

29th January 2014

Economic Development and Planning
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
BA14 8JN

Mr A Seaman
The Planning Inspectorate
4/03 Kite Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol BS1 6PN

Dear Mr Seaman

Re: Wiltshire Core Strategy

Thank you for your letter dated 23 December 2013.

Further to the Council's recent communication with the Programme Officer I am pleased to enclose a copy of the revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) that was approved by Cabinet on 21 January 2014. I would be interested to receive your comments regarding the proposed timelines for delivery of the documents it contains in so far as this relates to the matters which you are interested in. As you will be aware from the Cabinet report, progression of the Core Strategy to a positive conclusion is a priority for the Council and delegated authority is in place to review the timelines again should you have any concern.

Within the LDS, rather than undertake a single issue review of Core Policy 47, as referred to in the Council's letter of 19th December, the Gypsy and Traveller Sites Allocation Development Plan Document has had its scope widened (now shown simply as Gypsy and Traveller DPD) to incorporate a full review of pitch provision based on a new Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

In the Council's letter of 19th December 2013, we proposed to write again with the programme of work that would be undertaken to address the matters you raise. Originally, with the exception of the LDS, it was envisaged that this would be done in a staged way starting with the initial outputs from the Housing Viability work being presented at the start of February. However, having reviewed progress we are now aiming to provide you with a full response on 28 February 2014 to include the following:

- (i) Evidence paper, 'Housing Provision 2006 to 2026', to include: revised Table 3 from the Housing Land Supply Statement, updated housing trajectory, and supporting evidence to justify Housing Market Area disaggregation of the proposed 42,000 housing requirement;
- (ii) Proposed amendments to Core Policy 2 and Community Area Strategy Core Policies informed by (i) above, and consequential amendments to the supporting text of the Plan;
- (iii) Proposed amendments to Core Policy 10 to: revise housing numbers, remove housing allocations and set a framework for the delivery of Chippenham Site Allocations DPD, and consequential amendments to the supporting text of the Plan;
- (iv) Wiltshire Core Strategy Viability Report (2014) to provide an up to date assessment of the viability of the policies in the Plan to determine viable level of affordable housing;
- (v) Proposed amendment to Core Policy 43 and consequential amendments to the supporting text of the Plan as a result of (iv) above;

- (vi) Addendum to Topic Paper 16 to: address issues of overcrowding on local authority sites, data on unauthorised developments and encampments, the pitch supply from the Cricklade and Bonnie Park sites, and consistency with national policy;
- (vii) Proposed amendments to Core Policy 47 and consequential amendments to supporting text as a result of (vi) above;
- (viii) Any other consequential changes to the Plan in the interests of consistency with the above proposed amendments;
- (ix) Associated update of the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessments arising from all of the above;

In the interim, I enclose a copy of the methodology that the Council proposes to use to disaggregate the revised housing requirement figure of 42,000 across the Housing Market Areas and at the community area level. It would clearly be helpful to know whether you see any flaws in this approach that may affect the soundness of the Plan. Work is in progress on the updated housing land supply position and revised trajectory, which will update Table 3 of the Council's 'Wiltshire Housing Land Supply Statement' (August 2013).

Our aim is to provide you with a full response to the matters you raise as quickly as possible. Accordingly, no public consultation has been factored in at this stage as it is unclear what may need to be consulted on and you may have a view on what consultation is necessary for an efficient Examination process. We would welcome your thoughts on this at the earliest opportunity in order that necessary preparations can be made.

I look forward to your response to the matters raised in this letter and would be happy to provide clarification over any issues it raises.

Yours sincerely



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