

Dear Elizabeth Brigden,

We write at this early stage of the examination, via this email, to introduce ourselves as the appointed Inspectors. We are pleased that the Council has engaged Charlotte Glancy (of Banks Solutions) as the Programme Officer for the examination, and we are constructively working with Charlotte to move the examination forward as expediently as possible. As part of that process, we understand that the Council is providing its assessment against the latest set of representations received in June 2023. It would assist us if that assessment were provided in the policy order of the submitted Plan. We note that the Council has submitted a schedule of suggested modifications, which it considers are minor changes for clarification and factual purposes [CBLP/07]. It would be helpful to us if the Council can advise through Charlotte when it is likely to submit its assessment / commentary against the May/June 2023 Reg 19 representations.

There have been several consultations on a proposed submission plan for Crawley under Regulation 19. For the avoidance of doubt, we are treating the May 2023 document as 'the submitted plan' [CBLP/01]. If any main modifications are considered necessary for soundness, they would be modifications to this Plan. In assessing representations our focus has been on the 2023 representations submitted under the latest Regulation 19 exercise.

#### Duty to Cooperate Material

The Duty to Cooperate Statement July 2023 outlines at Appendix J the various bodies the Council formally wrote to in April 2023. Appendix K provides the responses from those local authorities that provided a formal response. Appendix J states that other informal / technical responses were received (including from Mid Sussex District Council and various prescribed bodies under the Duty). We have not been able to locate these other responses. If they have been published, we would be grateful to be directed to where we can find them. Alternatively, if they have not been provided it would assist the examination if they can be submitted as an examination document / bundle for completeness.

#### Additional Evidence

On plan submission at the end of July, the Council identified that there are some areas of ongoing evidence base that are likely to be the subject of further updates during the course of the examination.

These include: Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (update), the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment (update), Water Neutrality Offsetting Implementation Scheme and update to Delivery Programme, Transport Modelling Assessment Sensitivity Testing and ongoing engagement with National Highways including a Circular 01/22 Checklist.

We would welcome an update on progress on these aspects of the evidence base, which we understand will add to existing evidence already submitted. If there are known/intended dates for this work to be completed and submitted into the examination, it would be helpful if those timeframes could be shared with us. The Council's response on this matter will assist in when we timetable relevant hearing sessions, including how and when we give those with an interest in this updated evidence an opportunity to respond to it, in the interests of procedural fairness.

### Moving Forward

We are mindful that a concurrent application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) in respect of the north runway project at Gatwick Airport was accepted by the Planning Inspectorate in early August 2023. We will ensure that the timetabling of the Local Plan examination is sensitive to the fact that the Council and others will need to simultaneously engage staff resources into the DCO process. With that in mind, it is our current expectation to hold some hearings later this year and potentially for further hearings early in the new year. The timing of the latter will require careful coordination with the timing of any preliminary meeting(s) for the DCO examination.

We are pleased that the examination website is well-organised and that the Council has provided various topic papers on key matters, and we are encouraged by the constructive initial communication between the programme officer and yourselves. Now the examination is under way, the examination webpages are the responsibility of the examination through us as the Inspectors. As such, we will need to authorise any further updates or additions to the examination website to ensure that only material that we have sanctioned or requested is published. We will work closely and efficiently with Charlotte to approve updates to the website and look forward to the Council's assistance on this matter.

We look forward to hearing from you in response to the points identified above as soon as possible and ideally by no later than the end of the month. If you have any queries or seek clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us via Charlotte.

David Spencer   Glen Rollings

Examining Inspectors.

20 September 2023

[Please take a moment to review the \*\*Planning Inspectorate's Privacy Notice\*\* which can be accessed by clicking this link.](#)