

## **Opening Statement by Newark & Sherwood District Council**

### **Matt Lamb Director of Planning & Growth**

Thank you for this opportunity to provide a short statement. As the Director responsible for the Plan Review, and in particular the amended Allocations & Development Management DPD, I wanted to take to opportunity to talk about its importance to the Council, the District of Newark & Sherwood, and our residents, communities and businesses. I also speak on behalf of the newly appointed Portfolio Holder responsible for the Development Plan, Cllr Claire Penny.

Taking a plan led approach to planning, looking to tackle key strategic issues through policy making has always been a cornerstone of the District Council's approach. We are rightly very proud to be a genuinely plan-led Authority, being one of the first authorities in the country to have replaced our old-style local plan with a Core Strategy and an Allocations & Development Management DPD and the first in the country to introduce the Community Infrastructure Levy. Concluding this plan process remains important to us.

This DPD finishes the Plan Review process and fulfils the recommendations made by the Inspector who dealt with the Amended Core Strategy. This DPD is an important delivery vehicle for the housing, employment and facilities that the residents of the district need, also setting the framework for decision making

It has taken a long time and a significant amount of effort and expertise to get to this point today. The challenge of meeting the future housing needs of our Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities is a particular issue of note which has not been easy given matters of land supply, flood risk and community cohesion. It is nevertheless an issue which is important and which

the Authority wants to address. This plan will ensure we have the strategy and sites to meet the needs of our current and future GRT communities. Just as we have for other requirements in providing the houses and employment land that we need, we now have a plan led way which will enable us to support this community.

Whilst we hope this Examination will allow us to conclude the current cycle of our plan review, we recognise that this DPD is not an end point, as is always the case. We have planning reforms on the horizon and professionally and politically there remains an appetite to have an up-to-date plan. In this regard we hope to be one of the first authorities to develop a new Local Plan under the new plan making system.

The Council will do what it can to assist the Examination and those who have made representations or are intending to speak to hopefully allow a conclusion of a sound plan which the Council can take forward for adoption in early 2025.

Thank you.