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EBC13

Your Ref: INS10
Our Ref: EBC16
Date: 22/11/2024

Dear Inspector

Re: Examination of the Erewash Core Strategy Review

Thank you for your letter of 5 November 2024 (INS10), the detail and content of which has been very helpful. We are grateful that you are continuing to give us the opportunity to demonstrate the soundness of our submitted Core Strategy Review, and we reiterate our commitment as a council to work towards that end.

We note your concerns about our submitted project plan (EBC15). We want to give you assurance that we do understand the work required, the timescales involved and the necessary evidence we need to produce for you to judge the soundness of the Core Strategy Review.

Taking your feedback on board, please therefore find enclosed with this letter a substantially amended project plan that we believe addresses the issues you raise. The project plan includes the following:

- A more comprehensive list of workstreams, and a more detailed list of tasks associated with each workstream. This enables you to see more clearly the scope of each workstream, the tasks involved, and the sequencing of them;
- A separate Workstream 2 (Acorn Way Transport Evidence) to indicate how engagement with Derby City Highways Authority is being sought.
- A separate Workstream 3 (Research Infrastructure Requirements) to show how engagement with other infrastructure providers will be sought.
- Additional steps to Workstream 8 (Green Belt Review) to indicate how engagement with neighbouring HMAs on both the methodology and conclusions of this work will be sought;
- A new Workstream 11 (Seek Council Approval) to establish a mandate for any changes proposed to the Core Strategy Review, including new allocations;

- A new Workstream 12 (Public Consultation) to enable all stakeholders to engage with the proposed changes;
- A suggested new Workstream 14 (Hearings) to outline your potential hearing programme, and;
- Milestones added to the end of each workstream to enable tracking and monthly reporting. These are denoted by “MS” and shown in Blue;

For completeness, we have listed below where the workstreams in para 4.2 of your letter are covered in our plan:

- Undertaking a systematic evaluation of the Erewash Green Belt – Workstream 8.
- Assessing the impact of all existing and potential new site allocations on the Green Belt within the Borough – Workstream 9.
- Identifying sufficient, additional housing sites to achieve a 5 year housing land supply at the point of adoption and meeting the housing requirement of the whole plan period – Workstream 9.
- Identifying the infrastructure implications of additional site allocations – Workstream 10.
- Undertaking additional sustainability appraisal work, including appraising all potential new housing sites – Workstream 7.
- Producing an updated housing trajectory with sufficient evidence to enable proper testing of all the different elements that are expected to make up the housing land supply – Workstream 1.
- Additional previously identified work including work related to the settlement hierarchy and growth strategy, additional transport evidence to support an existing housing allocation and additional evidence to support Strategic Policy 5 – Workstreams 10, 2, and 4 respectively.
- How and when there will be engagement with different stakeholders, interested parties and Members – Workstreams 2, 3, 8 and 11.

Finally, you will note that the revised workplan now extends to 14 August 2025. This is clearly longer than the 6 months indicated in the letter of 30 July 2024 from the Minister of State to the Planning Inspectorate. Nevertheless, we believe this timescale is realistic and will allow us to produce the necessary information to evidence soundness of the Plan. We also consider that this is still the fastest route to enabling much needed development in Erewash, which is the ultimate aim of the Minister.

The submitted programme includes a record of work completed to date. Further progress reports will be submitted at the end of each month.

Yours sincerely



Steve Birkinshaw, Head of Planning and Regeneration