

Local Plan Committee – Wednesday, 28 January 2026

PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

QUESTION FROM MR ROY TODD

With reference to the Council's own records, can the Committee identify the specific recorded rationale relied upon when progressing Site EMP97 for not undertaking Regulation 18 consultation, in circumstances where:

- technical engagement on EMP97 has been ongoing since at least early 2024, including sustained engagement with the site promoters and Leicestershire County Council Highways;
- that engagement included an acknowledged in-principle highways objection relating to access arrangements, the operational function of the Kegworth Bypass, and site topography, as evidenced in contemporaneous internal records received by way of Environmental Information Regulations requests, including correspondence dated 8 August 2024;
- internal correspondence disclosed under the Environmental Information Regulations confirms that, as at 14 November 2025, just five days prior to the Local Plan Committee decision of 19 November 2025, officers regarded the site as “at risk” because the primary access arrangements lie outside the site red line and beyond the promoter’s control;
- Environmental Information Regulation disclosures show that no engagement had taken place at allocation stage with either the Civil Aviation Authority or East Midlands Airport / Manchester Airport Group, despite the site’s proximity to the airport’s runway approach and Public Safety Zone; yet
- the site was not subject to Regulation 18 consultation, and Members themselves recorded on 19 November 2025 that it “did not get full scrutiny from local residents”;

and, in those circumstances, how the Committee reconciles a prolonged period of promoter-engaged technical work on EMP97 with the purpose of Regulation 18 and the Council’s own Statement of Community Involvement, both of which are intended to secure early and meaningful public engagement and a robust evidence base before options are effectively fixed?

RESPONSE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE

- It is established practice for officers to discuss the technical aspects of potential site allocations (of all types) with expert agencies, such as the local highways authority, before making recommendations to the Committee. This may also include asking for information and clarifications from the site promoters.
- The fact that LCC Highways has concerns about the access to this site was clearly stated in the 19 November 2025 Local Plan Committee report (paragraph 4.12). Appendix B of the same report identified that more detailed assessment may reveal a technical solution which LCC could support.
- In respect of the airport, the greatest proportion of the site lies outside the airport Public Safety Zone. Officers' view is that the site can be developed without encroaching on the PSZ.
- If these, or any other technical matters, cannot be addressed to the satisfaction of professional officers, the advice to the Committee to allocate the site may be changed.
- The 19 November 2025 Local Plan Committee report gave reasons both for and against Regulation 18 consultation at this stage and, on balance, recommended against it. This advice and the decision the Committee made does not contravene the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.
- It is relevant to highlight that a site allocation policy will be included in the Regulation 19 version of the plan which will include requirements to address the impacts of development such as landscaping, design quality and sustainable transport improvements.