



# The Planning Inspectorate

## **Examination of the Fareham Local Plan 2037**

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Gayle Wootton  
Fareham Borough Council  
Civic Offices,  
Civic Way  
Fareham  
PO16 7AZ

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By email via the Programme Officer

Dear Mrs Wootton,

## **Examination of the Fareham Local Plan 2037**

### **Written Ministerial Statement on Nutrient Levels in River Basin Catchments - 16 March 2022**

I am writing to draw your attention to the above Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) issued recently by the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and updated advice from Natural England (NE).

Amongst other things, this signals changes in the approach to the assessment of development proposals in river catchments where water bodies form protected sites under the Habitats Regulations and are in unfavourable condition due to nutrient pollution.

The Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) (ISLP008) undertaken for the submitted Local Plan concluded that there was potential for likely significant effects to the Solent European designated sites. Appendix 3 of the HRA calculates the nutrient budget for the Local Plan and sets out nutrient mitigation schemes which the HRA concludes will provide adequate capacity to mitigate the level of development put forward in the Plan. Taking account of mitigation measures, the Appropriate Assessment concludes that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the designated sites from implementation of the Local Plan, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

I have not seen the updated advice from Natural England (NE), so do not yet know whether this changes the conclusions of the HRA. I would therefore be grateful if the Council could advise whether the WMS and NE's updated advice have any implications for proposals and policies in the submitted Fareham Local Plan, particularly in respect of the delivery of housing and employment land. In addition, if any further mitigation is required, would this necessitate any changes to the Plan.

I assume the Council will be in contact with NE and seek their views before responding. The Council may consider it appropriate to revise the agreed Statement of Common Ground with NE to deal with this matter.

On receipt of this letter, please could the Council upload it to the Examination Library. If there are any queries, please contact me through the Programme Officer.

Yours sincerely,

*Helen Hockenhull*

**Inspector**