

Further Advice on the Consultation Responses to the Fareham Landscape Assessment (FLA) (2017) (CDG15)

The Inspector asked for clarification on Wednesday 24th February 2021 on the status of the outstanding objections raised in respect of the Fareham Landscape Assessment (2017) (CDG15). To clarify, the Statement of Consultation (September 2020) summarises the consultation responses to the following documents:

- Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan published for consultation between 25th October and 8 December 2017;
- Regulation Issues and Options published for consultation between 10th June and 26th July 2019; and
- Regulation 18 Supplement published for consultation between 13th January and 1st March 2020.

The Council's response to the comments on the Regulation 18 is in the Statement of Consultation (the Regulation 22 document). There were only two comments in relation to the landscape assessment. Both of these related to Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA) 6.1 which is the Lower Meon Valley and therefore is not relevant to the Appeal Sites.

In addition, there were 21 comments on the strategic gap policy (as opposed to the landscape assessment evidence base). 10 representations were received objecting to the Policy, in particular having regard to the Newgate Lane East (HA2 allocation). 5 representations were received strongly supporting the proposal to leave a strategic gap between Fareham and Stubbington. 6 further comments were received, but none of these comments relate to the Appeal sites or challenged the evidence base supporting the designation of the strategic gap.

As none of the comments received that indicated that the methodology underpinning the FLA for LLCA 8: Woodcot-Alver Valley was flawed, the Council considered that it was a sound basis on which to proceed. This evidence base has since been supplemented by the Technical Review undertaken by Hampshire County Council (HCC) in September 2020 in support of the Regulation 19 Draft Local Plan (October 2020). The Technical Review report builds on the FLA undertaken by LDA Design to determine which of the LLCAs should be designated Areas of Special Landscape Quality (ASLQ). HCC further rely on LDA Design's assessment of the LLCAs in the strategic gaps, plus its own judgment from site visits to determine where strategic gap boundaries could/should be changed.

Having regard to the above information, in my opinion, the FLA and Technical Review should be read together. Both carry equal weight and that weight is greater 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
25th February 2021