

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Ms Helen Hockenhull
Planning Inspectorate
Sent via email to the Programme Officer

Head of Planning Strategy and
Economic Development
Gayle Wootton

Contact: Gayle Wootton

Ext.: 4328

Date: 13 October 2022

Dear Ms Hockenhull

Examination of the Fareham Local Plan 2037 - Response to Further Post Hearings Letter

Thank you for your further letter on the matter of the Fareham Local Plan 2037, dated 5th September. I can confirm that the letter has been added to the Examination Library with the reference INSP016. This letter sets out the Council's response to the letter and provides information on the timetable for the next steps.

Next steps

The Council is pleased to be progressing at pace with the examination process and considers the move towards a consultation on main modifications to be a positive step toward its new Local Plan being found sound.



Shortly after receiving the letter, and as requested, the Council made you aware of its intention to seek approval for the consultation at its 27th October meeting of the Council, with an Executive endorsement sought on 10th October. That meant that the papers were published on 30th September and are now in the public domain.

In advance of that publication, and as requested, the Council shared copies of the various documents with you, either for comment or for information. The Schedule of Main Modifications was made available for comment as you requested, as were the updates to both the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment. The Council also made the Schedule of Additional Modifications available to you for information. For completeness, all three revised topic papers were also shared with you for comment prior to publication. The Council is grateful for your co-operation in helping us meet the timescale for publication.

The Council intends to run the public consultation between Monday 31st October and Monday 12th December. As requested, the consultation material will make it clear that the

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consultation relates only to the proposed main modifications, or the post hearing evidence documents insofar as they are relevant to the main modifications.

Early review of the Plan

Your letter requested that the Council draft some wording to be included as a main modification describing the PfSH work as a potential trigger for an early review. The Schedule of Main Modifications includes such wording in relation to the PfSH work (see MM014). Similar wording has also been drafted as a main modification in relation to the delivery against a future affordable housing need (reference MM088), and the level of contingency in the housing supply over the housing requirement (reference MM018).

Development Strategy – Policy DS3 Landscape

The Council is pleased that we have reached a way forward on this matter. Main modifications as you suggest have been drafted and is included in the Schedule of Main Modifications (reference MM012-013).

Welborne

The Council is pleased that we have reached a way forward on this matter. A main modification to the housing trajectory (reference MM156) and revisions to the Housing Topic Background, as you suggested, have been drafted ready for the consultation.

Policy NE2 Biodiversity Net Gain

Your letter required a change to this policy to bring the policy in line with the Environment Act 2021. A main modification referring to the period of 30 years has been drafted and is included in the Schedule of Main Modifications (MM120).

Focused consultation Housing Topic Papers – Housing Supply

The Council is pleased to note that you consider the proposed stepped trajectory, as detailed in this topic paper (examination library reference FBC090), to be appropriate and justified. A revised version of the Topic paper has been prepared in light of the comments from representators which as you pointed out, are relatively minor. This document was shared with you before publication on the 30th September.

Focused consultation Housing Topic Papers – Windfall Paper

Your letter requested that the Council add the information provided in the windfall paper (examination library FBC077) to the original background paper (examination library HOP007). This has been done and the revised Windfall background paper was shared with you before publication on the 30th September.

Focused consultation Housing Topic Papers – Affordable Housing Background Paper

Your letter sought two changes. Firstly, paragraph 11 requested an expanded explanation of the review of the Housing Register that the Council undertook recently, in an effort to further justify the reduction in the number of households on that register. That text was drafted and shared with you before the revised background paper was published on the 30th September.

Secondly, paragraph 13 requested further work to calculate the newly arising need using data sources referenced in the Planning Practice Guidance. This was completed, shared with you and as a result, is included in the revised Affordable Housing Background Paper, published on 30th September. While this data does show the potential for a higher level of newly arising need than was initially calculated, there are, as your letter suggests, a number of caveats that can be applied and the revised Background Paper sets these out.

Your letter suggested that depending upon the outcome of this work, the Council may wish to put forward options to address any matters arising and, in discussion with yourself, a main modification has been prepared suggesting that the delivery against a future affordable housing need may be a future trigger for a Local Plan review (reference MM088).

Following the consultation

The consultation on the main modifications is due to end on Monday 12th December. It is our intention that all the comments related to the main modifications are shared with you as expediently as possible, in order that the examination can progress, hopefully to a swift and positive conclusion.

Yours sincerely

Gayle Wootton
Head of Planning Strategy and Economic Development