

Dawn Adey
via email to

[REDACTED]

Enquiries to: David Hayward

Direct line: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

My reference:

Your reference:

Date: 11 October 2024

Dear Dawn

Winchester District Local Plan 2020-2040: Regulation 19 Consultation

Havant Borough Council and Winchester City Council have a strong history of collaborative working on planning matters – most notably, we have worked constructively together for over 15 years on the West of Waterlooville Major Development Area. This is now a thriving, high quality urban extension of Waterlooville which straddles the boundaries of our two administrative areas. Notwithstanding this it is our view that we need to improve this working relationship and move forward together to get sound local plans in place across our two local authorities and across the rest of the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) area.

We fully appreciate that the most difficult time to prepare local plans is when the national planning system is undergoing fundamental changes – as it is at the moment. Nonetheless, whilst proposals have been mooted to reform the duty to cooperate, it remains a fundamental part of the UK planning system – both in law and policy. As such, in order for both of our authorities to achieve sound and legally compliant local plans, we must engage collaboratively.

Like Winchester's and most local authorities in the southeast, Havant Borough's housing need increases significantly under the proposed new standard method. We also fully accept that planning and local plans are emotive topics which elicit strong feelings in our communities. We recognise that this will involve having to make some very difficult decisions about development and change in our areas.

Havant is an extremely constrained authority, with a high housing need. Through our new local plan we are looking to maximise brownfield development, push densities and find new development sites. We will be looking to allocate as much land as possible and meet as much need as is possible to do so in a sustainable manner.

Despite this though, as we have previously outlined bilaterally and through and shared discussions as part of PfSH, Havant will not be able to meet the need for development in the Borough and has sought assistance from adjoining authorities. This was formally set out in our letter sent to the City Council on 5 March 2024, though discussed prior to that. This is not a move we have taken lightly but reflects the scale of growth required in Havant and the highly constrained nature of the Borough. Through the response on 25 March 2024, the city council highlighted the continued intention to

provide for an unmet housing need allowance in the then forthcoming Regulation 19 Local Plan. Both letters are attached.

Moreover, at the point of publication of the Winchester Local Plan, it is of course necessary for the Borough Council to consider whether the Winchester District Local Plan has complied with the necessary legal and policy requirements in the NPPF, particularly the Duty to Cooperate.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you and your officers for the extensive collaboration which has taken place through the formal consultation period where we have discussed the approach to unmet housing need in particular. This has led to a commitment from the city council to formally set out that 70% of the unmet housing need allowance in the Winchester District Local Plan would be for Havant Borough. This represents a notable change in the position of the Local Plan and a significant piece of collaborative work. I am pleased that we have been able to agree a detailed Statement of Common Ground in such a short period of time. It of course is procedurally necessary for the Borough Council to submit a representation based on the plan at the point of publication. However our single representation is intended to simply highlight the positive work that has taken place and the agreed position of our two authorities.

Critically, with the agreement of that statement of common ground and inclusion of the changes to the plan which we have collectively agreed to, I can confirm that Havant Borough Council fully supports the Winchester District Local Plan's legal compliance and soundness and would be happy to set that out to the Inspector if needed.

Yours sincerely



Executive Head of Place

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