

[REDACTED]

Dear Emma

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Fareham Borough Council Draft Local Plan Consultation after the consultation has closed. [REDACTED]

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Highways England has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as a strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the strategic road network (SRN). The SRN is a critical national asset and as such, Highways England works to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity. In this case Highways England's interests relate to the potential impact of development on the M27.

Overall, in accordance with national policy, we look to Fareham to promote strategies, policies and land allocations that will support alternatives to the car and the operation of a safe and reliable transport network. We would be concerned if any material increase in traffic were to occur on the SRN because of planned growth within the Fareham borough, without careful consideration of mitigation measures. It is important that the Local Plan provides the planning policy framework to ensure development cannot progress without the appropriate infrastructure in place.

When considering proposals for growth, any impacts on the SRN will need to be identified and mitigated as far as reasonably possible. We will support a local authority proposal that considers sustainable measures, which manage down demand and reduce the need to travel. Infrastructure improvements on the SRN should only be considered as a last resort. Proposed new growth will need to be considered in the context of the cumulative impact from already proposed development on the M27.

I reviewed the Local Plan and the supporting evidence base, although due to the timescales available this has not been a comprehensive review. It is noted that the focus of the consultation is for proposals within Fareham not including the allocations at Welborne. As you will know work is continuing to develop options and to understand the impacts from planned growth at Welborne including the delivery of an improved M27 Junction 10 which is the preferred option identified in the Welborne Plan. The outcome of this work will inform the level of growth that can be accommodated on the strategic and local road networks from Fareham Borough and beyond. From the information provided there have been no showstoppers identified but depending on the outcome of M27 J10 work, some local plan proposals and policies may need to be reviewed to ensure they are still sound. We are supportive of policy INF2 (particularly (e)), which will ensure that development does not come forward in advance of the required mitigation/infrastructure.

In advance of the forthcoming Regulation 19 Consultation we would welcome the opportunity to meet with Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire County Council to discuss next steps in the development of the Local Plan. This would likely involve a detailed review of the transport evidence base produced to date. This work will form a key piece of evidence to demonstrate the Local Plan is sound, therefore it is important that any identified mitigation has a reasonable prospect of delivery within the timescales of when the growth is planned. Once the transport impacts of the Local Plan sites are understood and agreed, the IDP should set out any SRN mitigation required to deliver the Local Plan development.

For background, you may be interested to read "*The Strategic Road Network Planning for the Future*" which is a guide to working with Highways England on planning matters. Please see: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/461023/N150227_-

I hope this helpful and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards

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Fareham Borough Council is launching the first stage of consultation on the draft version of the Plan (Draft Fareham Local Plan 2036). This consultation is starting on **Wednesday 25th October 2017 and will run until Friday 8th December 2017**. This consultation is part of the initial stages of plan production and is being carried out under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

The consultation on the Draft Local Plan will help inform how the Borough will develop up until 2036. The ultimate purpose of a Local Plan once adopted is to establish how much housing and land for employment will be needed and where it will go, alongside protecting and enhancing the environment and delivering infrastructure. There are further opportunities for comments as this Plan advances through to its final adoption stage, when it will fully replace the Adopted Borough Plan (excluding Welborne) and be used in the determination of planning applications. Further information on these consultation stages and our current timetable can be viewed on our website: <http://www.fareham.gov.uk/PDF/planning/LocalDevelopmentScheme2017.pdf>

The Draft Local Plan and all supporting documents and evidence can be viewed on our website: www.fareham.gov.uk/planning/localplanconsultation.aspx
From our website you will also be able to complete our comment forms (i.e. make representations). Hard (paper) copies of comments forms will also be made available, at the locations and times details below.

During this consultation paper copies of the Draft Local Plan, as well as the Habitats Regulation Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal, Policies Map and Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment will be made available for viewing at the locations and times below. If you would like to view any other supporting evidence, please call 01329 236100 and ask for the Planning Strategy Team, who will be able to make any documents available for viewing in the Civic Office reception, at the times detailed below.

Location	Opening Times
Fareham Borough Council Civic Offices, Civic Way Fareham PO16 7AZ	Monday to Thursday 8.45am to 5.15pm Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm
Fareham Library Osborn Road Fareham PO16 7EN	Monday, Thursday and Friday 9.30am to 7pm Tuesday and Wednesday 9.30am to 5pm Saturday 9.30am to 4pm
Portchester Library West Street Portchester PO16 9TX	Monday and Friday 10am to 1pm & 2pm-7pm Tuesday and Thursday 10am to 1pm & 2pm to 5pm Wednesday 10am to 1pm Saturday 9.30am to 1pm