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Ms L Phillips
c/o Louise St John Howe (Programme Officer)
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ED109A



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Our Ref: SH/20200904-EFLP

9 June 2020

Dear Ms Phillips,

Epping Forest Local Plan Examination

I write in respect of the above. As you will be aware, Strutt & Parker is participating in the examination on behalf of several parties who are seeking modifications, in the form of the allocation of additional sites, to the submitted Local Plan.

We note that you set out 39 actions for the Council, required to make the submitted Local Plan capable of being found sound, in your letter of 2 August 2019. Action 9 was as follows:

“In light of my advice concerning the SAC and specific allocations..., to seek alternative sites to meet the housing requirement, firstly within the Council’s preferred strategic growth options. If no such sites can be found, to explore amendments to the spatial strategy through the SA process”.

We wrote to the Council on 9 October 2019 and again on 2 April 2020 in respect of specific sites and their potential to be considered as part of Action 9. However, to date, we have received no response.

At a webinar on 22 April 2020, Cllr Philip (Epping Forest District Council Planning Services Portfolio Holder) explained that the Council does not consider that it is required to allocate any additional sites in order to make the submitted Local Plan capable of being found sound. We have not seen any evidence that the Council has sought to identify additional sites before reaching this conclusion.

We note that whilst there has been correspondence between yourself and the Council subsequent to your letter of 2 August 2019 in respect of actions the Council proposes to undertake, the Council does not appear to have expressly confirmed to you whether or not this would entail seeking to identify additional sites for allocation.

Whilst we appreciate it is for the Council to determine how it wishes to respond to your advice, naturally it is in nobody’s interests if the Council is proceeding under the false belief that the submitted Local Plan is capable of being found sound without the identification of additional allocations.



We would be most grateful if you could clarify whether you consider that the identification of additional sites is necessary in order for the Local Plan to be capable of being found sound. If this is indeed the case, we respectfully suggest that there would be merit in clarifying this to the Council.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Hollingworth', written in a cursive style.

Sam Hollingworth MRTPI
Senior Associate Director

Cc Ms A Blom-Cooper (Epping Forest District Council)