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Sent: 21 May 2020 13:14

To: Lesley Wilson <lesley.wilson@cpresussex.org.uk>

Cc: Eileen Lintill <elintill@chichester.gov.uk>; Diane Shepherd <DShepherd@chichester.gov.uk>

Subject: CPRE Sussex: Draft Local Plan - a Plan-led System & Local Democracy during the Covid19 lockdown

Dear Mr Osborne

I refer to your letter of 5 May to the leader of the Council, Mrs Eileen Lintill and the Chief Executive, Mrs Diane Shepherd which I have been asked to reply to.

Firstly, thank you for your comments concerning the Council's Local Plan review and also on the implications for planning application assessments and decisions from mid-July.

I can advise that we have given full consideration to the options available to us to manage the situation in the period before the new plan is adopted and can confirm that the Council will wish to continue to give very careful consideration to planning proposals that come forward in this period, on sites that would otherwise be contrary to the adopted Local Plan, whilst recognising the implications for decision making of being unable to demonstrate a 5 year housing land supply.

I expect such applications that come before the planning committee to continue to be assessed robustly on their planning merits and in light of all relevant development plan policies. The Council is, as you are aware, in the process of preparing an Interim Policy Statement for housing to reinforce our intention to manage housing delivery and I anticipate that this will be the subject of public consultation shortly. You will therefore have an opportunity to let us have your thoughts on its content. It is also worth making the point that whilst we intend to continue to make progress on the evidence base for the local plan review, the revised timescale for submission of the Plan for examination will also enable us to further assess appropriate policies in light of the climate emergency and also to address changes circumstances and issues that have arisen as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and to support the Chichester plan area in recovery.

In terms of your comments on local democracy, I can confirm that we have made no changes to our constitution in respect of the way planning applications are determined (i.e. under either powers delegated to senior officers or by the planning committee) and that where requested, particularly by parish councils, the Council is sympathetic to reasonable extensions of time for consultation responses to be made.

Formal member meetings were suspended for the month of April and have only recently been restarted with virtual meetings of the planning committee and a cabinet meeting held in early May. Our public speaking procedures have been retained and adapted so that those wishing to speak can either appear virtually or provide a written statement. A recording of the meeting is provided shortly after each meeting ends and I can advise that we also introduced live streaming for our Council meeting on 19 May. This will be in place for all future formal member meetings. We are satisfied that our approach is open and accessible and meets the requirements of the Coronavirus Act 2020 and associated regulations.

I hope this is helpful.



Andrew Frost

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