

Ms Jill Fisher,
Policy Manager (Planning Policy & Infrastructure),
Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council,
Civic Offices,
London Road,
Basingstoke,
Hampshire,
RG21 4AH

22 June 2015

Dear Ms Fisher,

**Submissions of the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership
to the Proposed Main Modifications to the Submission Local Plan 2011-2029 Public
Consultation May-June 2015.**

Thank you for the opportunity to make representations on this latest version of your emerging Borough Local Plan. These submissions follow on from the previous consultation responses we have made, and particularly those relating to the Pre-Submission Local Plan, dated 10th June 2014; and before that of August 2013. Enterprise M3 is the Local Enterprise Partnership covering the Basingstoke and Deane area as well as other local authority areas along the M3 corridor. Its remit is to support and sustain economic growth at a local level and Enterprise M3 set out its vision, key priorities and actions in its Strategic Economic Plan, which was published in March 2014. The vision for the area is to be:

'...the premier in the country for enterprise and economic growth, balanced with an excellent environment and quality of life.'

The Strategic Economic Plan recognises the importance of Basingstoke, identifying it as one of only four major 'Growth Towns' in the Enterprise M3 area, whose continued economic performance is critical to the local and wider economy. Enterprise M3 has worked closely with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council throughout the development of the emerging

Local Plan, both on the development of the Plan and its evidence base and how the Local Growth Fund can be used to support the emerging Local Plan. Following the Local Plan Inspector's Notes of the Exploratory Meeting with the Council, dated 19th December 2014, it was clear that the Council would need to re-examine several key issues relating to the emerging Local Plan in order to satisfy the Inspector with regard to its soundness. These current Modifications are the outcome of that re-examination and we are pleased to see a very positive response by the Council to try to resolve Inspector Fox's concerns and to allow the examination in public to proceed.

These submissions relate solely to the Proposed Modifications now set forward by the Council, as required. Enterprise M3 is pleased to see that work to update the evidence base has been undertaken by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, particularly in relation to housing growth and need projections and is now proposing a level of housing growth which can assist the continued economic growth of Basingstoke. Enterprise M3 is therefore very supportive of **Proposed Modification PM1**, raising the local housing figure to 850 dwellings per annum.

It therefore follows that Enterprise M3 is also very supportive of **Proposed Modifications PM2 and PM3 which flow from PM1**, and re-assess the balance between jobs and workers as a result of the higher proposed local housing figure, to increase the number of jobs supported from "in the region of 7,300" up to a range "in the region of 8,100-12,600 jobs over 2011-2029". Enterprise M3 is of the view that this provides a much enhanced level of flexibility necessary in a highly buoyant economy and will help to further secure Basingstoke's role as an economic driver of the Enterprise M3 economy.

Proposed Modifications PM4 to PM8 provide detail which follows from PM1 and we have no comment to make on them.

Proposed Modification PM9 proposes a new strategic housing allocation for 750 dwellings at Hounsome Fields to the south-west of Basingstoke. Enterprise M3 is working closely with both Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Hampshire County Council on growth to the west of Basingstoke in order to ensure that the right infrastructure is in place to support this development. This site is also close to M3 Junction 7 which has potential to be a strategic employment location within the Enterprise M3 area and there are considerable opportunities for sustainable development at this location through a close relationship between new housing and employment growth. To this extent **Proposed Modification PM9 is supported.**

Enterprise M3 has no comment to make on **Proposed Modifications PM10 to PM17.**

Proposed Modifications PM18, PM19 and PM20 relate to economic issues. **PM18** adds a new paragraph and validates the general jobs targets set out in PM2 and PM3 above and is therefore supported. **PM19 adds the new paragraph proposals into the upper case Policy EP1, and is thus supported.**

PM20 adds the need to maintain monitoring data on net new jobs in the Borough to make Policy EP1 more robust. **PM20 is therefore supported.**

Finally, we make the following comments on the Proposed Modifications in general. In paragraph 15 of our June 2014 submissions Enterprise M3 sought to have additional

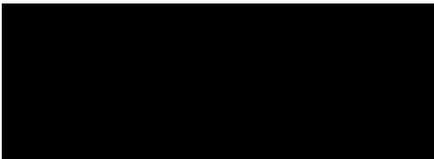
wording added to Policy EP1 (b) at the end of the proposed text as follows (which **we would propose as an additional Proposed Modification PM21:**

'...Proposals for major industrial and distribution users which come forward before finalisation of this Development Plan Document will be treated sympathetically in light of this identified need.'

We encourage that further consideration is given to this proposal which was made because of specific concern about the lack of sufficient land allocated for employment, a matter now exacerbated by the Council's recognition that it is anticipating a significantly higher jobs growth across the Plan period than previously envisaged. Given this we would have expected to see additional employment land allocations made. That no such new allocations are forthcoming is of concern and reinforces the need for the additional policy wording proposed above at the very least, in order to prevent the loss of potential new major users appearing in the near future, finding no suitable land at Basingstoke, and going elsewhere to economic detriment of the wider Enterprise M3 area.

As we set out in our June 2014 response to the revised pre-submission draft Local Plan, Enterprise M3 is satisfied that the emerging Local Plan provides a comprehensive strategy and policy context to allow Basingstoke to continue to play a pivotal role in the economic prosperity of the M3 corridor. We are of the view that the proposed modifications further strengthen the document but would encourage the Council to give further consideration on how further flexibility in terms of employment space to further protect Basingstoke's role as a Growth Town can be achieved. Enterprise M3 wishes to continue to support and work with the Council and would be prepared to appear at the Examination in Public to give our views to the Inspector, and bring evidence if necessary.

Yours sincerely,



Geoff French,

Chair, Enterprise M3

