Havant
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Public Service Plaza
Civic Centre Road
Havant
Hampshire PO9 2AX

T 023 9244 6019

www.havant.gov.uk

Claire Tester MRTPI
Planning Policy Manager
South Downs National Park Authority

Enquiries to: David Hayward
[redacted]
My reference:
Your reference:
Date: 28 November 2025

Dear Claire

Housing Need in the South Downs National Park

Thank you for your letter dated 19th November 2025 updating us on the progress of your Local Plan and formally requesting assistance from Havant Borough Council with the National Park's unmet housing need.

We are pleased to see the progress that the South Downs National Park Authority is making with its emerging Local Plan, notably the two new studies on housing need which produce two different need figures for the National Park. We also note that you will shortly be publishing an updated Land Availability Assessment and will look forward to responding to your Regulation 19 Local Plan consultation in due course.

Thank you for confirming that the South Downs would be able to meet the Iceni housing need figure of 323 homes per year based on the 2023 Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment produced by Iceni. We also note that the earlier AECOM study, points to a significantly higher need figure of 1,048 homes per year which the National Park would not be able to meet.

In the event that the Planning Inspectorate concludes that the AECOM method for calculating housing need is the sound approach, we note your formal request to accommodate unmet housing needs of the National Park within Havant Borough. As you know, Havant Borough Council is in a position of being unable to meet the Borough's own housing need by a wide margin. As Havant Borough cannot meet its own housing need, it cannot help South Downs National Park Authority with its unmet housing need.

We have similarly approached neighbouring local authorities and those within the Housing Market Area, notably Chichester District Council, East Hampshire District Council and Winchester City Council. Significant parts of these Districts are of course covered by the South Downs National Park. We will keep you updated on the progress of our negotiations with these authorities. However, at this stage you will be aware that we have an interest in the outcome of the Winchester Local Plan Examination, which includes an unmet needs allowance for Havant. This has reduced significantly from when the Plan was submitted but

currently stands at 346 dwellings[1] based on the Proposed Main Modifications. This compares with our unmet need position of at least 10,622 dwellings.

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation

Thank you for updating us on your position regarding Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation and your recent 'call for sites'.

By way of background, the Council's 2024 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment concludes that there is no identified unmet need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches or Travelling Showpeople plots within Havant Borough. Though the 2017 joint GTAA did identify that Havant Borough had a need to provide 1 pitch, this need has now been met through a permission for 2 pitches at a site in Long Copse Lane in northern Emsworth. The Draft Local Plan proposes to safeguard this site for current need. For completeness, we can also confirm we have not had any potential gypsy or traveller sites submitted for consideration through the local plan.

The Council is currently in the process of procuring an addendum to the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment and we will be happy to keep you updated on the progress of this.

In terms of our ability to assist with the need for meeting Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation, Havant Borough is significantly constrained, with limited land available for development. As set out above, Havant Borough is unable to meet its own general housing need. For this reason, Havant Borough is unable to assist with the unmet gypsy and traveller needs arising from the South Downs National Park at this time.

Nevertheless, we welcome the Authority's willingness to continue dialogue with us and our respective Local Plans. We will look forward to preparing a Statement of Common Ground to support our respective Regulation 19 Local Plan consultations in due course.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Strategic Planning Manager

[1] MM49 https://www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk/assets/inline/2683/Schedule-of-Proposed-Main-Modifications.pdf