Date: 22 December 2016

 Ask for: **Karen Britton**

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Mr M Moore

The Planning Inspectorate

Room 3/13

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Dear Mr Moore

Thank you for your letter dated 15th December 2016, which refers to the Main Modifiications (MMs) that you consider should be made to the Plan in order to ensure that the Plan is sound and in particular sets out those MMs where your view differs from the Council’s.

We understand that where you make no reference to the content of the Plan or those MMs proposed by the Council that your view and recommendation in your final report will be that the Plan is sound in those respects and only requires the further MMs you suggest at this stage. In other words in order to be found sound your current view is that the Plan requires all but only the MMs that you support and no more.

The reason we raise this is to help make it clear the extent to which any response to the MM consultation which proposes new MMs or different MMs than those proposed should be treated as a disagreement with your assessment of soundness.

We note that the only matter about which you seek comment from us at this stage is in respect of the implications of the High Court’s judgment in *ClientEarth v SOSEFRA [2016] EWHC 2740 (Admin),* and which you require from us by Wednesday 4 January 2017. We are currently taking advice but undertake to provide you with our comment by that date.

We understand that once we have submitted the finalised MMs and amendments to the Proposals Maps that you have identified as being required, along with a revised Sustainability Appraisal, you will then confirm whether you are content with these and that they should be consulted upon.

We will ensure as stated that in accordance with the Planning Inspectorate’s latest Procedural Practice in the Examination of Local Plans, June 2016 that it is clear in the published material that the consultation is only about the proposed Main Modifications and not about other aspects of the Plan. In accordance with the Regulations we will consult for 6 weeks and following which we send you all representations made to this consultation, for you to consider and your general expectation is that any issues raised in the consultation on the proposed Main Modifications will be dealt with through the written representations process and that further hearing sessions will only be scheduled exceptionally.

As requested, we have considered a timeline for all of the work required for the consultation and will provide copies of all the consultation material, including any forms for you to approve before it is published. The further work on the Sustainability Appraisal is expected to be finalised by the end of January 2017 and therefore we anticipate that the consultation will commence during February 2017.

Yours sincerely

*Karen Britton*

Planning Policy & Heritage Manager