

Mr Simon Berkeley BA MA MRTPI and
Ms Christa Masters MA (Hons) MRTPI
C/o Programme Officer Mrs Annette Feeney

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19 January 2018

Dear Mr Berkeley and Ms Masters,

Single Issue Review of Core Strategy Policy CS7 Examination: response to Inspectors' letter of 10 January 2018

Thank you for your letter of 10 January which has been given careful consideration by officers.

The Council does want to have an adopted local plan and in the light of your letter officers intend to pursue Option A.

Officers are therefore looking to propose to members increasing provision within one or more of the main towns and will also consider whether it is appropriate to reduce provision within the Key Service Centres.

As regards to increasing provision within the main towns, the most probable location will be Newmarket but officers feel it appropriate at this stage to keep open minds. In addition officers believe that to inform their decision they should beforehand "refresh", their sustainability assessment, appropriate assessment, air quality assessment, cumulative traffic impact and also revisit the infrastructure delivery plan. It would appear from your letter that this exercise depending upon the site or sites proposed could be relatively "light touch" but any guidance you feel able to give would be most welcome.

Returning to the Key Service Centres, to reduce the allocations may well be problematic given that a number of the allocations have planning permission or resolutions to grant planning permission. Further there is a need for the Council to maintain a five year supply of land for housing. Moreover to remove some sites may have consequences for delivery of infrastructure. However, all of that having been said the matter will be investigated and the Council's views made known to you.

This work is likely to take a few weeks to complete and, in any case an additional allocation of the size suggested in your letter i.e. something in the order of 400 houses will require member approval. Officers would aim therefore to deliver a report to members at their

Council meeting on 21 February 2018. Unfortunately it is not considered possible to deal with the matter any more quickly.

It is hoped that you will find this response helpful and it would perhaps also be helpful if at this stage you could indicate how you would see both the SIR and SALP proceeding following the meeting on 21 February. Officers of course appreciate that there will need to be a period of public consultation.

Finally, if you would like any additional comment from officers at this stage of any aspect, please do let us know.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Smith', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marie Smith
Service Manager (Planning Strategy)