

Yvonne Wright - Planning Inspector

Director of Sustainable Communities
Civic Centre
Duke Street
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CM1 1JE

21 February 2019

Dear Madam Inspector

Response to Inspectors Post Hearing Advice Letter (PHAL)

Further to your PHAL dated 8 February 2019, I write to advise that the Council has considered the contents of the letter and agreed the following actions in respect of the further Main Modifications identified.

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites

It is agreed that criterion A) iii and B) iv of Policy HO3, which limit new or extended Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites to a maximum of 10 pitches/plots, should be removed as there is currently not sufficient evidence to support this requirement, however the Council agrees the policy contains other criteria against which the impact and scale of proposals could be considered. The Council will add this change to the draft Main Modification Schedule for your consideration.

Green Belt

The wording *'only minor and limited alterations to the green belt boundary are proposed'* which appears in paragraph 6.77 of the Local Plan will be amended to make clear that no alterations to the Green Belt boundaries are proposed. To ensure the policy boundaries are co-terminus, it is proposed that the amendments to the Urban Area and Defined Settlement boundaries set out on the Submission Policies Map where they adjoin the Green Belt and have resulted in a consequential change to the Green Belt boundary, revert to the boundaries on the Site Allocations DPD Proposals Map adopted in 2012. These proposed Main Modifications ensure that the Green Belt boundaries also revert to those adopted on the Site Allocations DPD Proposals Map. The Council will add this change to the draft Main Modification Schedule and include consequential mapping changes within the Policies Map Modification Schedule for your consideration.

Green Wedges, Green Corridors and Valued Landscapes

In accordance with Option 1, Green Corridors will be removed from the Plan as a designation, and reference to Green Wedges being considered as 'valued landscapes' will be deleted. The Council will add these changes and any consequential modifications to the draft Main Modification Schedule and also include consequential mapping changes within the Policies Map Modification Schedule for your consideration.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

The Council's consultant will update the SA to re-assess the impact of all the main modifications. The SA update will be undertaken once the full scope of the main modifications is agreed. Once complete, the Council will make the draft SA update available for your consideration.

Next Steps

In accordance with your advice the Council are in the process of assessing the implications the above changes have on the policies, designations and maps contained within the Local Plan. These will be reflected in the main modifications, additional modifications, and policies map schedules which will be submitted to you in draft for your agreement in due course

For your information, it is the Council's intention to publish the additional modifications and policies map schedule of changes alongside the main modifications consultation as it aids clarity. It will however be made clear that these are not the subject of consultation and are not for your consideration.

I trust this approach is acceptable to you.

Yours sincerely

David Green
Director of Sustainable Communities