The Planning Inspectorate

Horsham District Local Plan 2023-2040

Examination Inspector: L Fleming BSc (Hons) MRTPI IHBC

Programme Officer: K Trueman programmeofficer@horsham.gov.uk

Examination Webpage:

https://www.horsham.gov.uk/planning/local-plan/local-plan-examination

Ms C Howe
Horsham District Council
Parkside
Chart Way
Horsham
West Sussex
RH12 1RL

16 December 2024

Dear Ms Howe,

Horsham Local Plan 2023-2040 Examination

1. The first week of hearing sessions for the examination were held between 10 and 12 December 2024. Over these three days I heard a great deal of evidence on a number of strategic matters and legal compliance.

2. I would like to thank the Council for the way in which it facilitated the hearing sessions. I would also like to thank the Council and all other participants for their helpful contributions over these three days.

3. However, as I indicated I would on the 12 December 2024, I am writing now because I have significant concerns about the soundness and legal compliance of the Plan in respect of a number of areas. I will set these out in detail in a separate letter as soon as I possibly can.

4. There are further hearings arranged in the weeks commencing 16 December, 13 January and 20 January. However, given the seriousness of my concerns I consider that it would not be efficient to hold these hearings. I have therefore asked Kerry Trueman, the Programme Officer, to cancel them and to notify those registered to attend.

5. As I outlined at the hearings already undertaken, I understand how much work has gone into preparing the Local Plan. I also fully recognise how important it is for the Council to be able to move forward to get an up to date Local Plan in place and I know the Council will be disappointed with the content of this letter.

However, I can assure you that I have only come to this view following a great deal of thought and after hearing all the evidence from both the Council and representors.

6. I am not inviting responses to this letter from the Council or representors.

L Fleming

INSPECTOR