

## **Examination of the Dartford Local Plan**

Inspector: Philip Mileham BA (Hons) MA MRTPI

Programme Officer: Ian Kemp

Email: [Idkemp@icloud.com](mailto:Idkemp@icloud.com)

Mr Mark Aplin  
Dartford Borough Council  
Civic Centre  
Home Gardens  
Dartford  
KENT  
DA1 1DR

6 July 2022

Dear Mr Aplin,

### **Dartford Local Plan examination – Outcome following Stage 1 hearings**

1. Further to the conclusion of the Stage 1 hearings which were held between 9 and 10 June 2022, I am writing to you to set out my initial views in relation to Matter 1 which related to the Duty to Cooperate and legal compliance. The hearing sessions were deliberately staged separately from the wider consideration of the soundness of the submission plan.
2. As you will be aware, section 33A of the Localism Act (2004) imposes a duty on Local Planning Authorities to co-operate with other Local Planning Authorities, the County Council and other prescribed bodies or other persons by engaging constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis in relation to strategic matters in Local Plan preparation.
3. I set out a number of concerns to you in relation to strategic matters arising under the Duty to Co-operate including, amongst other things, the consideration of unmet housing need from Gravesham Borough Council. I raised these matters with the Council in my initial questions letter of 25 January 2022, and subsequently as part of my Stage 1 Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) document [EXAM10].
4. Having considered all of the written and oral evidence before me up to this point, I am satisfied that at this stage the examination can proceed to Stage 2 which will consider the soundness of the plan. A further set of MIQs will be prepared and issued to you in due course and I will set out my final conclusions on this matter in my report.
5. I will make contact via the Programme Officer to schedule in further hearing sessions for Stage 2 and to set out the accompanying deadlines for hearing statements. In order to take into account the forthcoming school summer holiday, it would seem prudent to look for hearing dates in September and October.

6. I have asked the Programme Officer to add a copy of this letter to the examination website to keep participants and other interested parties up to date.
7. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to let me know via the Programme Officer.

Yours sincerely,

*Philip Mileham*

INSPECTOR