

Matthew Birkinshaw MRTPI
The Planning Inspectorate
The Square
Temple Quay House
Bristol BS1 6PN

Date: 26/09/23

Dear Mr Birkinshaw,

RE: Examination of the Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan: Next Steps

I am writing further to my letter dated 20 July 2023 which provided an update on work being undertaken by the Council in relation to the examination of the Local Plan.

Work is continuing between officers and consultants and with other stakeholders, particularly in relation to the transport modelling and masterplanning work. This work should be concluded shortly ahead of the Council's consultants then being able to undertake the viability assessment on the Options available to the Council.

The intention is that officers will be able to take a Local Plan report to members soon after, as follows:

- Cabinet meeting date: 7 December 2023
- Full Council meeting date: 13 December 2023 (ahead of the start of a six-week public consultation).
- Following agreement by Full Council of any proposed changes, public consultation on additional evidence can then be undertaken.

The committee report will include an officer recommendation to members on the next steps, and any potential changes to the development strategy, having regard to the three options for the way forward set out in the examination Initial Findings letter. The committee report will be published and therefore placed in the public domain in early November, ahead of the Planning & Transportation Cabinet Advisory Board meeting.

Officers are confident that this timetable will enable, subject to your agreement, a public consultation on the proposed changes to the development strategy any examination Hearings to continue in 2024, subject to the necessary notice being given to participants following local consultation.

I trust that this is of assistance,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CHONE', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Carlos Hone MRTPI
Head of Planning Services
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council