

'Test of Soundness'

At the Public Examination, the Inspector will test the 'soundness' of the document by considering whether:

1. It has been prepared in accordance with the authority's Local Development Scheme (LDS).
2. It has been prepared in compliance with the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), or where no SCI exists, it has been prepared in accordance with the minimum requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.
3. The plan and its policies have been subject to sustainability appraisal.
4. It is a spatial plan and is consistent with national planning policy, conforms with the regional spatial strategy for the region and has proper regard to any other relevant plans, policies and strategies.
5. It has regard to the authority's community strategy.
6. The strategies/policies/allocations in the plan are coherent and consistent within and between Development Plan Documents (DPDs) prepared by the authority and by neighbouring authorities, where cross boundary issues are relevant.
7. The strategies/policies/allocations represent the most appropriate in all the circumstances, having considered the relevant alternatives, and they are found on a robust and credible evidence base.
8. There are clear mechanisms for implementation and monitoring.
9. The plan is sufficiently flexible to enable it to deal with changing circumstances.