

Guidance to respondents on the Local Plan Main Modifications consultation

The Eastleigh Borough Local Plan is undergoing an independent examination following its submission to Government in October 2018. The purpose of the examination is to assess whether the Local Plan has been prepared in accordance with the relevant legal requirement and if the plan is sound, based on criteria set out in the national planning policy.

The Council is currently consulting on a number of Main Modifications required to make the Plan sound in the light of issues identified during the examination. This is without prejudice to the Inspector's ultimate conclusions and recommendations on the Plan. The Main Modifications set out a series of changes required to resolve issues that make the Local Plan unsound or where it is not legally compliant.

The consultation is from **9 June – 21 July 2021**

The Council is seeking views on the modifications put forward to the submission Local Plan. These are illustrated in the modifications to the policies map document. The Main Modifications proposed have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal and assessment under the Habitats Regulations. You can comment on the Sustainability Appraisal Addendum and the Revised Habitats Regulations Assessment as part of this consultation.

Legal Compliance and soundness

The Inspector is assessing whether the proposed modifications to the Local Plan meet all the legal and procedural requirements and whether the Local Plan is 'sound'. The assessment of legal compliance considers the way that modifications have been prepared. Modifications which are legally compliant have been prepared in line with the statutory regulations and meet the legal requirements such as the production of Sustainability Appraisals.

The assessment of the soundness of modifications considers their content and if they meet the four tests in paragraph 182 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012. In order to meet these tests, plans should be:

- Positively prepared – the plan should be prepared based on a strategy that seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development;
- Justified – the plan should be the most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence;
- Effective – the plan should be deliverable over its plan period and based on effective joint working on cross- boundary strategic priorities; and
- Consistent with national policy – the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with policies in the National Planning Policy Framework.

How to comment

It is recommended that representations are made online using the Council's online consultation system at <https://eastleighboroughcouncil.citizenspace.com>.

Representations can also be made by email to Local.Plan@eastleigh.gov.uk or by post to: Local Plan, Eastleigh Borough Council, Eastleigh House, Upper Market Street, Eastleigh, SO50 9YN. Alternatively a response form is also available online at <http://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/localplan2016-2036>. It can be completed electronically or as a paper copy.

Please clearly state the document and Main Modification, policy or paragraph that the comments relate to. If you are responding on more than one modification or document please complete a separate comment section for each one. It would be helpful if you could put forward revised wording to address your concerns.

Please note that the consultation is limited to the Main Modifications and comments on other parts of the Local Plan will not be considered. We are unable to accept anonymous representations and the name of respondents and the representations made will be made available on the Council's website. Personal information such as telephone numbers, addresses, and email addresses will not be published.

Additional Modifications

In addition to the Main Modifications, the Council is publishing a schedule of proposed Additional Modifications to the Local Plan. These are minor changes not required to make the plan sound and include updates, changes for consistency and clarity and corrections. These are not part of the formal Local Plan examination and the Council will consider any comments received on these modifications.

Next steps

Following the end of the consultation, the Council will collate the representations received and send them to the Inspector along with the Council's response. The Inspector will consider the comments and the responses before she finalises the examination report and schedule of recommended main modifications.