

Independent Examination of the Purbeck Local Plan (2018-2034)

Inspectors' requests following the further hearing session relating to Policies I5 and V2 (Morden Park) on 19 July 2022

Further to our previous letters dated 24 June 2022, 19 April 2022 and 4 April 2022 and hearing discussions on 19 July 2022, we have the following comments to make and associated requests at this stage:

Nutrient pollution of habitat sites

We again note that the Council are undertaking further work following the Chief Planning Officer letter and Written Ministerial Statement dated 16 March 2022 on the issue of nutrient pollution. We also understand that there are ongoing discussions between the Council and Natural England (NE) regarding the implications of the current nutrient neutrality advice. As per our previous correspondence, we reaffirm that it would be helpful to us if the Council and NE could prepare a short Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) addressing the current situation and taking account of recent Government announcements on the matter.

With regard to the above, we request that the SoCG is also supplemented by a Council technical paper addressing any implications for the Plan, whilst setting out whether there would be a need for further changes to policies, main modifications or further main modifications previously consulted upon, the Habitats Regulations Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal. As part of the technical paper, we would particularly ask the Council to consider the implications for delivery of housing and employment land (including any updates to local housing need calculations and housing land supply should they be necessary).

Further hearing session relating to Policies I5 and V2 (Morden Park)

It is necessary that we now await the outcome of the Council's further work on the nutrient pollution of habitat sites, to allow its consideration alongside the contributions made by participants during the further hearing session and the previous representations made to the proposed main modifications and further main modifications consultations. Following receipt of the SoCG and the Council's associated technical paper; we will endeavour to set out our interim views, including on Policies I5 and V2, together with the potential next steps of the examination.

Local Development Scheme (LDS)

Based upon participants contributions during the hearing session on 19 July 2022, it is apparent that the LDS (SD60) is now somewhat dated. We, therefore, would welcome confirmation from the Council whether there is an intention to update the LDS with respect to the timescales of the current examination process and the anticipated preparation stages of the Dorset Local Plan.

Action Requested

Please prioritise the work on the SoCG and the Council's associated technical paper as a matter of urgency and inform us of the expected timescale for the completion of that requested work by not later than **Friday 2 September 2022**.

If there are any procedural or other questions arising from this correspondence, the Council should contact us via the Programme Officer in the first instance. We are not inviting, nor envisage accepting, any comments or additional evidence from other examination participants at this stage.

Susan Heywood

INSPECTOR

Gareth Wildgoose

INSPECTOR

19 August 2022