

## **Status and Weight of Local Plan Evidence Based Landscape Documents**

The Inspector asked for clarification on Friday 19th February 2021 on the status and weight he should attach to Fareham Landscape Assessment (2017) (CDG15) and the Technical Review of Areas of Special Landscape Quality and Strategic Gap (September 2020) (CDG.7).

The *Fareham Landscape Assessment (FLA)* has the status of an evidence based document in support of the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan. The Regulation 18 draft local plan and its supporting evidence was published for consultation over a six week period between 25th October and 8 December 2017. A Statement of Consultation was prepared having regard to Regulation 22 (1)(c) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 which can be made available to the Inspector if required.

The *Technical Review of Areas of Special Landscape Quality and Strategic Gap* (“the Technical Review”) has the status of an evidence based document in support of the evidence base for the Regulation 19 Draft Local Plan. The Regulation 19 draft local plan and its supporting evidence was published for consultation over a six week period between 6th November and 18 December 2020.

I am advised that the Council has received 18 representations from interested parties out of a total of 750 representations in relation to Strategic Gaps. In summary representations were received from various developers, Gosport Borough Council, Winchester City Council, Hill Head Residents Association, the CPRE and a number of local residents. Unfortunately, the analysis does not yet draw out which of these representations commented specifically on the Technical Review. However, Pegasus’s representation on behalf of Bargate Homes is provided at Appendix 13 of Mr Weaver’s Proof of Evidence. A copy of other representations can be made available to the Inspector if required.

Having regard to the above information, in my opinion, greater weight can be attached to these evidence based draft Local Plan documents than the respective Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs) submitted in evidence by the two parties. Both of the FLA and the Technical Review have been commissioned and prepared by the Council as part of the statutory plan-making process and have been subject to public consultation.

Ms Jane Parker  
23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021