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Sent by email to: strategic.planning@crawley.gov.uk

20th June 2023

Dear Sir or Madam

Consultation on the draft Submission Crawley Borough Local Plan

Thank you for consulting Surrey County Council (SCC) on the draft Submission Crawley Borough Local Plan. We previously responded by letter, dated 2 March 2020, to the consultation on the initial Regulation 19 Local Plan Review and by letter dated, 30 June 2021, to the second stage of Regulation 19 Consultation. Our earlier comments related to minerals and waste, education, and highways. This is an officer response, and our comments are set out below in relation to the council's role as the Education Authority, the Highways Authority and the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority for Surrey.

Education

As we said in our June 2021 comments secondary school provision is constrained within the areas of Surrey closest to the border with Crawley and one of the closest Surrey Secondary Schools, Oakwood School in Horley, does not have the capacity to take additional pupils from Crawley. Oakwood School has been expanded to 11 forms of entry - 330 places (since 2021) and it is very unlikely to be able to expand further. We are in discussion with colleagues in West Sussex Education place planning about the problem of lack of secondary places in the wider area.

In addition, we are expecting demand for primary places in Horley to exceed supply and will mitigate this by adding a bulge class to at least one primary school as well as allocating children to travel to schools north of the Horley area.

Highways

SCC welcomes the assertion that existing transport infrastructure should be enhanced with active travel and public transport facilities to encourage use of non car modes of transport. It is mentioned in paragraph 17.2 that the Borough of Crawley would work closely with West Sussex County Council and National Highways. Where there are impacts across the county boundary this could include a commitment to work with Surrey Highways.

It is noted in the key issues in paragraph 17.4 that Crawley's population is still growing, two new neighbourhoods are being added to the town and additional housing sites are proposed along with growth in employment and anticipated growth at Gatwick Airport. This growth

should be supported with active travel and public transport modes with no direct access from the developments to the A23 and A217 heading north to Surrey.

It is acknowledged in paragraph 17.5 that the location of development is crucial and that developments in sustainable locations would be able to meet travelling needs by active and travel modes suggesting that such development would be preferable. This is welcome as this would reduce reliance on motorised forms of transport and therefore traffic heading north into Surrey.

It is welcome that Policy ST1 would prioritise active and public transport modes of travel in new development and that walking and cycling infrastructure forming part of the development is in place and usable at the point of first occupation. This would encourage the use of non car modes of transport which could mitigate the impact of increased motor traffic heading north in Surrey. In developments that generate significant amounts of travel it would be necessary for developers to contribute to active and public transport infrastructure.

With reference to strategic policy EC4 we reiterate our comments set out in our letter dated 30 June 2021 supporting an HGV ban to the northern section of the Balcombe Road A217.

Minerals and Waste

SCC previously provided comments regarding the consultation on the initial Regulation 19 Local Plan Review in March 2020. SCC reiterate our support for Policy H2: Key Housing Sites, which relates to development at Tinsley Lane, Three Bridges, adjacent to the Crawley Goods Yard safeguarded minerals site. This policy states that development on the proposed housing site must be designed to minimise potential future conflicts and constraints on the function of the adjacent safeguarded minerals site. This is supported, as the continued operation of this facility will help to ensure that Surrey and the wider South East is supplied with necessary construction aggregates. We note that the Crawley Goods Yard is also included within the Local Plan map.

SCC also welcome the requirement, as set out in policies DD1, H3c and H3e, for waste and recycling storage to be designed into new housing development schemes from the start. However, we note that a requirement for the sustainable management of construction, demolition, and excavation waste is not included within these policies, as suggested in our previous comments dated 2 March 2020, and in accordance with West Sussex Waste Local Plan 2014, Policy W23: 'Waste Management within Development'.

I hope these comments are helpful. If you require further information, please contact Nikki Nicholson at nikki.nicholson@surreycc.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Nikki Nicholson
Principal Planning Officer
Surrey County Council