



Clara Kerr
Planning Services Manager (Policy)
Huntingdonshire District Council

Our Ref:

PINS/H0520/429/9

Date:

15 May 2018

Dear Ms Kerr,

Examination of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan:

- 1- Habitats Regulations Assessment and the judgement of the Court of Justice of the European Union issued on 12 April 2018 (Case C-323/17)**
- 2- Policies Map**
- 3- Site profiles**

1. I have now undertaken my initial assessment of the Local Plan and as you know have produced a series of documents to guide the examination process. I set out below some issues that require early attention. It is likely that as the examination progresses there will be further requests for clarification and information.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

2. You will see that the Matters and Issues Paper includes questions in relation to the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). I wish to draw your attention to the above judgement of the Court of Justice of the European Union. I have attached a copy of the judgement for your information. The judgement deals with the issue of whether it is appropriate to take account of measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of a plan or project on a European site at the screening stage as part of the HRA. As you will see, the Court ruled that it is not appropriate.
3. As a first step you should consider whether the HRA report for the Local Plan is legally compliant in light of this judgement and in doing so to re-visit the screening assessment. If having done so, it is concluded that Appropriate Assessment of additional policies or proposals is required, this should be carried out. Consultation with Natural England would clearly also need to take place. I would be grateful if you could inform me of your proposed course of action and timescale when you have had time to consider the above.
4. I have raised questions in terms of Natural England's concerns with the HRA and the Council's response and intended action, if any. It would be appreciated if you could give early consideration to this matter and provide any further information or updates in advance of the deadline for submission of hearing statements.

Policies Map

5. The boundary for the site allocation HU1 at Ermine Street, Huntingdon shown on page 149 of the Local Plan does not correspond with that shown on the Policies Map. Can

you confirm the correct boundary. Can you also confirm the boundary for the Hinchingsbrooke Country Park Extension (HU10) which is unclear when comparing the map on page 167 of the Local Plan with the Policies Map.

6. Could you provide a zoomed in section of the Policies Map which includes Brampton and shows clearly all of the site allocations there and zoomed in sections showing Buckden and Fenstanton and each of the Local Service Centres.
7. It would also be helpful to have sections of the Policies Map at an appropriate scale to show clearly the boundaries of the Town Centres, Primary Shopping Areas and Primary Shopping Frontages.

Site profiles

8. I have found it extremely useful in other examinations to have profiles for each of the site allocations and would be grateful if you could provide them in this case. Typically this can be a single A4 page for each site with key information including site area, amount of development proposed, up to date planning status in terms of applications, permissions and completions, current/past use, any key constraints/infrastructure issues and estimated timescale/rate of delivery along with any other key information. This should be accompanied by an A4 map showing clearly the site boundary and immediate surroundings.
9. I would appreciate it if you could provide a response and information in relation to the issues concerning the HRA and Policies Map by 25 May or sooner if possible and the site profiles by 1 June.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Ward

INSPECTOR