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Your Ref: Pre-examination checklist
Our Ref: PINS/F1040/429/4
Date: 30 June 2026

Dear Amanda,

South Derbyshire Local Plan: matters to address before submission for examination

Thank you for completing the pre-examination checklist which we received on 17 June 2026.

Based on the answers that you provided to the checklist questions and a review of the explanations for some of the answers and relevant parts of documents referred to, I recommend that you address the matters set out in the attached Annex before submitting the South Derbyshire Local Plan for examination.

Once you have addressed the matters I have identified, I suggest you submit the Plan and other documents under regulation 22 as soon as possible. When you do so, please provide a brief written explanation of what you have done to address each of my recommendations and list any documents you have added or changed.

When you have submitted the Plan and other documents under regulation 22 we will seek to appoint an Inspector (or Inspectors) to conduct the examination in accordance with the timescales set out in the Service Level Agreement.

The completed checklist that we received on 17 June 2026, this letter and Annex, and your written description of the actions taken to address my recommendations should be published on the examination website in due course along with the Plan and other submission and supporting documents.

Please note that this is not an assessment of whether the Plan satisfies all relevant legal requirements and is sound as that will be determined by the examining Inspector(s) who will take account of all the Council's evidence, representations made under regulation 20, and any further information gathered during the examination. It is also possible that the examining Inspector may have concerns about procedural matters, the scope of the plan, or evidence that I have not identified from the pre-examination checklist.

Yours

Darren McCreery

Inspector

South Derbyshire Local Plan: recommended actions before submission

Checklist Question	Recommendation	Reason for recommendation
Q2.1	Local Development Scheme To update the Local Development Scheme [CR1] .	To demonstrate maintenance of a Local Development Scheme in accordance with section Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) (2004 Act).
Q2.2	Public consultation To review the Statement of Consultation to ensure it explicitly addresses how the consultation that has taken place complies with the Statement of Community Involvement [CR2] .	To help with confirming that the requirements of section 19(3) of the 2004 Act are met.
Q2.3 -2.5	Co-operation To amend the Statement of Consultation to explicitly provide a Cooperation Statement (which may be clearer as a separate document). The Co-operation Statement should clearly include all the relevant information set out in Q2.3-2.5 of the checklist [CR3] .	The Government announced on 27 November 2025 that the duty to cooperate under section 33A of the 2004 Act would be abolished early in 2026 for local plans being prepared under the current system, including those at examination at that point. However, Inspectors are still expected to examine plans in line with NPPF policies on maintaining effective cooperation.
Q2.3 and 2.6	Co-operation Ensure all statements of common ground are present, signed, dated and clearly set out [CR4] .	The Government announced on 27 November 2025 that the duty to cooperate under section 33A of the 2004 Act would be abolished early in 2026 for local plans being prepared under the current system, including those at examination at that point. However, Inspectors are still expected to examine plans in line with NPPF policies on maintaining effective cooperation.
Q2.8	Sustainability appraisal To review the documents to ensure the relationship between the Derby HMA SA of Housing Options (September 24) and the Local Plan SA and how one has informed the other is clearly explained, including the role in	For clarity to ensure the relationship between SAs undertaken at different scales is clearly explained. To put the Council in a position of being able to explain how the intended consideration of reasonable alternatives for different spatial strategies as part of the Derby HMA SA of Housing Options (September 24) relates to the geographical and plan

	selecting and assessing reasonable alternatives [CR5] .	making scope of the South Derbyshire Local Plan, if this is something the examining Inspector(s) wish to explore.
Q2.9(a)	Sustainability appraisal To review the documents to ensure the relationship between the thirteen Local Plan objectives in section 3.2 of the March 2025 SA and the 'key messages for the Plan' and Plans, Policies and Programmes (PPP) review set out in section 4 and Appendix A is clearly explained, including how the objectives have been informed/shaped by the PPP review [CR6] .	For clarity to show the main objectives of the plan, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes
Q2.9(d)	Sustainability appraisal To set out explicitly any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance, such as a European site [CR7] .	For clarity as it does not appear to be explicitly covered from the checklist reference provided.
Q2.9(e)	Sustainability appraisal To set out explicitly the environmental protection objectives which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation. To include an explanation of the relationship between a 'key message for the plan' and the plan objectives [CR8] .	For clarity as it does not appear to be explicitly covered from the checklist reference provided.
Q2.9(h), Q2.11, Q2.12	Sustainability appraisal To review the documents to ensure they explicitly set out the reasons and process of selecting the four strategic site options.	For clarity