

The Central & Eastern Berkshire – Joint Minerals & Waste Plan

Inspector: Rachael A Bust

Programme Officer: Stephanie Street

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26 April 2021

Ms Spriggs
Planning Policy Manager
Hampshire County Council

Dear Ms Spriggs,

Examination of the Central and Eastern Berkshire – Joint Minerals and Waste Plan: Submission – Inspector’s Preliminary Matters

I have now had the opportunity to conduct an initial assessment of the key documentation and the Regulation 19 representations.

I am pleased that the Programme Officer, Stephanie Street, has been appointed and the examination website is already established. I have found the examination website to be particularly well organised and I commend it to those who have an interest in the Plan examination as an invaluable resource.

The purpose of this initial letter is to set out a number of key areas which require early attention and clarification from the Council on behalf of the Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities so that I can determine how the examination proceeds.

Duty to Cooperate (DtC) – Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

In the submitted Duty to Cooperate: Statement of Compliance (Feb 2021), Appendix 1 provides a list of current DtC meetings held and SoCG. It indicates that some of the SoCG are “awaiting final comments and signing” prior to the submission of the Plan for examination.

Please could the Council:

- (a) clarify the current position on the SoCG which were awaiting final comments and signing prior to submission.
- (b) confirm whether there are any outstanding issues arising from the DtC; and

- (c) ensure that copies of all of the signed SoCG are included within the examination website for completeness. Please also ensure that the SoCG comply with accessibility and data protection standards as necessary.

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 – Screening Assessment (August 2020)

Table 19 on pages 66-68 and also in the summary table 24 on page 87 of the submitted Habitats Regulations Assessment: Screening Report (August 2020), indicate that Monkey Island Wharf, Bray (TA1) has only been screened with reference to the Windsor Forest and Great Park SAC.

Please could the Council confirm whether or not this proposal needed to be screened in relation to the South West London Water Bodies SPA and Ramsar.

Sustainability Appraisal

Could the Council please confirm that there were no regulation 19 consultation responses received to the Sustainability Appraisal.

Flood Risk

The Regulation 19 Consultation Note (February 2021), page 10, in the Council's response refers to a meeting with the Environment Agency regarding the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and also some Development Considerations. Please could the Council clarify whether or not this meeting has now taken place along with the purpose and the outcome, in terms of agreements or otherwise.

Other Matters

I note there was a late representation made in relation to Policy DM9. It is listed in the Regulation 19 Consultation Note (February 2021). However, could the Council please confirm whether or not this representation has been taken into account.

In your key issues set out in the covering letter for submission, dated 25 February 2021, there is a reference to "the consideration of air quality in DM12 (Protection Health, Safety and Amenity)". Could the Council please confirm whether the policy number in this covering letter should be DM9.

Please could you upload the regulation 22(3) local plan submission notice to the examination website.

Potential Modifications

I am examining the Plan as submitted. I note that in the Council's response in the Regulation 19 Consultation Note (February 2021) at various points there is an indication

that clarifications may be/or will be needed. Where the Council is amenable to proposed changes to the Plan, these will need to be presented as either “main modifications” which are those necessary for soundness (which will be subject to consultation and where necessary Sustainability Appraisal) or “additional modifications” which are those proposed by the Council to aid clarity and presentation of the document.

The hearings process is likely to resolve a number of potential main modifications to the Plan. However, there is nothing to prevent the Council starting to prepare schedules of potential changes to the Plan (main modifications, additional modifications and changes to the Policies Maps) where there are matters that can be readily addressed in preparation.

Next Steps

I would be grateful for a response via the Programme Officer to the matters set out in this letter **by no later than 14 May 2021**.

If there is anything that I have raised in this letter which requires clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the Programme Officer and I will respond accordingly.

Yours sincerely

Rachael A Bust

INSPECTOR