

Mr R V Perry

BY HAND

1st April 2015.

Mrs. S. Hall,
Programme Officer,
Examination of the Gosport Borough Local Plan
2011-2029,
Town Hall,
Gosport,
PO12 1EB

Ref.: REP 7

Dear Mrs Hall,
Gosport Borough Local Plan Examination -
Inspector's additional questions

Thank you for your letter of 24th March
and attachments.

On page 3 of your GBC4, Q4 totally
fails to comprehend the actuality of behaviour
of Portsmouth City Council, and the reality
of the local political scene.

Page 3 includes the words 'The SHMA
identifies that Gosport fits within the wider
Portsmouth Housing Market Area (HMA). Gosport
is not a separate housing market in itself
so arguably does not have an entirely
distinct district housing need.

However, to the extent that there can be
an objectively assessed housing need specifically
for Gosport, if environmental/infrastructure
considerations indicate that this cannot be

fully met within Gosport, the intention is that the South Hampshire Strategy will in effect reallocate this to other districts?

Justly, Gosport is a separate housing market in itself, Gosport Borough Council documents of 2 years ago admitting that, compared to national figures, 6 times the national average in Gosport applied for Council housing as their 1st housing choice (and in many instances their only housing choice). I cannot understand how representatives of Gosport Borough Council could now undermine the previously professed concern for Gosport residents (and acknowledgement of local reality) even allowing for the recent cosmetic improvement of cuts to the Council's waiting list categories.

The proposed words within my quotes then mention other authorities taking on Gosport applicants for housing, which in itself is likely to cause isolation and inconvenience to tenants unable to travel to relatives and friends still in Gosport. The documents ignore the very expensive local forms of public transport. The suggestion of moving relatively poor Gosport residents elsewhere is not feasible, but I suspect here a reincarnation of Dame Shirley Porter's antics at Westminster of dumping the poor elsewhere so that vacant sites in Gosport can be given to wealthier new residents. I am appalled that the Local Plan Process has been contaminated

by such considerations.

The local political scene however also means that the documents fail to take account of Portsmouth City Council's behaviour. At the PCC meeting of 20/1/2015 (which I watched from the Public Gallery), the leader of PCC admitted or claimed that Portsmouth could not meet its own housing needs, and this was a major factor in its support for a unitary large Council with Southampton, involving the disappearance of Gosport Borough Council etc. Portsmouth would therefore look at Gosport's land to help resolve its own housing needs. In the circumstances, the wording proposed in the document is ludicrous, and ignores Portsmouth's history of exporting its problems elsewhere, particularly after the former Havant Rural District Council was reduced in size ~~for~~ in 1934, and more recently with Leigh Park.

Accordingly, as a matter of urgency, your proposals must be actively reconsidered. If the combined Portsmouth/Southampton Authority comes about, the Local Plan documents will become obsolete overnight, for areas adjacent to Portsmouth & Southampton will have to take on their problems.

Would you please confirm that the Inspector will take into consideration my representations, and that these representations will be reported to committee before final decisions are made on the Local Plan.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R V Perry