



Historic England

Examination of the Ipswich Borough Council Local Plan Review 2018 - 2036

Matter 8 – Development Management Policies:

Question 246

Historic England, Hearing Statement

October 2020

Historic England is the principal Government adviser on the historic environment, advising it on planning and listed building consent applications, appeals and other matters generally affecting the historic environment. Historic England is consulted on Local Development Plans under the provisions of the duty to co-operate and provides advice to ensure that legislation and national policy in the National Planning Policy Framework are thereby reflected in local planning policy and practice.

The tests of soundness require that Local Development Plans should be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. Historic England's representations on the Publication Draft Local Plan are made in the context of the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework ("the Framework") in relation to the historic environment as a component of sustainable development.

Historic England Hearing Statement

Introduction

- 1.1 This statement addresses the Inspector's questions with regards Matter 6: site allocations.
- 1.2 This hearing statement should be read alongside Historic England's comments submitted at previous consultation stages of the Local Plan, and the SoCG (I30.1) agreed with the Council.

Matter 8 – Development Management Policies

Issue: Whether the development management policies are justified, positively prepared, effective and consistent with national policy?

Design and Character

Question 246: Is Policy DM15 justified and effective in respect of the sitting and design of tall buildings. Is the proposed change to Criterion i. set out in the SoCG with Historic England (I30.1) sufficient to ensure the settings of conservation areas and scheduled monuments are safeguarded?

2.1. Historic England is satisfied that the proposed change to Criterion i. set out in our SoCG (I30.1) is sufficient to ensure the settings of listed buildings, conservation areas and scheduled monuments are safeguarded.

2.2. Historic England had expressed concerns regarding the extent of the tall buildings arc in relation its potential impact on the Grade I Listed Willis Building. One of the most striking features of the Willis Building is its curvilinear glass curtain walling that reflects the surrounding buildings. Any new tall building therefore has the potential to impact on the setting, and therefore significance of this important building.

2.3. To this end, Historic England has worked collaboratively with the Council to agree a modification to the tall building arc to pull back the arc boundary in the immediate vicinity of the Willis Building, as well as the proposed change to Criterion i. to reference setting. As a listed building, any new development will have to consider its character and setting, and part of the character of the Willis Building is the reflective nature of the cladding and what is reflected back out of it. The additional text in criterion i is therefore intended to flag the need to consider the settings of heritage assets (including the Willis Building) when determining proposals for tall buildings, and therefore trigger other policies in the Plan which deal with these issues in more detail: Policy CS4 Protecting Our Assets; Policy DM13 Built Heritage and Conservation; and Policy DM14 Archaeology.

2.4. Taken together we consider that this suite of policies as well as the revision to the tall buildings arc offers adequate protection to heritage assets which may otherwise be harmed via a change in their settings.