

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Jayson Grygiel
Manager of Planning Policy
Planning and Regeneration Services

Head of Planning Strategy and
Economic Development
Gayle Wootton

By email only
[REDACTED]

Contact: Gayle Wootton

Ext.: [REDACTED]

Date: 3 December 2021

Dear Jayson,

Gosport Borough Council 2038 Local Plan Public Consultation

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Regulation 18 Gosport Local Plan. In line with the Duty to Cooperate, Fareham Borough Council (the Council) is pleased to see the emergence of the draft plan. The comments provided in this response are those that relate to cross boundary, strategic matters on which the Council is keen to continue the collaborative working relationship the two authorities have maintained over recent years. Recognising the comments that Gosport Borough Council have made as the Council has prepared its emerging Local Plan, it welcomes the Statement of Common Ground, recently agreed, which will no doubt assist with the plan's examination. The issues covered by this response are addressed in that document and some of which are the subject of agreed further work by the two Councils.

Housing Need

The Council notes the reference to Gosport being unable to meet their housing requirement, using the standard methodology, and that there is a predicted shortfall of approximately 2,000 dwellings over the plan period (2021 – 2038). The Council notes the statement within the consultation document that there has been no request for a single authority to meet the unmet need for Gosport and that the method for addressing this unmet need is the update to the Joint Strategy from the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH). This cautious approach to unmet need is welcome and this Council is supportive of the work underway to devise a new Joint Strategy for the sub-region.

As you will be aware, this Council and the authorities in PfSH have signed a statement of common ground in relation to Fareham's submitted Local Plan stating that should the Joint Strategy work identify any potential development sites for Fareham to consider, this is a matter for a future Local Plan, and not the Local Plan currently at examination. Given the Council's desire to move forward with its plan to establish a five year housing land supply and updated development strategy for the Borough, it is not in a position to consider additional unmet need contributions.

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Employment and Daedalus

The Council supports the approach towards Gosport's employment requirement and in particular the allocation policies as they relate to Daedalus, an important cross-boundary site. It is noted that the employment supply for the Borough is an increase on the PfSH requirement set out in the Economic, Employment and Commercial Needs Study (March 21¹).

Transport

The Council supports the objective of reducing out-commuting, congestion and car usage within the consultation document. Recent and ongoing road improvements within Fareham have a key role to play in reducing congestion, and employment centres such as Daedalus will contribute towards self-containment by providing employment opportunities within the peninsula. The Council is committed to delivering the Fareham Local Plan 2037 which supports improvements to strategic infrastructure to open up the peninsula through public transport and the major road network, as well as improvements to local connectivity through a focus on walking and cycling and maximising opportunities for sustainable modes of transport.

The Council is aware of the close links in transport terms between the two authorities, and the implications actions on one side of the boundary may have on the road network of the other. The submitted Local Plan is supported by a Transport Assessment (TA) that assesses the cumulative impact of the Local Plan allocations and, in line with the methodology agreed with the Highway Authority, includes growth from neighbouring authorities. This growth from neighbouring authorities is taken principally taken from adopted Local Plans but extrapolated using assumptions on further growth as a proxy for emerging plan preparation. This TA concludes that there are no unacceptable impacts identified nor mitigation required to junctions near or in the Gosport administrative boundary from proposed growth in the submitted Plan. This includes the Peel Common roundabout, Gosport Road or roads that lead into Stubbington.

Nonetheless, in order to assist with addressing the concerns raised by Gosport Borough Council on the submitted plan, this Council is committed to the further work identified in the Statement of Common Ground signed between the two authorities. The Council looks forward to working with you on this matter in the hope that it allows Gosport Borough Council to proceed with its plan preparation with confidence.

Strategic Gap/Green Infrastructure

The Council supports the references to the Fareham, Gosport, Lee-on-the-Solent and Stubbington Strategic Gap in Policy D3 of the Gosport Local Plan and on the Policies Map. It welcomes the reference in the consultation document to working in cooperation to reflect the character and function of the Gap.

The Council also supports the policies within the Local Plan that aim to deliver net gains for biodiversity and welcomes references to linking and strengthening Green Infrastructure and local ecological networks across the Borough boundaries. As referenced in the

¹ [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Partnership for South Hampshire \(PfSH\) Joint Committee, 22/03/2021 18:00 \(push.gov.uk\)](#)

Statement of Common Ground recently signed between the two authorities, the Council looks forward to jointly working to secure the future of the Strategic Gap and other elements of Green Infrastructure in our two Boroughs through the forthcoming PfSH Joint Strategy.

Working Together

The Council is keen to continue to work with Gosport Borough Council on cross boundary strategic planning issues in both the production of a review of the PfSH Joint Strategy and a future iteration of Statements of Common Ground to support both the Fareham Local Plan 2037 and the forthcoming Gosport Local Plan.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Gayle Wootton.

Gayle Wootton

Head of Planning Strategy and Economic Development