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Subject: FW: Council response on changes to planning practice guidance

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Subject: Council response on changes to planning practice guidance

Dear Helen,

During the hearings today the Inspector confirmed that she was expecting responses from participants in the first week of the hearings around recent changes to planning practice guidance (published after the hearings). I have confined the Council's comments to the issues discussed during the first week of the hearings, as the parties will have the opportunity of discussing other changes to planning practice guidance as they relate to other matters as they arise during the second week of the hearings. Please see the Council responses summarised in the table below:

Change to practice guidance	Council Comment
Appropriate Assessment	
When may appropriate assessment be required in the planning process? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 65-002-20190722)	N/A – the Council has undertaken an HRA (including an appropriate assessment) of the Purbeck Local Plan.
What must an appropriate assessment contain? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 65-003-20190722)	The Council has outlined how it intends to update its HRA (SD 89). The Council considers that its HRA has been carried out at an appropriate level of detail for plan making.
What are mitigation measures? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 65-004-20190722)	The Council is satisfied that there are appropriate mechanisms for securing mitigation to deal with the likely significant effects from the local plan.
What are the implications of the People over Wind Judgment for Habitats Regulations Assessments? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 65-005-20190722) What are the key principles which can be considered by competent authorities when considering whether appropriate assessment is required? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 65-006-20190722) Features that are integral to the design or physical characteristics of the project that is being assessed, for example, the layout, timing and location of a scheme, may be considered at the screening stage. (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 65-007-20190722)	The Council considers that its HRA addresses the matters raised in the updated planning practice guidance.
Green Belt	
What factors can be taken into account when considering the potential impact of development on the openness of the Green Belt?	The Council has taken account of the potential impacts of inappropriate development as part of its assessment of whether there are exceptional circumstances for changes to Green Belt

(Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 64-001-20190722)	boundaries – the Council does not consider that the updated guidance around assessing impact would have any materially significant effect on its conclusions.
How might plans set out ways in which the impact of removing land from the Green Belt can be offset by compensatory improvements? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 64-002-20190722).	The Council has suggested an amendment to Policy V2 (MM2) to refer to SANGs as compensation for changes to Green Belt Boundaries. The proposals for Morden Holiday Park involve a package of environmental improvements– the Council has taken this provision into consideration as a compensatory improvement as part of the process of considering changes to Green Belt boundaries.
How can the strategic policy-making authority ensure that compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of the Green Belt will be secured? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 64-003-20190722).	Taking account of land ownership, and the scope/nature of improvements, Council is confident that compensatory measures can be secured through planning obligations (as with other SANG) and conditions.
Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal	
What is the difference between sustainability appraisal, strategic environmental assessment and other forms of assessment? 'A plan or project may also require an appropriate assessment, as set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), if it is considered likely to have significant effects on a habitats site. A sustainability appraisal should take account of the findings of an appropriate assessment, if one is undertaken.' (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 11-003-20190722)	Should the Inspector find the plan sound subject to modifications, the Council will update its sustainability appraisal to take account of the findings of the appropriate assessment in the HRA in accordance with new practice guidance.

If you have any further questions relating to this e-mail please don't hesitate to contact me on 01929557385.

Yours sincerely

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