

Planning Policy Team
Eastleigh Borough Council
Eastleigh House
Eastleigh
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SO50 9YN

21st July 2021

Dear Planning Policy Team

Eastleigh Local Plan 2016-2036 Main Modifications Consultation

Thank you for consulting the South Downs National Park Authority on your Main Modifications to the Eastleigh Local Plan.

The SDNPA and all relevant authorities, including Eastleigh Borough Council, are required to have regard to the purposes of the South Downs National Park as set out in Section 62 of the Environment Act 1995. The purposes are ‘to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area’ and ‘to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the national park by the public.’

The change proposed through MM6 to include reference to the South Downs National Park and its purposes is supported. The changes proposed through MM6 and MM41 to include reference to the status of the South Downs National Park as an International Dark Skies Reserve is also supported.

We note the deletion of the Strategic Growth Option (Bishopstoke, Fair Oak) set out through several of the proposed Main Modifications that responds to the advice of the Inspector set out in ED71 *Inspectors Post Hearing Advice Letter* April 2020, including comments on the effects of traffic on the South Downs National Park in paragraphs 23-25. We also note the additions proposed to the Plan through MM10 and MM11 that state Eastleigh Borough Council will commence an update of this Local Plan within one year of its adoption. We would welcome the opportunity to work with Eastleigh Borough Council on the update to the Local Plan on matters related to the purposes of the South Downs National Park and its Special Qualities, including impacts the rural character of the roads of the National Park.

We would like to wish you well in the progression of your Local Plan. If you have any questions on the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

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