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South Downs
National Park Authority

08 September 2026

Planning Policy Team
Havant Borough Council

SENT BY EMAIL

Dear Planning Policy Team,

Re: Building a Better Future – Regulation 19 consultation of the Havant Local Plan.

Thank you for consulting the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) on the Regulation 19 version of the Havant Local Plan.

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 – as amended by Section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 – requires all relevant bodies (including Havant Borough Council [HBC]) to seek to further the following statutory purposes of the South Downs National Park:

1) To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage of the area; and
2) To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.

Maintaining Effective Cooperation / Duty to Cooperate

We support HBC's continued liaison with neighbouring authorities to ensure that cross-boundary strategic priorities are fully addressed. A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) was signed in March and April 2026 between the SDNPA and HBC setting out the authorities' strategic cross-boundary priorities and agreed positions.

Regulation 19 Public Consultation of the Havant Local Plan

The SDNPA has submitted its Regulation 19 representation (see overleaf) using the online representation form. In addition to the above and overleaf, we request the following minor modification in Policy 58b (Renewable Energy Infrastructure) – "... *to National Landscapes and* ***National*** *Parks by* ..." – for clarity.

We wish you well with the progression of your local plan.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Claire Tester MRTPI
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Policy 4 – Infrastructure and Environmental Mitigation to Support Development

Reg19 Question	SDNPA response
Do you consider the Local Plan is legally compliant?	Yes.
Do you consider the Local Plan is sound?	No – Not Effective.
Please given details of why you consider the Building a Better Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound. Please be as a precise as possible. If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Local Plan, please also use this box to set out your comments.	The maintenance and enhancement of green and blue infrastructure to safeguard green and blue connections and corridors from north to south between the protected landscapes of the South Downs National Park and Chichester Harbour National Landscape – and between Southleigh Forest and the undeveloped coast south of Warblington – is required in Allocations 1 (Southleigh) and Allocation 2 (Long Copse Lane), and needs to be included in Allocation 6 (Land east of Castle Avenue) – see additional comments below. For the above to be realised, we believe that support for north-south green and blue connections and corridors through Allocations 1, 2 and 6 – and clarity that such connections and corridors do not conflict with proposed access arrangements for Allocation 1 and vice versa - needs to be included in Policy 4.
Please set out the modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant and sound, in respect of any legal compliance or soundness matters you have identified above. You will need to say why each modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.	Amend Criteria (O) to: A new walking, cycling and public transport bridge over the railway connecting Southleigh (Allocation 1) directly with the Emsworth Road / A27 Warblington junction (exact requirements to be determined through transport assessment for the site) <u>which does not prejudice the maintenance, enhancement, and delivery of green and blue infrastructure, connections and corridors from north to south between the protected landscapes of the South Downs National Park and Chichester Harbour National Landscape.</u>