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BOROUGH COUNCIL

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The Planning Inspectorate by email only to
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Enquiries to: David Hayward
Direct line:
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My reference:
Your reference:
Date: 26 November 2026

Submission of the Building a Better Future Plan for examination

1. I am pleased to submit Havant Borough Council's Local Plan - Building a Better Future - to the Secretary of State for independent examination under section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended and applicable under the relevant saving and transitional provisions.

2. It is submitted under the transitional arrangements for Local Plans set out in Annex 1 of the 2024 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The Council has published a statement setting out the availability of documents for inspection (Statement of Fact) which is available on our website and has been displayed at the Havant Public Service Plaza.

3. The submission of the Havant Borough Local Plan follows two consultations under Regulation 18 of the above regulations in 2022 and 2025 and a single consultation under Regulation 19 of the same regulations from 20 July 2026 to 9 September 2026.

4. Our website (www.havant.gov.uk/localplan) has been updated and contains the examination library (https://www.havant.gov.uk/local-plan-examination). A copy of all of the examination library documents, notably the Publication Local Plan together with the prescribed documents under Regulation 22 (1) has also been sent to the Planning Inspectorate directly. The submission Policies Map is provided electronically through the examination library. This is available at www.havant.gov.uk/planning-services/planning-policy/local-plan/policies-map.

5. As part of the submission, the Council has also provided a Schedule of Proposed Changes to the Publication Local Plan and the Council requests that the Inspector considers this schedule as part of the examination. I can confirm that the Council requests the Inspector to recommend any Main Modifications which are considered necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant and sound under Section 20(7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) (as amended).

6. The Council is also making available for inspection from today a copy of the prescribed documents under Regulation 22(3) at the Havant Public Service Plaza during our normal office

hours[1]. We will also be writing to the relevant stakeholders under Regulation 22 (3) (b) and (c) later today to notify them that the Local Plan has been submitted and of the availability of documents for inspection.

The pre-examination checklist and actions taken

7. The Council submitted a pre-examination checklist to the Planning Inspectorate on 23 October 2026 and received a response on Friday 30 October. The pre-examination checklist (SP013-A) and the response (SP013-B) are included in the examination library.

8. The response from Inspector Crosby set out a number of recommended actions for the Council to undertake and sought a brief written explanation of these. The response recommended that once this had taken place, that the plan is submitted as soon as possible.

9. In relation to the matters raised within the Pre-Examination Checklist, the Council can confirm:
   - Q 2.3 – 2.6: The Council is publishing and submitting an updated and finalised Statement of Cooperation (SP007) and Statement of Common Ground with East Hampshire District Council (SCG016) alongside the Local Plan
   - Q 2.18 and 2.19 – The Regulation 22 Consultation Statement has been published and submitted alongside the Local Plan (SP008A - SP008F)
   - Q 2.20 and 2.21 – All representations have been published and submitted with the Local Plan and are available at: https://www.havant.gov.uk/local-plan-examination/examination-library/representations
   - Q 3.5 – The Housing Supply and Site Allocation Topic Papers (TP03 and TP04) have been published and submitted alongside the Local Plan
   - Q 3.25 – The Council considers the evidence on landscape to be able to inform the policies and allocations in the plan, nonetheless a landscape study specifically supporting the allocation the Council is proposing within the Chichester Harbour National Landscape is in the process of being commissioned but will not be available for submission (please see documents which the Council intends to submit at a later date)
   - Q 3.27 – The updated Development Strategy Topic Paper (TP01) has been published and submitted alongside the Local Plan.

Documents which the Council intends to submit at a later date

10. In line with the recommendations of the Pre-Examination Checklist, the Council is submitting the Local Plan as soon as possible. Nonetheless, there are a number of documents which the Council intends to submit at a later point:
    - A refreshed Infrastructure Delivery Plan following representations received at the publication stage, notably from the NHS Integrated Care Board
    - A statement of Common Ground with the NHS Integrated Care Board following representations received at the publication stage
    - A Statement of Common Ground with the Chichester Harbour Conservancy
    - Hampshire County Council is procuring a study related to the Southleigh allocation and the need for a new walking, cycling and public transport bridge over the railway to support the development. This is likely to be relevant to the Local Plan as well as a planning application the Council is considering
    - A landscape study regarding one of the proposed allocations, addressing representations received at the publication stage (please see pre-examination checklist section above)

[1] These are available on our website at www.havant.gov.uk/contact-us

- Updated housing and employment monitoring data as this becomes available as a matter of course

11. The Council will look to submit these documents as soon as possible.

Programme Officer

12. The Council has appointed Charlotte Glancy of Banks Solutions as Programme Officer. Her contact details are:

64 Lavinia Way
East Preston
West Sussex
BN16 1EF
Tel: 07519 628064
Email: bankssolutionsuk@gmail.com

Hearing arrangements, matters likely to be considered and estimated duration

13. Drawing on the main issues summarised in Part 2 of the Consultation Statement, the Council anticipates that the following matters may require particular consideration, subject to the appointed Inspector's assessment. These are:
    - The development strategy
    - Meeting housing need
    - Allocation 1: Southleigh and its infrastructure impacts and requirements
    - Allocation 2: Long Copse Lane
    - Allocation 3: Land south of Havant Road (Horse's Field) and Policy 30: Nationally Protected Landscapes
    - Mitigation of the impacts of development

14. In terms of the numbers of representors who are likely to wish to appear at hearing sessions, the Council considers it likely that a larger number of stakeholders would wish to be heard in relation to the three allocations listed above. The other matters are not likely to involve large numbers of participants at a hearing. The Council proposes to host the hearing sessions at its main offices, where committee rooms of varying sizes are available, subject to booking. Early discussion of potential hearing dates would assist in securing suitable accommodation.

15. It is noted that the Planning Inspectorate would like the Council to give an indication of how long it anticipates the hearings will last. The Local Plan contains both strategic and non-strategic policies. For initial programming purposes, the Council estimates that approximately ten hearing days may be required, subject to the Inspector's assessment of the matters, issues and participants.

Committing to an early review

16. In submitting the Local Plan for examination, the Council notes the Government's updating of Paragraph's 50 and 62 of the Planning Practice Guidance on 30 October[2], after the Council published the Local Plan. This relates to the commitment to early review of the plan and the potential to include a policy within the Local Plan committing to review the plan.

[2] www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making

17. The Council can confirm that in principle it would be happy with a modification to the Local Plan on this basis. The Council would suggest that if such a modification is taken forward, the dates of such a review are considered within the context of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

18. Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton were notified by Government that the LGR process paused in September 2026. Nonetheless, in October 2026, Government confirmed that reorganisation in the area has not been cancelled and that all options and proposals remain under consideration with an outcome expected by early 20273. As such, we would expect the outcome of that review to be known early in the examination process.

Concluding remarks

19. The Council looks forward to the appointment of an inspector in due course and the start of the examination. Please note that there will be limited officer availability over the festive period from 21 December 2026 to 1 January 2027 inclusive.

20. I trust that we have provided sufficient information at this stage and the Council looks forward to working positively with the appointed Inspector on the examination of the Building a Better Future Plan. If there is any further information or clarification that you require, please do get in touch.

Yours faithfully

David Hayward

Strategic Planning Manager

[3] www.gov.uk/government/news/local-government-reorganisation-moves-forward-in-five-counties