

Rossendale Local Plan Examination

MATTERS, ISSUES AND QUESTIONS (MIQs)

Hearing Statement of Richard W. Lester

Matter 15 – Employment and mixed-use site allocations

15.1 Issue - Are the proposed employment and mixed use allocations justified and deliverable and in-line with national policy?

15.2 Response: Allocations NE1, NE2 and NE4 are not in line with national policy, being located in Green Belt, exceptional circumstances justifying the release of which have not been evidenced.

15.3 Generally, RBC have failed to identify all the existing employment sites and exaggerated the employment land requirement.

15.4 The hearing statements for Matters 5 and 8 and Appendices ECNF - ELR 1 to 7 of Mr Alan G. Ashworth explain these matters.

15.5 I assisted Mr Ashworth in the preparation of those Statements and Appendices. I have read these and confirm that I agree with and endorse their content. With a view to avoiding duplication of paperwork, I respectfully request that they be treated as if both Mr Ashworth and I had submitted them separately.

15.6 Suggested revisions: In Strategic Policy SD2 and Policy EMP2 delete references to NE1, NE2 and NE4. In Strategic Policy SS delete the reference to New Hall Hey.

Richard W. Lester

29th August 2019