

Examination of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan

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c/o Local Plan Programme Officer
Basingstoke & Deane District Council
Civic Offices
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13th February 2015

To All Respondents to Consultations on the Local Plan
carried out in August 2013 and April 2014

Dear Respondent,

Examination of the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Local Plan 2011 – 2029: Way Forward

Further to previous correspondence, I am now writing to let you know the outcome of the Exploratory Meeting which took place on 11th December 2014 and subsequent meetings of the Council to agree a way forward for the Examination. In summary, the Council is to carry out further work on the Plan and consult on any proposed changes, prior to the public hearings taking place in the autumn. Further details and provisional dates for the hearings are set out below.

The Inspector wrote to the Council on 19th December 2014 setting out his conclusions and enclosing a note of the Exploratory Meeting. In his letter, the Inspector set out 13 areas on which he required further information and outlined his concerns with the Council's objectively assessed housing need (OAHN) for market and affordable housing in the Borough. Whilst he has not come to any firm views at this stage in the Examination on what the OAHN for the Borough should be, he expressed doubt as to whether the Council's figure of 748 dwellings per annum is a sound starting point for the Examination. He has therefore invited the Council to consider revising this figure.

The Council responded to the Inspector on 12th January 2015, setting out an indicative timetable for the way forward including a period of further consultation on proposed changes to the Plan. The Council's Cabinet considered a report on revised housing numbers at a meeting on 27th January 2015, at which the officers' recommendations were approved. The Council then wrote to the Inspector on 5th February 2015 confirming that work is now underway to determine the housing supply requirement based on a figure of 850 dwellings per annum and to assess the sustainability and any constraints associated with this figure. It is intended that any proposed changes to the Plan will be considered by the Council's Cabinet at its meeting on 17th March 2015 and

by Full Council on 26th March 2015. These changes will then be subject to public consultation during May-June 2015.

The Inspector wrote to the Council on 12th February 2015 confirming that he was content with the proposed way forward and (subject to the outcome of Full Council on 26th March) setting a date for a Pre-Hearing Meeting to take place at **10.00am on Tuesday 21st July 2015**, at the Civic Offices, Basingstoke. At the Pre-Hearing Meeting, the Inspector will review progress to date on the Examination, confirm the start date for the public hearings and set out the indicative hearings programme, the draft list of Matters, Issues and Questions, the timescale for submission of further written statements by respondents and other procedural matters. The Pre-Hearing Meeting will be open to the public to observe but those who have asked to speak at the hearings are particularly encouraged to attend.

In line with the Council's proposed way forward, the provisional dates for the public hearings to take place are during the weeks commencing 5th October, 12th October and 19th October and the weeks commencing 2nd November, 9th November and 16th November 2015. Please note that these dates are only provisional at this stage – the precise dates and indicative programme will be confirmed at the Pre-Hearing Meeting.

All of the documents referred to in this letter have been placed in the Examination Library and may be viewed via the link on the Examination website www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/Localplanexamination and in paper copy at the Civic Offices, Basingstoke (see address above). In addition, the website has links to useful background information on the examination of Local Plans, including 'Examining Local Plans: Procedural Practice (December 2013)', published by the Planning Inspectorate (http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/pins/dpd_procedure_guide.pdf).

Please keep an eye on the Examination website for updates on progress over the next six months, including details of the Council's public consultation on proposed changes to the Plan in May/June. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the Examination or its procedures, please do not hesitate to contact me using the contact details set out at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Katharine Makant

Mrs Katharine Makant
Programme Officer