This matter explores whether the Local Plan (LP) has been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements set out in the Planning Act 2004 and the Local Planning Regulations 2012.

There are provisions relating to the Duty to Cooperate (DtC), Sustainability Appraisal (SA), publication and notification requirements and dealing with representations.

Introduction to the Hearings (Inspector)

Opening Statement by the Council

Issues:

1. **Compliance with procedural requirements including consultation/participation procedures**

   1.1 Is there any evidence that the Council has not met the minimum requirements for consultation and that consultation and publicity has otherwise been inadequate?
   
   Particular points to be explored include:
   
   - Is the Statement of Community Involvement outdated?
   - The methods of engagement with the community.
   - The availability of technical evidence supporting the Highways Capacity Study.

   1.2 Has engagement with Parish Councils and Local Communities been acceptable?
   
   Particular points to be explored:
   
   - Confidential discussions with Parish Councils and others and how this affected engagement.
   - The extent of information provided in Issues and Options document and reports on consultation.

   1.3 Was engagement with Inskip-with-Sowerby Parish Council in advance of formal consultation appropriate?
   
   Particular points to be explored:
   
   - The timeline of engagement with the Parish Council.
   - Are the allocations in Inskip a reflection of a collective vision?

   1.4 Was it satisfactory to introduce allocations at the Publication Draft Stage of the Local Plan e.g. Travelling Showpeople Site (SA6)?
1.5 Has publicity and consultation by electronic and other means been satisfactory?

2. Compliance with the DtC, particularly in relation to consideration of housing needs

2.1 Is there evidence that the Council has cooperated effectively with adjoining authorities in seeking to meet any unmet housing needs from the District?  
Particular points to be explored:  
Resolving housing needs in the HMA and beyond – has it been a joined up approach?  
Effectiveness of proposed review mechanism in Fylde Local Plan.

2.2 Is the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) an effective tool to facilitate ongoing engagement with adjoining authorities?

2.3 Is there evidence that Wyre have cooperated effectively with Lancashire County Council (LCC) on relevant issues such as transport and education infrastructure?  
Particular points to be explored:  
The timing and robustness of cooperation on transport evidence.

3. The SA and its consideration of reasonable alternatives

3.1 Does the SA meet statutory and legal requirements in relation to the assessment of reasonable alternatives?  
Particular points to be explored:  
Does the SA assess a range of OANs, housing requirements and spatial options against sustainability objectives?

4. The Local Plan timeframe

4.1 Is the timeframe of the LP appropriate (2011-2031)?  
Particular points to be explored:  
The timeframe post-adoption (maximum of 12-13 years).  
Should the timeframe be adjusted to 2014-34 to reflect the base date of evidence for the housing requirement and allow delivery from some sites within the plan period?

4.2 Is the start date of 2011 consistent with the evidence base?  
Particular points to be explored:  
The implications of the job changes component of the OAN for the timeframe.
Main Evidence Base
ED006 – Statement of Community Involvement
SD005 – SA Report and Non-Technical Summary
SD007 – Statement of Consultation
SD008 – Statement of Compliance with DtC
EL1.001b – Council response to Inspector’s preliminary questions

Participants
Wyre Council
John Knight re Elaine Deegan 0987  EL2.001a
Inskip with Sowerby Parish Council 0659  EL2.005  Phil James
Home Builders Federation 0297  EL2.007  Joanne Harding
Emery Planning re Wainhomes NW 0794  EL2.022a  Stephen Harris
Fylde Council 0289  EL2.024  Julie Glaister + Eddie Graves
Strategic Land Group 0963  EL2.027a  Paul Smith
Lichfields re Taylor Wimpey 0363  EL2.028a  Brian O’Connor
Paul Desborough 0895  EL2.034
Inskip Residents Action Group 0995  Paul Desborough
Barton Willmore re Story Homes 0360  EL2.035a  Dan Mitchell
Thornton Action Group 0072  Howard Phillips + Jenifer Phillips
Wyre Labour Group of Councillors 0051  Cllr Rob Fail + Cllr Terry Lees

Statements
Wyre Council
Elaine Deegan
Home Builders Federation
Emery Planning
Fylde Council
Blackpool Council
Strategic Land Group
Lichfields
JWPC
Paul Desborough
Barton Wimore