Havant
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Lee Smith
Head of Planning
Fareham Borough Council

Enquiries to: David Hayward
[redacted]

My reference:
Your reference:
Date: 10 September 2025

Dear Lee

RE: UPDATE FROM HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL REGARDING ASSISTANCE WITH UNMET HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT NEED UNDER THE DUTY TO COOPERATE

Thank you for meeting us to discuss unmet housing and employment need at our Duty to Cooperate meeting on the 7th June 2025, and your subsequent response dated 7th July 2025.

It is accepted that the adopted Fareham Borough Local Plan (April 2023) includes a 900-dwelling commitment towards the wider PfSH unmet need, of which 800 homes are specifically allocated to meet Portsmouth's request for unmet need contribution, with 100 towards wider PfSH needs. In relation to the latter, it would be useful to understand what the mechanism is for the allocation of the 100 dwellings – is it envisaged that this will be apportioned to a particular authority? We note the supporting text references that Gosport is likely to have an unmet need and is clearly a neighbouring authority. It would be useful to be able to clarify whether this 100-dwelling contribution from the Adopted Local Plan can be put towards Havant's unmet need.

We note that Fareham Borough Council has yet to begin progress on the next Local Plan, and is therefore unable to provide any firm commitment to meeting further neighbouring unmet need or addressing cross-boundary matters at present. However, in our request for assistance with our unmet needs, we asked you to set out the process by which your authority would look to respond to the high level of unmet housing and employment need arising from Havant Borough.

We welcome the Borough Council's willingness to work and cooperate with Havant Borough Council and our neighbouring authorities. Please can you advise how you will be engaging with us in the preparation of the Local Plan Review? It is recognised that this may need to take a staged approach.

Moving forwards, we would appreciate early sight of your emerging project plan for the Local Plan. In particular, we would wish to see that the options tested through Sustainability Appraisal, and Transport Assessment and other evidence base studies include a scenario where unmet needs are planned for, in addition to meeting Fareham's housing need. We

welcome Fareham Borough Council's commitment to continuing to work on sub-regional matters in a positive and constructive way. We look forward to continuing dialogue with the Council on strategic cross boundary matters as our plans progress. May I suggest a further meeting before the 'Early Engagement consultation' on the Local Plan Review later this year?

Yours sincerely



Strategic Planning Manager