

Havant Borough Core Strategy : Original Representation & Inspectors' Questions

This further response relates to the Original Representation and the following Questions 1), 2) & 23) raised by the Inspector following the Pre-hearing meeting

**GENERAL**

**Spatial vision**

1. Does the CS present a clear spatial vision for the Borough, recognising its distinct qualities?

**Sustainable development**

2. Is the Core Strategy (CS) broadly compliant with national policy? Will the CS deliver sustainable development?

**CONSERVATION, LANDSCAPE AND COUNTRYSIDE**

23. Will policy in the CS be effective in protecting the Borough's environmental assets?

Further Response :

The above questions together with the original submission all imply that it is the CS that is the over-arching document that governs what is to be delivered for the Borough. The following Further Response seeks to strengthen the role of the CS by making this explicit such that where other key documents that the CS must rely on for the strategy to be implemented (such as the Development Delivery (Allocations) Plan and the SHLAA), any elements in such documents that undermine the overall provisions of the CS (for example, in protecting the Borough's environmental assets) will not be brought forward.

Hence the following proposal to add to section 1.03 of the CS :

(Note : the text shown in normal font below is the original text of the CS; the proposed addition is shown in italics for clarity here only; if accepted, the additional text is expected to be in the same font as the original)

-----  
1.03 The Core Strategy will be followed by a Development Delivery (Allocations) Plan that will detail where development will occur. In addition, a number of Supplementary Planning Documents will provide more information of how policy is to be applied in particular circumstances or on particular issues/sites. *However, the Core Strategy itself, taken as a whole, is the over-arching document which takes precedence over any supporting documents should any parts of such documents be inconsistent with the Core Strategy. This precedence shall apply but not be limited to documents such as the Development Delivery (Allocations) Plan and the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.*  
-----

Additional justification of above proposed additional text :

- D Hindley has a long background in contract preparation and project management of complex space technology projects. Such projects always contain very many associated substantive documents which form part of the overall requirements. It is quite often the case that such additional documents can give rise to conflicts or contradictions between the documents. Hence it has long been the practice to have a Precedence Statement in the over-arching contract that governs this situation and enables progress to be made without unintended consequences. Whilst the Core Strategy is in no way a contract in the legal sense, colloquially it does represent the "contract" between Borough Council and the residents on whose behalf the Core Strategy is to be implemented. Given the very considerable scrutiny that the CS is undergoing, it seems appropriate that residents should be reassured that in the years to come, it is this strategy that is always being followed.
  
- During informal discussion with Mr Andrew Biltcliffe (Havant Council) at the end of the Pre-Meeting, an impression was formed that Havant Council would not be opposed to a Precedent statement subject to satisfactory wording.