

To Inspectors Kevin Ward and K Ford
c/o Programme Officer



**ECONOMY & INFRASTRUCTURE
DIRECTORATE**
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By email only.

Please ask for: Gary Palmer

Date: 8th May 2024

Dear sir/madam

SOLIHULL LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION

1. Further to the Council's letter dated 14th February 2024 I write with additional thoughts on potential arrangements regarding the resumption of the examination.
2. The Council remains committed to having an adopted plan in place as soon as possible, but as previously stated, it is not willing to seek to identify further Green Belt releases.
3. However, it would welcome the opportunity to explore with the Inspectors what pragmatic alternatives may be available to work towards finding the plan sound. This is on the basis that significant, positive progress in examining the plan has already been made.
4. Since the examination was paused it may be helpful to update the Inspectors on several matters that may help to identify an appropriate way forward. The updates could include:
 - a. An updated land supply position – whilst this is not expected to bridge the gap in the land supply as a result of a reduced contribution from the NEC, it does indicate that the shortfall is less severe.
 - b. An update on the Development Management activity regarding site allocations, this includes:
 - i. 14 planning applications submitted in relation to 10 of the allocated sites which include proposals for over 3,500 dwellings.
 - ii. 8 pre-application submissions in relation to 7 of the other allocated sites, which include proposals for over 2,220 dwellings.
 - iii. Through a Cabinet report in July 2023, the Council set out a positive approach to dealing with such submissions.
 - c. An update on duty to co-operate matters. Whilst you have confirmed (letter dated 11th February 2022) *“that the Council has complied with the duty to co-*

operate in the preparation of the Local Plan”, it may be useful to provide an update on other HMA LPA plan making activities.

- d. An update on discussions with Birmingham City Council regarding this Council’s contribution towards the un-met needs arising out of the Birmingham Development Plan (2017). In particular, what scope there is to re-profile when the 2,000 contribution needs to be provided by.
5. In connection with the preceding point, there may be more scope to include a policy in the plan through main modifications that sets out how the Council would approach the need to review the plan in a timely manner.
6. The Council hopes that the above matters provide helpful suggestions in seeking to identify appropriate arrangements for the resumption of the examination.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Palmer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Palmer
Group Manager – Policy & Engagement
Growth & Development