

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

Date: 19/03/24

Dear Mr Birkinshaw,

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

I am writing in response to your letter dated 07 February in which amongst other things you set out your request that the Council undertake and submit an updated Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA). I am writing to advise that consultants are in the process of doing this new needs assessment, and that the Council expects that this work will be completed in May/June. Once complete, this will be submitted to the examination.

You are aware that the Council has been consulting on its response to your Initial Findings letter, received November 2022. This consultation started on 15 January for six weeks until 26 February 2024. The closing date has been extended until 12 April to ensure that all relevant parties have the opportunity to respond to the Council's Response to the Inspector's Initial Findings letter. This follows an internal database issue identified by the council during the original consultation.

In the meantime, officers are processing and considering the representations received so far, ahead of submission to the examination along with the full set of consultation documents.

I trust that this update is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



**Carlos Hone MRTPI**  
**Head of Planning Services**  
**Tunbridge Wells Borough Council**