Dear Ms Heywood

Havering Local Plan Examination – response from London Borough of Havering to questions from the Inspector and ‘follow-on’ actions from the Examination in Public hearing sessions on 29th May and 30th May 2019

As agreed at the end of the hearing session on 30th May 2019 we are writing to you to provide a timeframe for the completion of the actions that came out of the two days of the examination and the approach to these tasks.

I attach the action list which incorporates your record and the action points LBH noted for you to review we will ensure it is published on the website.

Housing

The Council notes the actions required for additional information being provided on:

- the role of the Strategic Planning Committee
- the phasing of developments on Waterloo Road and Bridge Close
- additional modifications

The information on the Strategic Planning Committee has already been provided (5th June 2019) in the form of a Governance report and a document setting out changes to the Council’s constitution. It is understood from the Programme Officer that you have found these very helpful.

We propose to send the remainder of the information on Waterloo Road and Bridge Close as a package and we aim to have this information submitted to you by 21st June 2019.

In terms of the modifications we proposed to add these to the existing modifications list that has already been produced with the reference EIP (M) then a reference number to ensure they are differentiated from other modifications already put forward.
Gypsy and Travellers

We will further revise the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Update document and make suggested modification to Policy 11 in line with the discussions at the Examination hearings on 30th May 30 2019.

The Modifications to Policy 11 will be made in the same way as those for housing but we will also provide a copy of the proposed revised policy as there will be a number of changes. We will not be able to complete the revisions to the policy until the further field work and assessments has been completed.

In terms of the additional work requires on the site assessments we will be preparing information to;

- show with layout information how pitches/additional accommodation units can be fitted on the current land occupied by the traveller households identified by the red line boundaries presented as part of the Hearing information or where appropriate, land beyond these current site boundaries that the households have access to
- address pitch licensing requirements
- confirm from the landowners/occupiers that the proposed layouts are acceptable to them
- demonstrate how the extra pitches required (not currently allocated) can be accommodated on other sites
- show how the accommodation need for gypsy and traveller households for years 6-15 could be accommodated and provide information on broad areas where future expansion may take place.

As discussed at the end of the hearing session on 30th May 2019, we will provide this information to you no later than by the end of July but will of course aim to produce it earlier but this will be subject to internal sign off and procedures.

Our understanding is that you will determine the approach you wish to take to Policy 24 Parking and design in the light of the discussions at the hearing session on 30th May 2019 and the proposed modifications to the Policy that have been provided.

For the avoidance of any doubt, the Council’s position remains that it wishes the Local Plan to include the modified policy it provided in March 2019 as this better reflects the need for parking to be provided with areas of higher public transport accessibility such as Romford Town Centre. Notwithstanding this, as discussed at the hearing session, the Council would accept the minor modifications suggested by Transport for London at the conclusion of the hearing session.

Modifications

The Council wishes to progress the Local Plan to adoption and for that reason it would welcome engagement with you over the coming period on the proposed modifications to
the Local Plan to date so that it can finalise the modifications that it will undertake public consultation on.

**Commitment to reviewing the Local Plan**

Counsel and officers have consistently emphasised the Council’s commitment to undertaking an early review of the Havering Local Plan once it is adopted. That position was re-iterated at the most recent hearing sessions in response to your own questions and comments from third parties. The Council will initiate this work irrespective of the position with the London Plan adoption.

We have considered very carefully the position in regard to when a revised Havering Local Plan would be submitted. At this stage, it is considered that it is not feasible to provide this for a number of reasons including;

- work on reviewing and revising the Local Plan will need to take account of the progress with the adoption of the London Plan and that is clearly outside the scope of the Council’s influence
- work on reviewing and revising the Local Plan may also need to take account of other planning policy work or changes including those from the Government and in the wider Thames Corridor/ Gateway and South Essex sub region (such as the Joint Strategic Plan for South Essex)
- any review and revision of the Local Plan will need to be underpinned by a robust evidence base and at this stage, with the scope of the review yet to be determined, it is not possible to assess how this will impact on the overall programme. It is expected that sustainability work and infrastructure matters will be particularly important, for example
- the outcome from public consultation during the preparation of a revised Local Plan cannot be known and thus the implications for plan preparation and programme are uncertain and unclear
- we are currently discussing planning and regeneration priorities with the Council’s Administration. This is taking place against a Council commitment to deliver a suite of planning and regeneration documents for Romford and Rainham in line with the focus in the Local Plan for growth in these areas. These will inevitably influence and shape the content and timing of the next Local Plan

**London Plan adoption**

Outside of the context provided by the Local Plan Examination in Public, officers have returned to their routine duties and responsibilities. This has included engagement with GLA planning officers involved in the London Plan preparation. It is understood that the Mayor of London still envisages the London Plan being adopted in early 2020 as we indicated at the hearing sessions.
Yours sincerely,

S.lansley

pp. Martyn Thomas

Development and Transport Planning Manager