

Cabinet Report Appendix 4

CALDERDALE LOCAL PLAN

Local Plan Main Modifications –

Habitats Regulations Assessment Statement

Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council

2022



Calderdale Local Plan Modifications Stage

Statement by Calderdale Council

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

At all relevant stages of the plan making process the Calderdale Draft Local Plan has been subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment. These stages include the Initial Draft Local Plan (2017), the Publication version of the Local Plan (2018) and the proposed Main Modifications to the Plan (2022). Further work was also undertaken to underpin two other key documents, 'Recreational Use and urban Edge Impacts' (CC36) and 'Habitats Regulations Assessment - Air Quality' (CC149) with a Statement of Common Ground agreed with Natural England in relation to this latter document. All documents published by the Council regarding Habitats Regulations Assessment are retained in the Examination Library.

The Council does not consider that the proposed Modifications to the Local Plan have any adverse implications for designated Natura 2000 sites (in Calderdale these are the South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the South Pennine Moors Special Protection Areas (SPA) (Phase 2). Further details on these qualifying sites are provided in the earlier documents produced by the Council regarding Habits Regulations Assessment.

Substantive changes in relation to housing numbers and associated additional allocations, as documented in 'Housing Requirement Update and Potential Supply' (January 2020) (CC39), were accompanied by Habitats Regulations Assessment. Additionally, a number of housing allocations are to be removed from the Plan in the proposed modifications, thereby reducing any potential adverse effects on the SPA/SAC. Many of the modifications proposed to the Site Specific Considerations in Appendix 1 to the Plan (including those allocations published in CC39 seek to negate adverse environmental impacts with a number of additional measures included to prevent harm to the SPA/SAC.

In order to be as certain as possible that further Habitats Regulations Assessment is not required at this stage of the plan making process the Council sought Counsel opinion on this matter. The view of Counsel aligns with that of the Council. Therefore, the council does not consider that further Habitats Regulations Assessment is required at this Modifications Stage of the plan making process.

Calderdale MBC
Spatial Planning Team
28th June 2022