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Rachel Bust  
Inspector

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Dear Ms Bust,

**Central and Eastern Berkshire – Joint Minerals and Waste Plan: Submission – Preliminary Matters**

Thank you for your letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 setting out your initial observations. I enclose a report setting out a response to each of the preliminary matters outlined in your letter.

In addition, I have discussed preferences for the hearings with the Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities. In relation to format, it is agreed that a blended approach would be preferred which would allow officers from each Authorities and from Hampshire Services to be present in person but to allow participants to attend virtually (or in person, if this is their preference).

With regards to venue, we are under discussion with the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead over holding it there due to the presence of the majority of allocations within this Authority boundary. The Town Hall has been used recently to host the Examination Hearings on the Borough Local Plan and it is considered, dependent on dates, that this might be a suitable venue for the Hearings on the Joint Minerals & Waste Plan.

In relation to timings, I would be grateful if we could request that school holidays are avoided due to the childcare requirements of some of the Hampshire Services team including myself. Berkshire and Hampshire school holidays are generally aligned throughout the year. For information, the Summer terms ends in Berkshire on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 and the Autumn Term resumes in Hampshire and Berkshire fully from 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Melissa Spriggs  
Planning Policy Manager  
Hampshire Services

