Havant
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Claire Tester
Planning Policy Manager
South Downs National Park Authority

Enquiries to: David Hayward
[redacted]
My reference:
Your reference:
Date: 10 September 2025

Dear Claire

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 recent Duty to Cooperate meeting on the 23rd June 2025. This formed part of a series of Duty to Cooperate discussions with our neighbouring authorities and those within the Housing Market Area, including East Hampshire and Winchester Districts which are partly covered by the National Park.

Thank you also for your response dated 26th June 2025 which confirms that the National Park will not be able to accommodate any unmet needs from Havant Borough. We note the collective reasons for this,and appreciate that it would be unreasonable for the South Downs National Park to plan for unmet needs from neighbouring areas on this basis.

The responses to our recent request for assistance from East Hampshire and Winchester highlight the implications of the increase to housing need figures as a result of the 2024 standard method, and the resulting level of development that has to be planned for. As such, we welcome the South Downs National Park's commitment to "leaving no stone unturned" in the preparation of the South Downs Local Plan Review.

Whilst we acknowledge that the South Downs National Park Authority is unable to accommodate any unmet needs arising from Havant Borough, we welcome the National Park's commitment to continuing liaison and joint working. We look forward to continuing dialogue with the National Park Authority on strategic cross boundary matters as our plans progress. May I suggest a further meeting to discuss a joint Statement of Common Ground in support of our respective Regulation 19 Local Plan consultations?

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Strategic Planning Manager