

Inspectors Housden and Baugh- Jones  
c/o Ian Kemp

Southfield Road,  
Loughborough,  
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LE11 2TX

Date: 14 August 2023

Dear Inspector Housden and Inspector Baugh- Jones

### **Charnwood Local Plan Examination**

Thank you for your letter dated 23 May 2023 setting out the next steps for the Local Plan examination. I am writing to provide an update following the closure of the February hearing sessions.

Please see the enclosed note explaining the recent delays in the availability of evidence that has caused setback to the examination process.

Following the local elections on the 4 May 2023, a new administration was formed at the Borough Council. The new administration remains committed to progressing the draft Local Plan. This has been set out in a Position Statement by the Lead Cabinet Member for Planning to [Full Council on 19 June 2023](#) and the Cabinet also resolved on 13 July 2023 that they support the draft Local Plan to be progressed to a stage where Full Council can consider its adoption.

In your letter on the 23 May the following documents were identified to be subject to further consultation.

- The Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (Exam 57). This document is already within examination library as it was submitted as part of the February 2023 hearing sessions.
- The proposed approach to increasing land supply as set out in Exam 56. This document is already within the examination library as it was submitted as part of the February 2023 hearing sessions. I have enclosed an explanatory note setting out the changes to the housing supply data, contained within the report to reflect the latest housing supply position following the end of the 2022/23 monitoring year.
- Updated completions/housing land supply monitoring data 31.3.23. The updated housing trajectory is enclosed as part of this letter with an accompanying note which has been prepared to clarify the key changes to the housing trajectory since the submission of the Exam 58 in January 2023.



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In addition to the above evidence updates, the Council has commissioned a further viability report to incorporate EXAM 32 and 32a and to assess the viability implications of the increased school build costs and the indicative costs of the Transport Strategies submitted to the examination by Leicestershire County Council on 26 July 2023. Due to the delayed submission of information by the County Council, the updated viability assessment is due to be completed in early September 2023.

The Borough Council notes Leicestershire County Council's letter dated 26 July 2023 in relation to the Transport Strategies and recognises the County Council's concerns about the impact of growth in Charnwood; this shared concern has led to very positive collaborative work between officers over a long period of time including the preparation of joint responses to the examination hearings and work to develop an interim transport strategy for Charnwood. The Borough Council supports Leicestershire County Council in the implementation of the Interim Transport Contribution Strategy for Charnwood, to secure contributions where appropriate to do so from applicants, in order to mitigate the impact of growth on infrastructure ahead of the adoption of the plan.

As you will be entirely familiar with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) 2012 Regulations, you will understand that the Council may not lawfully adopt the interim strategy as either a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) or Development Plan Document (DPD) outwith their provisions.

The Borough Council is committed to continuing to work collaboratively with officers at the County Council to support the preparation and implementation of the Three Transport Strategies and in due course will consider whether the three Transport Strategies ought to be evolved into a DPD or SPD following the adoption of the Local Plan. We have sought to reassure the County Council and can share with you the correspondence if required.

Our focus is on progressing the Local Plan examination and with the agreement with yourselves, we plan to hold the four-week consultation on the above updated examination documents commencing in September, following the publication of the updated viability report. The consultation will be advertised and held on the examination pages of the Borough Council's website; consultees will be notified via the Programme Officer.

Yours sincerely

Richard Bennett  
Head of Planning and Growth