

Your ref:  
Our ref:  
Please ask for: Mrs H. Harrison  
Direct dial no:  
Date: 23 May 2025



Mr John Slater  
John Slater Planning Ltd  
By email:

**Lorna Ford**  
Chief Executive

Town Hall  
Bexhill-on-Sea  
East Sussex TN39 3JX

Dear Mr Slater,

I am writing in response to your examination note 'Preliminary Questions from the Independent Examiner' dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Within this note the following questions were posed:

1. Is Rother District Council satisfied that the Town Council, at Pre- Submission consultation stage complied with the requirements of Regulation 14 (a)(v) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, as amended by the Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management Procedures (Amendment) Regulations 2017. This is, in respect of a modification proposal at its pre-submission consultation and publicity stage, a requirement for *"a statement setting out whether or not the qualifying body considers the modifications contained in the modifications are so significant or substantial as to change the nature of the neighbourhood development plan which the modification proposal would modify, giving reasons for such for why the qualifying body is of the opinion"*. I have now seen the Reg. 14 version of the plan and I did not see the Modification Statement within that document.
2. Has the Town Council produced the required statement in respect of its submission to Rother District Council as required by Regulation 15(1)(f) which requires the submission of the same statement to accompany its modification proposal's submission to the local planning authority?
3. Has Rother District Council prepared its submission pursuant to Regulation 17(e) of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 as amended which is almost identical to the above?

#### The District Council's response:

The three preliminary questions above pertain to whether a modification statement has been prepared by Rye Town Council in the prescribed format as set out in the regulations listed above, and as clarified in Schedule A2 of the Planning and

Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Following our discussions with you, and our discussions with the Rye Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Rother District Council's Legal Team, we can confirm the following:

- 1.) That a modification statement has **not** been produced to the requirements of Regulation 14 (a)(v) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, as amended by the Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management Procedures (Amendment) Regulations 2017;
- 2.) That a modification statement has **not** been submitted by Rye Town Council as required by Regulation 15(1)(f);
- 3.) That a modification statement has **not** been submitted by Rother District Council as required by Regulation 17(b).

We note that per the concluding remarks in your examination note, you will now set out how the examination will proceed under the provisions of Paragraph 10(1)–(4) of Article A2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

As requested in your original letter, I have sent a copy of this letter to the Rye Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

We look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

Holly Harrison  
Planning Policy Manager

CC. Rye Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group