

## **Examination of the Purbeck Local Plan (2018-2034)**

In my letter of 10 June 2021 detailing the information necessary for me to consider the potential for further Main Modifications (FMMs) to policies V2 and I5 of the Purbeck Local Plan I suggested that the process of preparing, consulting and, if necessary, holding further hearing sessions to examine the evidence base on proposed FMMs was likely to be somewhat lengthy and, as a result, I expressed concern that there was the risk that the evidence base relating to other parts of the Plan will become increasingly out of date.

In response, in its letter dated 24 June 2021, the Council indicated that it believed the evidence underpinning the Purbeck Local Plan was sufficiently up to date to enable the Plan to proceed to adoption and it set out the key pieces of evidence with a commentary on their status.

In relation to housing land supply and specifically five-year housing land supply, the Council indicated that the five-year housing land supply position was updated for the Main Modifications (MMs) consultation undertaken in 2020 and reflected the 5-year period from 2020 to 2025. It also indicated that it was, only at that time, processing housing completions data for the 2020/21 year and that the 2021 housing delivery test results, due to be published in November, are also needed to update the five-year housing land supply position.

I am mindful that it is now late October, almost 4 months since the correspondence referred to above, and the evidence to support further Main Modifications to policies V2 and I5 is still to be finalised and consulted upon.

The five-year housing land supply report which accompanied the consultation on the MMs, along with the updated trajectory, were based on a then anticipated adoption date for the Plan of 2020. However, due to the need for FMMs and the time taken to finalise these it would now seem likely that the five-year housing land supply report and trajectory will be almost two years out of date, given that the Purbeck Local Plan will likely not now be adopted until 2022.

The Council has indicated that it wishes to confirm its five-year housing land supply through the local plan examination process. However, based on the base date of the information currently available I consider that I do not have sufficient up to date evidence to enable me to reach a definitive conclusion on this matter.

If the Council were to submit further information to update the position on housing land supply to assist me in my consideration of this matter, this would be likely to cause further delay due to the need to update other documents including the supporting documentation for the proposed FMMs to policies V2 and I5 and the updated HRA and SA.

Further delay at this stage of the examination would not be desirable. Therefore, I would suggest that I proceed to prepare my report based on the housing land supply information already before me, albeit I would not be able to confirm a five-year housing land supply for the Purbeck area through the local examination process.

I would be grateful for the Council's view on me proceeding on this matter in the manner outlined above.

I would also request that the Council submits the outstanding documentation in support of the proposed FMMs to policies V2 and I5 and an indicative timescale for consultation as a matter of urgency.

*Beverley Doward*

INSPECTOR

22 October 2021