

Response to consultation from East Hampshire District Council

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To:Local Plan <Local.plan@basingstoke.gov.uk>

Response from East Hampshire District Council to Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Update 2021 to 2040 Draft for Regulation 18 Consultation January 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Update 2021 to 2040 Draft for Regulation 18 Consultation. Notably we are consulting at the same time on our Draft Local Plans (Reg 18 stage) and have similar timescales for progression towards adoption. We are grateful for the positive working relationship we have with Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council, which has enabled us to publish a signed Statement of Common Ground in support of our Draft Local Plan Consultation 2021-2040.

We welcome the proposals in Basingstoke and Dean's Local Plan Update. Such an update will ensure Basingstoke is planning for its future housing needs and intending to meet those needs within its own administrative boundary. As agreed in the Statement of Common Ground, neither of our authorities is seeking assistance from the other to help meet needs.

We recognise that Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council needs to take a stepped approach to delivery (as shown in the trajectory), but this is preferable to being unable to meet needs. We agree that sometimes planning for larger sites with their supporting infrastructure is a preferable and more sustainable approach, where possible, and that larger sites can take time to deliver – but need that time to ensure they are fit for purpose and best meeting housing, community and infrastructure needs. There is also support for the various regeneration proposals across the Borough that will benefit local communities with new homes in an improved local environment. We welcome the Draft Infrastructure Plan that supports this consultation. Should any cross-boundary infrastructure discussions be needed, we are more than happy to engage on that basis and consider cross referencing in our Emerging Infrastructure Plan.

We welcome Policy HSG9: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People, expressing the intention to meet needs, through provision on greenfield allocations (which is backed up in individual site allocation policies). The policy deals with all aspects covering safeguarding existing provision, and off site provision in lieu of greenfield allocations. It also requires provision on large sites should they come through the planning application process. We welcome this approach. We are similarly looking at provision (Travelling Showpeople plots) on a proposed strategic site. The only minor suggestion we would make is that the title of this policy is amended to say: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People *Accommodation*, as it is a policy about accommodation and not individual people.

We note the importance placed on responding to the Climate Emergency. East Hampshire District Council is also concerned by the impact of human activity on the natural environment and we are supportive and advocate the policies associated with climate change.

Thank you for consulting us. We wish you all the best in progressing your Local Plan.

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