



16th July 2015

Dear Mr Hetherington,

EXAMINATIONS OF THE BROMSGROVE DISTRICT PLAN (BDP) & BOROUGH OF REDDITCH LOCAL PLAN No. 4 (BORLP4)

COUNCILS INITIAL RESPONSE INSPECTOR'S POST-HEARINGS NOTE – JULY 2015

Thank you for your post hearings note received on 10th July. We note the contents and the pragmatic approach you outline at Paragraph 21.

As you have stated, a significant amount of work has been undertaken in both examinations and also in the preparation of both Plans and it would represent considerable wastage of public resources to halt the process at this stage. The Councils are mindful that not only have they committed considerable resources to the process but so also have other parties have including both those from the development industry and the broader community.

The Councils have also in mind the Government's national policy position, reiterated on 10 July 2015 through the publication of *Fixing the Foundations* (Cm 9098), that it is highly desirable for LPA's to have up to date Plans in place as soon as possible not only to provide certainty for the development industry but to also support and guide much needed development. An up to date Plan will also allow both authorities to progress other planning activities such as the introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy.

Bearing in mind the above, the Councils therefore do not intend to withdraw either of their Plans at this stage but instead wish to carry out additional work to address your outstanding concerns.

The Councils now wish to give the nature, scale and timing of this additional work very careful consideration over the next few weeks with a view to providing you with a detailed work programme and timetable by the time of your return in September.

Ideally we would wish this timetable and work programme to be subject to consultation to allow a full understanding of the work being undertaken in an open

and transparent way to further enable engagement in the process by all parties involved.

In relation to the other outstanding matters that you identify in you note the Councils would have the following comments to make:

1. Housing Land Supply

Each Council will provide you with updated information on their respective 5 year housing land supply positions and it is envisaged that this consultation could take place alongside the work program to be published in September

2. Gypsy and Traveller Sites

In relation to RBC any consultation on the updated GTAA could be carried out alongside any other proposed future consultation in connection with the additional work.

In relation to BDC the up to date position in relation to consultation was provided to the Inspector in January 2015 and it is assumed that this is satisfactory?

3. Housing Standards

As advised, both Authorities will examine this updated information and consider the implications for their respective Local Plan Policies.

4. Renewable Energy

As advised both Authorities will examine this updated information and consider the implications for their respective Local Plan Policies.

We trust that the above is satisfactory. We appreciate that you will shortly be away until September but would welcome any brief comments/ views that you would wish to make to assist the Authorities in progressing further in the intervening period.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Ruth Bamford.

Ruth Bamford