

# Havant Borough Local Plan:

## How to respond to the consultation on the changes to Pre-submission Plan

The Local Plan covers all of Havant Borough and sets out how the Borough's development needs will be met in a sustainable way. It includes a long-term vision and strategic priorities, a development strategy, together with thematic and development management planning policies. It identifies key projects which will deliver significant, comprehensive development and are crucial to achieving the vision, as well as allocating other smaller sites for housing and/or commercial uses.

Since the consultation on the Pre-Submission Local Plan at the beginning of 2019, there have been a number of changes made to the Plan which improve clarity for decision making, as well as a number of factual updates. However, this consultation focuses on the changes which are marked up within the Local Plan consultation document with a reference and arrow. This is because these changes require sustainability appraisal, in terms of their likely effect (social, economic, and environmental), and so are considered more significant.

Before we submit the Local Plan for examination by a Government Inspector these changes therefore need to be subject to public consultation. All changes are however, shown as tracked within the consultation document for transparency.

The consultation form provided will ask you to identify the change that you are commenting on and make your comments in a certain way, this is because the Government Inspector can only consider comments on the legal compliance or soundness of the Plan.

### **The changes to the Pre-submission Local Plan consultation**

This leaflet sets out how you can respond to the consultation on the changes to the Pre-submission Local Plan and make your views known to the Inspector who will be undertaking the examination of the plan<sup>1</sup>.

The Inspector will have access to all previous comments received during the Pre-Submission Local Plan consultation in 2019, which will carry the same weight as any comments received in response to this consultation. So, if you have already submitted comments, and wish to respond to this consultation, please do not repeat what you have already told the Inspector in 2019. Please make sure your representation is clearly related to the change you would like to comment on and whether it is legally compliant and/or sound.

Stakeholders are invited to submit representations on the changes to the Pre-Submission Local Plan for a period of six weeks, from 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 and will close at 4pm on the 17th December 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> This leaflet constitutes the Council's Statement of Representations Procedure, as required by Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations.

## How is this consultation different?

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic there have been temporary changes in legislation. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 makes temporary changes to remove the requirement on the local planning authority to provide hard copies of documents, and to make documents available for public inspection at our principal offices in order to help combat the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

During the consultation in line with these temporary changes to legislation the changes to the Pre-Submission Local Plan consultation document and all of the supporting material will be available on our website at [www.havant.gov.uk/localplan/consultation2020](http://www.havant.gov.uk/localplan/consultation2020).

We have assessed our Statement of Community Involvement against the current coronavirus guidelines on staying at home and away from others and consider that online engagement methods represent the most effective means of consultation during the current pandemic. Hard copies of documents and the form are available for those who do not have access to the internet via the libraries in Havant, Waterlooville, and Hayling Island subject to national coronavirus measures.

## How to submit your comments

For this consultation, comments need to be made in a certain way. The Council has prepared a form designed to help you with this, together with a guidance leaflet which provides an explanation of the form and a completed example. You can access these documents via our webpage [www.havant.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.havant.gov.uk/localplan) by clicking on the tab 'Local Plan Consultation 2020'.

Your comments **MUST** be received by **17<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm** and you **MUST** submit them using the prescribed form. Response forms are available to download via our webpage: [www.havant.gov.uk/localplan/consultation2020](http://www.havant.gov.uk/localplan/consultation2020).

It is recommended that you download and complete your comments on the form, then either email the completed form(s) to [policy.design@havant.gov.uk](mailto:policy.design@havant.gov.uk) (please enter the words 'Changes to the Pre-Submission Local Plan comments' into the subject bar of the email), or post them to Planning Policy Team, Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant, PO9 2AX. **Letter or email comments that do not use the form will not be accepted.**

Responding to this consultation is the best way to let the inspector know your thoughts about the changes to the plan as they undertake the examination. Any written representations will carry the same weight as any evidence presented at the Examination Hearings. Unless you indicate you wish to appear at the hearing sessions you will not have the right to do so (although you will be able to view the hearings). Please note there is no guarantee you will be invited to the hearing sessions even if you express a wish to do so. The Inspector will decide who they wish to invite to each session.

## How to stay informed about future stages of the Local Plan's preparation

Following the consultation, there will be three key stages:

- Submission of the Havant Borough Local Plan to the Secretary of State for Communities, Housing and Local Government for independent examination
- The appointment of an Inspector to examine the plan
- The adoption of the Havant Borough Local Plan by the Council.

Section 11 of the response form asks if you would like to receive notifications when these key stages take place. However, the Council will also keep the Local Plan webpage ([www.havant.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.havant.gov.uk/localplan)) up to date with the latest news regarding the examination. We will also keep you updated if you follow the Council on social media.

### **Further comments and questions**

If you are concerned the changes to the Local Plan do not meet the Government's tests of soundness or the Plan is not legally compliant, then you need to highlight this to the Inspector through the consultation.

If you have any further queries about the consultations we are running, please email us at [policy.design@havant.gov.uk](mailto:policy.design@havant.gov.uk) or call us on 023 9244 6019.