical advisors) to prepare modifications as necessary.

You have offered to arrange an informal meeting which we would welcome. This would provide the opportunity to understand your reservations in more detail. We would suggest that it would be beneficial at the meeting to gain a clear steer from yourself on a range of matters potentially including:

- The scale of modifications you envisage are necessary and to what specific areas of the plan
- How more recent changes, for example the new permission at Hulton Park, revisions to NPPF and adoption of Greater Manchester Places for Everyone Plan could be taken into account
- The nature of the consultation you envisage taking place on any modifications, for example is this just on proposed changes or a potential repeat of regulation 16
- Whether the forum should revisit its basic conditions statement or other documents it has submitted as part of this process
- What timescales you envisage for the process going forward

Directorate of Place

**Bolton Blackrod Farnworth Horwich Kearsley Little Lever South Turton Westhoughton ...all in the family**

In requesting this the Council fully appreciates that at this stage you may not have reached conclusions in detail on the plan but both parties would welcome as much clarity as you can offer.

You stated in your letter that participation in the informal meeting would be restricted to representatives of the qualifying body (the OHNP Forum) and Bolton Council, with others being free to attend as observers only. We would like to request that Troy Planning, who have been advising the Over Hulton Neighbourhood Forum during the preparation of the plan, are also able speak at the meeting if possible.

Finally, it would also be useful to know what format you envisage the meeting being held in, principally whether it would be an in-person meeting or held online using Microsoft Teams.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Chalmers  
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Copied to:

Thomas Godley - Assistant Development Officer (Planning Strategy) - Bolton Council  
Diane Parkinson - Chair of Over Hulton Neighbourhood Forum