

Matter 1 Habitats Regulation Assessment:

The part of the Matter 1 hearing session concerning legal compliance in relation to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 has been postponed from 12 February to 21 May 2019. This is in light of the recent publication of a new Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) (Document EB209) by the Council. The postponement will enable the Inspector and other interested parties to review the document properly.

The Inspector recognises that the HRA is likely to have implications for other matters raised by interested parties, particularly in relation to site allocations. Interested parties and participants in the hearing sessions should be reassured that no decisions will be taken about the soundness of any of the Plan's allocations until all of the evidence, including that relating to the HRA, has been heard and can be taken in the round. Therefore, the Inspector does not consider it necessary to postpone any of the other hearing sessions at this time.

7 February, 2019