Dear Mr Thomas

EXAMINATION INTO THE SOUNDNESS OF LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING LOCAL PLAN

I am pleased to have been appointed to examine the London Borough of Havering Local Plan and I regret the delay in contacting you with these initial queries. Please accept my apologies for this.

This letter seeks some preliminary clarification from the Council about the evidence submitted. Further issues may be raised as I proceed to examine the evidence documents in greater detail.

1. I note that the submission documents include proposed modifications to the Local Plan. Can you confirm that these have not been subject to any consultation to date? Assuming that to be the case, I confirm that my Examination will be based upon the Proposed Submission Local Plan 2016-2031.

2. It will be helpful to all concerned if the Council could add a further column to the content of the Proposed Modifications document clarifying whether it considers each suggested change to be either a potential ‘main modification’ or simply an ‘additional change’. It would also be helpful for ease of reference if the Council could make available a ‘track changed’ version of the submitted Plan which reflects the suggestions within the Proposed Modifications document.

3. Also for ease of reference for all parties it would be helpful if all of the documents forming the Local Plan submission, supporting documents and evidence base could be given individual document numbers and that this is reflected on the Council’s Local Plan website. I note that some of the documents included on the Local Plan Documents List do not appear to be on the website. Can the Council look into this please and rectify any omissions?
4. For ease of reference to the representations can you please provide me with two spreadsheets of the responses, one in policy order and the other in representor number order. The list of representors should clearly indicate those that have expressed a wish to be heard at the hearings.

5. Can you please provide me with a file containing hard copies of the Regulation 19 stage responses from all of the duty to co-operate bodies and adjoining authorities. In due course, as part of the preparation of hearing statements, it would be helpful if Statements of Common Ground could be prepared with these bodies.

6. Can you confirm where I will find the Statement of Conformity with the London Plan in accordance with Regulation 21 please?

7. I note the existence of the Habitats Regulation Assessment 2017. Can the Council confirm that there are no outstanding issues relating to this report raised by relevant bodies, for example Natural England?

8. How would the Council wish me to proceed in the event that the Plan requires main modifications? Can the Council confirm whether it wishes me to make recommendations, in order to remedy any soundness issues?

I would welcome a response to this letter by 2nd July. This should set out responses to these queries wherever possible. Where further time is required to prepare responses to my questions, please set out a timescale for submission of the information. I would stress however that it is extremely important for me to receive the information requested in question 4 above as soon as possible, in order for me to be in a position to identify the issues and the representors who would wish to be heard. Once I receive the requested information I will be in a better position to be able to confirm the likely hearing dates.

Yours sincerely

Susan Heywood

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INSPECTOR