

c/o Kerry Trueman
Programme Officer
Sent via email

Our ref: HDC01
Your ref: ID01

Date: 9th September 2024

Dear Mr Fleming,

Re: Examination of the Horsham District Plan 2023-2040 Preliminary Matters

Thank you for your letter dated 23 August 2024. My team and I have carefully considered its content. Our response to the points you raise is set out below.

Evidence and duration of the Examination

It is fully understood and appreciated that there is a need to publish documents for the evidence base that have not yet been provided as soon as possible. You have rightly asked for a clear timeline for their completion.

I therefore provide a list of documents that were identified as outstanding at the point of submission, together with a date by which the document will be published or a confirmation that this is now available. For information and the avoidance of doubt a brief explanation as to the reasons as to why the documents remain outstanding (where applicable) is also provided.

Table 1 – Schedule of publication dates for outstanding evidence documents

Ref	Title	Publish on/by	Commentary
SD09	Habitats Regulation Assessment Air Quality Addendum Appendix B: Air Quality Impact Trajectory Horsham Local Plan Air Quality Modelling - Sensitivity Test	13 Sept 2024	There has been a need to engage with Natural England on this document which has required the additional time post submission.
SD10	Habitat Regulations Assessment Air Quality Mitigation Strategy	13 September 2024	There has been a need to engage with Natural England on this document which has required additional time which has required the additional time post submission.
CC04	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Update	20 Sep 2024	Awaiting clarification from consultants prior to study finalisation.
H06	Horsham Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Targeted Update	Now published	This has now been provided and is available as H06 in the Examination documents.

There is one document for which we do not yet know the publication date. This is shown in the table overleaf with an explanation.

Table 2 – Documents for which publication date not yet known

Ref	Title	Publish on/by	Reason for delay and actions necessary
DC09	Waverley Borough Council Statement of Common Ground	tbc	A final draft is with Waverley Borough Council. They have stated that they are unable to sign document as they are themselves awaiting for information from Surrey County Council on highways matters. No timetable for doing so has been given. HDC is chasing frequently for a resolution, but as it is a joint statement reliant on third party sign-off, it is not possible to provide a timescale.

In light of the uncertain timescales outlined above and Horsham District Council’s limited control over this matter, we would be very happy to provide you with further information / detail on discussions with Waverley Borough Council in order to ensure that your examination of the Plan is not unnecessarily delayed.

Housing Land Supply

As per your request, we are in the process of finalising a Housing Supply Topic Paper. This will set out how the supply has been calculated and will update housing completion figures to provide a more up-to-date picture with an effective baseline of 2023/24. We propose to set out the information requested in Appendix 1 to your letter in spreadsheet form.

You have also requested analysis of the total supply over the Plan period. Whilst the Housing Topic Paper will deal with the numerical calculations and consider site-specific issues with supply, it is felt that a more strategic analysis of housing growth, in the context of the spatial strategy and water neutrality, would be helpful. This would also put into context issues of undersupply in very recent years (again, in the context of water neutrality). We therefore propose to produce a Spatial Strategy Topic Paper. For completeness, this would additionally cover consideration of alternative strategies, link to the Sustainability Appraisal, and explain the approach taken to strategically allocating land for housing growth.

Our proposed timeline for this work is set out below:

Table 3 – Schedule for further evidence

Spatial Strategy Topic Paper	13 Sep 2024
Housing Topic Paper	30 Sep 2024

We hope this provides sufficient information for the examination to proceed. However if there is any further information, please do let us know via the Programme Officer.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Howe

Head of Strategic Planning,
Horsham District Council