

HEARING SESSIONS – STRUCTURE

The hearing sessions will be held at the times indicated in the programme.

Those specifically invited to attend the hearings are those identified as “Anticipated participants” on the programme. Other parties may come along and observe the proceedings.

In order for the proceedings to be manageable and fair, it is envisaged that only one person will speak on behalf of each objector.

Following the opening of the hearing session, and introductions, the Inspector will proceed through the agenda question by question. He will invite people to contribute to the discussion as he proceeds. **However, objectors should only expect to speak on the specific questions on which they were invited to prepare additional material. These are the questions where the objector is identified at the end of the question. Discussion should also be confined to the scope of the original representation.**

The format will be that of a discussion led by the Inspector. He will have read the representations submitted in writing. There is no need to repeat the case for the objector or any part of that case. It follows that there will be no formal presentation of cases; nor will there be any cross-examination.

Where he requires further information, the Inspector will ask specific questions of the appropriate representative. However, representatives should feel free to make additional points that they feel are central to their case; also ask questions of the other side. In this regard, it is important that the Inspector does not go away with the wrong impression on any particular objection.

The final right of say rests with the Council(s).

Representatives should use the time between now and the hearings to familiarise themselves with the case. In this regard they will wish to be familiar with:

- their own case, particularly as set down in the original “duly made” representation and in any addition written material submitted for the hearing;
- the case for the Council(s) as set out in Documents LCC W3 to LCC W10 and LCC M4 to LCC M11 (available on the web-site);
- the case of any others making representations on the same matter (see the web-site for copies of the other representations); and
- such other papers as may be relevant. These include the Councils’ topic notes (LCC W1 to LCC W2 and LCC M1 to LCC M3); the Councils’ responses to the representations made (LCC W11 and LCC M12); and the Councils’ schedules of proposed changes (LCC W12 and LCC M13) – all available on the web-site.

Parties, including the Councils, may be asked to prepare a form of wording or other material that would address any particular circumstance. A further hearing session may be necessary in isolated cases.

No formal note or minute of the hearings will be prepared.