

Examination of the West of England Joint Spatial Plan

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I write further to my letter of 11 April 2019.

The number of requests to participate in many of the hearing sessions has been even higher than anticipated and they are possibly unprecedented for a local plan examination. In the light of this it has been necessary to alter the venue and draft hearings programme from those previously announced. Full details are enclosed but, in summary, the July hearings will now take place at The Guildhall, High Street, Bath BA1 5AW.

The hearing sessions for Matters 3b, 5 and 6 have been postponed until September/October 2019 and further details about this, and the venue for these hearing sessions, will be announced following the July hearings.

Matter 1 will be split into two sessions, with participants allocated to attend one or other of them. Matters 2 and 4 will be discussed at joint sessions, of which three will need to be held with participants allocated to attend one of them. As far as possible we have sought to allocate participants to sessions held on days on which they had already requested to participate at a hearing session, but unfortunately this has not been possible in every case.

Smaller numbers of participants are invited to the first Matter 1 and Matters 2/4 sessions in order that time spent on the Inspectors' initial probing of the Councils' evidence does not unacceptably restrict the ability for participants to speak. Participants allocated to the second or third sessions for Matter 1 and Matters 2/4 are encouraged to observe the first session. A key reason for the change of venue was to ensure that this is a practical proposition.

The Inspectors would like to apologise for any inconvenience these changes cause, but trust that participants appreciate that this has been unavoidable, in order to ensure that all those with a right and a wish to participate in the hearings can do so. They would also like to very much thank the Councils for the work they have undertaken in a very short period of time to secure a new venue for the hearings.

Yours faithfully

Helen Wilson
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