

Independent Examination of the Purbeck Local Plan (2018-2034)

Inspectors' response to Council letter of 18 November 2022, including outstanding matters.

Further to our previous letter dated 1 November 2022, we thank the Council for the following information accompanying its letter dated 18 November 2022:

- Interim updates within the letter on progress relating to a joint position statement with Natural England relating to nutrient neutrality and addendums to the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA);
- Council update on local housing need, dated 18 November 2022;
- Council update on employment uses inside Poole Harbour catchment, dated 18 November 2022;
- Council annual update on interim mitigation projects, dated 19 November 2022.

Housing land & Policies I5 and V2 (Morden Park)

As per our previous letter, we await the outstanding information relating to nutrient neutrality before we can offer our definitive findings on housing land and Policies I5 and V2 (Morden Park), subject of the further hearing session in July 2022. In reaching such findings, we will take account of the Council update on local housing need and reflect upon the Council position and associated information set out in the annual update on interim mitigation projects.

Notwithstanding the above, with reference to housing specifically, it would be helpful if the Council could now additionally provide a recalculated 5-year housing land supply position to reflect the Council update on local housing need, dated 18 November 2022.

Joint position statement with Natural England relating to nutrient neutrality

We note that in your letter dated 18 November 2022, that there is no specific indication of when the joint position statement on nutrient neutrality will be provided to us. As such in the interest of ensuring that this stage of the examination progresses as swiftly as possible, we request more certainty of the timescales that the Council and Natural England are working towards in seeking to prepare and finalise that document.

Addendums to HRA and SA

The most recent Council letter indicates that the addendums to the HRA and SA will be informed by the joint position statement between the Council and Natural England and provided to us around the same time. However, in that respect, we request that the addendums to the HRA and SA documents remain in draft rather than being finalised at that stage. Such an approach is necessary to allow us to consider and advise on their content, including any further work that may be required should further main modifications be identified in our pending findings.

Actions Requested

Please provide a firmer indication of when we can expect to receive the joint position statement on nutrient neutrality with Natural England, by not later than **2 December 2022**.

We would also be grateful if the recalculated 5-year housing land supply position relative to the Council update on local housing need (dated 18 November 2022) could be provided by the same date.

If there are any procedural or other questions arising from this correspondence, the Council should contact us via the Programme Officer.

We are not inviting, and do not envisage accepting, any comments or additional evidence from other examination participants at this stage.

Susan Heywood & Gareth Wildgoose

INSPECTORS

24 November 2022