

## NEW FOREST DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN – FIRST ALTERATION

- 1.1 The Revised Deposit period of the First Alteration to the New Forest District Local Plan ran from 7<sup>th</sup> February to 21<sup>st</sup> March. This was the second of two rounds of public consultation on the First Alteration changes. 312 additional representations have been received. Copies of all representations have been placed in the Members' Room and Members are urged to inspect these before the meeting. The new representations are listed in the attached schedule (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 The issues resulting in most public responses are:
  - the new policies proposing the regeneration of Calshot, including substantial residential development;
  - the revised policy proposing an employment reserved site (as opposed to the previous proposal for a housing/employment reserve site) on the land south of the A31 east of Ringwood.
- 1.3 In addition, representations have been received on a range of other issues (including care homes and affordable housing), as set out in the attached schedule.
- 1.4 Some representations are still being clarified with objectors and it may be that, in the run-up to the Inquiry, the nature of some representations will change.
- 1.5 The Public Local Inquiry into objections to the Local Plan is programmed to start on 16<sup>th</sup> September. The Pre-Inquiry meeting has been arranged for 12<sup>th</sup> May. This is a very tight time-scale.
- 1.6 The Government's Guide to Procedures that accompanies the Town & Country Planning (Development Plan) (England) Regulations 1999 allows for "pre-Inquiry changes" to be proposed in response to representations at this stage in the process. However, it emphasises that "**They should only be made in exceptional circumstances**" (Guide to Procedures, Local Plans and Unitary Development Plans, paragraph 31). In this situation any such changes would delay the inquiry for a further round of public consultation.
- 1.7 Officers are not recommending any further major changes to the Plan before it is considered by the Inspector at the Public Local Inquiry. Under the Delegations scheme, certain officers have the authority to make minor amendments to the deposited local plan, for the purpose of clarification, during the local plan inquiry. In due course it is likely that the Inspector will recommend some changes to the Council and at that stage Proposed Modifications to the Plan may be issued for public comment.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 1.8 Any further changes to the Plan which result in a delay to the Local Public Inquiry will result in additional expenditure to the Council.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 1.9 It is important that the First Alteration is progressed quickly to adoption in order to provide up-to-date statutory planning policies for the District.

## **CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 1.10 None

## **CONSULTATION**

- 1.11 The Council's Planning Development Control Committee and Economy and Planning Panel were consulted in preparing the First Alteration of the Local Plan. There will be further consultation in due course on any Proposed Modifications after the Public Local Inquiry.

## **PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS**

- 1.12 The Economy & Planning Portfolio Holder notes that the Proposed Revised Changes to the plan have been fully debated by Members, including the Economy and Planning Review Panel, Planning Development Control Committee and Cabinet. He has looked through the representations on these changes, and has not seen anything exceptional in them to warrant further changes to the local plan at this stage. He notes that there will be another opportunity to look at the issues raised by the objectors when the Local Plan Inquiry Inspector's Report is considered.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.13 That the Council considers the representations submitted at Revised Deposit stage, as listed in the attached schedule, and considers whether any exceptional circumstances justify issuing any further pre-inquiry changes.

### **Further Information:**

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### **Background Papers:**

Representations on  
Revised Deposit Stage of  
New Forest District Local  
Plan First Alteration

## **APPENDIX**

**Please contact Graham Ashworth, Policy and Plans on  
5352 if you wish to view a hard copy**