

From: Steve Carnaby  
To: Mr Bailey  
Cc: Redacted  
Date: Mon, 30 Jun 2025 08:00:48 +0000  
Subject: Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan - Your email to IPe Enquiries

Dear Mr Bailey

Thank you for your email of 24 June 2025 to the Examiner, Andrew Mead, concerning the examination of the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan). I can confirm the Examiner, Mr Mead, has noted your comments with regard to the convening of a hearing.

As you are aware, the Plan was most recently subject to a statutory public consultation for 11 weeks from Friday 24 January until Thursday 10 April 2025. The starting point for Mr Mead's examination is those documents formally submitted by Dorset Council, which were published as part of that consultation exercise, and the resultant representations duly made through the consultation process.

The general rule is that the examination of the issues by an examiner takes the form of the (desk based) consideration of written representations. The additional need to hold a hearing session arises only where the examiner considers that the consideration of oral representations is necessary, either to ensure the adequate examination of an issue or to ensure a person has a fair chance to put a case. Therefore, the decision as to whether a hearing is necessary is entirely within the exercise of the reasonable judgement of an examiner.

In this instance, the Examiner considers that all parties have had an adequate opportunity to submit their detailed written comments and that he has sufficient information to progress his assessment at this stage. He has also conducted two separate site visits to the Plan area. Accordingly, he does not presently consider a hearing session is necessary but (as stated in his procedural letter of 2 June 2025), he reserves the right to convene one should he consider it necessary.

Best wishes

Steve Carnaby

Associate Director

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