Planning Inspectorate

Rugby Borough Local Plan Examination

Examination Hearings

Matter 3c: Strategy (Countryside Protection) Policy S5

Wednesday 18 November 2026 (pm)

AGENDA

ISSUE:

Whether the Spatial Strategy for the Borough's countryside is justified, effective, consistent with national policy and positively prepared.

(Please note: Policies H3 and H4 which permit development in the countryside in certain circumstances will be covered in the Matter 5 hearing session).

ITEMS:

1. **Justification and effectiveness of the approach to countryside protection** (Matter 3, Questions 23, 26 and 27 of Matters, Issues and Questions document)

    - Role and operation of Policy S5 where development is otherwise supported in principle
    - Protection of countryside character and settlement setting
    - Settlement separation and incremental encroachment
    - Clarity and effectiveness of Policy S5 in decision-making
    - Treatment of land performing an existing urban green or recreational function, including the accessibility of alternative provision.

2. **Reasonable alternatives and Sustainability Appraisal** (Question 26)

    - Role of the Sustainability Appraisal in informing the approach to countryside protection
    - Reasonable alternatives to the selected approach to countryside release
    - Relationship between mitigation of development effects and the justification for the selected spatial approach
    - How adverse Sustainability Appraisal findings influenced the approach ultimately selected.

3. **Green Belt and Grey Belt** (Questions 21-24 and 26)
    - Clarity and transparency
    - Relationship between Green Belt and countryside
    - Green Belt evidence and methodology
    - Justification for Green Belt release
    - Revised Green Belt boundaries
    - Land previously removed from the Green Belt.

4. **Settlement boundaries** (Questions 24-26)

    - Robustness and transparency of the methodology
    - Effectiveness.

5. **Other soundness matters**

6. **Monitoring arrangements** (Questions 27 and 64)

    - Effectiveness of relevant monitoring indicators
    - Barriers to effective monitoring.

7. **Main Modifications**

8. **Confirmation of any actions arising from session.**