

## Examination of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (2011 to 2029)

### MF22 – Hounsome Fields / Golf Course / Manydown – links to cycle routes to key destinations

#### Inspector's Supplementary Question – 19.5.1 – Does the Plan provide sufficient strategic direction to increase the potential for safe and convenient cycling within the Borough and is this realistic in terms of the likely costs for the provision of improved routes and facilities?

1. In light of discussions linked to cycle access on a number of sites and the Council's draft Cycle Strategy (ref: PS/04/63), it is considered to be appropriate to:
  - Include additional supporting text to Policy CN9 to outline the strategic approach of the Local Plan in terms of transport; and
  - Make amendments to the strategic housing allocation policies to ensure that they apply a consistent approach to the accessibility of sites by walking, cycling and public transport.
2. In terms of policy CN9, it is proposed that the text outlined below is introduced after the policy at the beginning of paragraph 5.80 to outline further detail to explain the Council's approach in terms of strategic transport.

The provision of a safe, convenient and efficient transport network in the borough is key to supporting residents, employees and visitors to the borough, as well as assisting the wider economy, given the role of the borough in the Enterprise M3 LEP area. To facilitate this, future transport planning of the borough will support the approach of policy CN9 through the preparation of a Transport Strategy for the Borough, in partnership with Hampshire Council, transport operators, local interest groups and local residents and business. This will provide a framework to ensure that there are opportunities to access key services, facilities and employment locations by a range of modes of transport, including accessibility from new developments. This will be supplemented by the Borough Cycling Strategy which provides further detail on the Council's ambitions in terms of cycling, including the provision of a Strategic Cycling Network.

The Transport Strategy will sit within the framework of the Hampshire Local Transport Plan (LTP) (2011-2031) produced by Hampshire County Council and any successor to this. The LTP provides the long-term framework for transport policies within the borough. The Plan seeks to improve accessibility through the three initiatives of reduce, manage and invest.(as per existing para 5.80)

3. In addition to the above, it is proposed to amend paragraph 5.84 as follows:

'Walking and cycling have a key role to play in ensuring an increase in

sustainable travel. This can be achieved by providing safe walking and cycling routes with appropriate surfaces and lighting that are accessible to all, are convenient to reach, and link to places where services are located. The Cycling Strategy and accompanying proposed Strategic Cycle Network provide further guidance on measures to encourage and facilitate cycling in the Borough. Development proposals may be required to assist in the provision of the network and / or provide appropriate connections, as well as close working with Hampshire County Council to achieve this. Secure, convenient and weather resilient cycle parking will normally be required at destinations, including at key transport interchanges; where appropriate lockers and changing facilities should also be provided'.

4. It is considered that the inclusion of these amendments assist in outlining the council's strategic approach to transport in the borough. Specific reference to the Cycling Strategy in the Local Plan will assist future implementation through the Development Management process.
5. In respect of the Cycling Strategy, it should be noted that consultation of the draft commenced on 30 October and will run until early December. During this time, views are being sought on whether the correct actions have been identified; if the proposed Strategic Network is appropriate and what the priorities should be. Feedback from the consultation will assist in the allocation of funding in the future, as well as informing funding bids to the LEP and other sources, including the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) which is already assisting in the provision of a number of cycleway improvements in the town, with further proposals likely to be implemented in 2016/17.
6. In terms of the strategic housing allocations in the Local Plan, set out under the SS3 policies, it is proposed that there is a greater focus on the accessibility of the sites by walking, cycling and, where relevant, public transport, in order to reflect discussions in the hearing sessions to date. This will ensure that the objectives of the Local Plan are better reflected in the site specific policies and that there is a mechanism to ensure the implementation of the Cycling Strategy and accompanying Strategic Cycle Network.
7. It is proposed that these suggested changes will be made through the Proposed Modifications process, but that they will focus on:
  - Ensuring connectivity of the sites to existing and proposed walk and cycling networks, including those routes outlined in the Strategic Cycle Network;
  - Making provision for direct cycle links to the town centre (and other destinations in relation to the site, where appropriate);
  - Ensuring that the larger sites, including the East of Basingstoke (SS3.9), the Golf Course (SS3.11) and Hounsome Fields (SS3.12), can be served by public transport from the outset. In the case of Manydown additional wording will be added to ensure that a comprehensive approach to the provision of public transport is developed to serve the site.