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District Council

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REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL



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Dear Mr Hetherington

22nd October 2015

RE: New proposals for additional work and a timetable – Bromsgrove District Councils and Redditch Borough Council Examination

The Councils have been reconsidering our proposals for undertaking the further work following your letter of 18th September 2015. Your letter was welcomed by the two Councils and we thank you for your patience whilst we deliberated on our response.

In response to your letters of July and September 2015, and having taken advice from Counsel, the Councils are keen to progress the narrative which you helpfully suggest to explain the choice of sites by reference to evidence and the SA.

The work proposed is paired down from that proposed by the Councils in the last letter to you of the 14th September 2015 and the Councils are now proposing a more focussed exercise. By 30th December the Councils will submit a new document which will set out the rationale for the selection of the proposed allocations; this is what you have referred to as the comparative assessment of sites. This document will provide a narrative of all evidence including that of the Housing Growth Development Study, and will demonstrate how the evidence and the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has aided in that decision making process.

As part of this submission, the Councils will also provide other additional work in order to respond to your note of July 2015. This includes Heritage Assessment work in relation to Areas 4 and 5. The Councils will also be providing additional clarity on the capacity of the proposed Foxlydiate development site and respond to your July 2015 Post Hearing Note at paragraphs 16-20.

It is possible that the work submitted could require amendments to the Cross Boundary Policy and/or the accompanying policies map, which can be proposed as a modification in due course alongside SA.

In the Councils joint letter to you of 16th July 2015, the Councils expressed that ideally we would wish for a timetable and work programme to be subject to consultation. However given the urgency expressed in your letter of the 18th September 2015 and the scale of the task now being proposed, that consultation at this stage is clearly unnecessary.

We trust that this new proposal and shortened timescale for the work is satisfactory and that the examination hearings will be reconvened in due course.

Yours Faithfully,



Ruth Bamford

Head of Planning and Regeneration

Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils