

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE FARNHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

EXAMINER: DEREK STEBBING BA (Hons) DipEP MRTPI

Note to Parties Participating in the Hearing Session: Friday 25 November 2016

I would like to set out in advance the parameters for the conduct of the hearing session I have convened. It is important we all go into the session with a shared expectation and understanding of how the day will proceed, and exercise mutual courtesy in this respect. The key points I would ask participants to observe are as follows:

- It is wholly within my purview to determine how the hearing is to be conducted.
- In this instance, the purpose of hearing oral representations is that I consider it necessary to ensure adequate examination of the identified issues, which will in turn further my understanding in the context of assessing the Basic Conditions.
- This session will be run in a round table format. It will not be akin to a formal public inquiry on a planning appeal. Similarly, it is not a local plan examination session: the requirements of the Basic Conditions are not to be confused with the more investigative scrutiny required to determine whether a local plan is 'sound'.
- I will lead on the questions raised under each issue. I do not anticipate any need for cross-examination. I have set the issues out clearly in my agenda and the discussion will be confined to these matters.
- Participants are not exercising a statutory right to be heard. I will determine the amount of time that is given for a participant to speak, having regard to giving participants a fair chance to put their case (albeit this is not the purpose of the hearing in this instance). 'Set pieces' on each issue are neither necessary nor invited. All participants, including advocates, will be treated on an equal basis.
- Only one participant, per organisation invited, will be permitted at the table. That seat at the table will be limited to the duration of the discussion of the issue(s) which their organisation has been asked to contribute to.
- As such, we will operate a 'hot seat' approach. Participants will be expected to give up their seat when the issue(s) I have identified for them to contribute to has finished. The only representatives that will have a seat for the full duration of the day's session are the representatives from the qualifying body and the local authority.
- My aim is to have sufficient understanding and information on the identified issues to enable me to come to a view on the Basic Conditions and draft my report.

I thank you for your anticipated co-operation on the day.

Derek Stebbing
Examiner
22 November 2016.