

Date 12 December 2019  
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Dear Astrid

Crondall Neighbourhood Plan  
Agreement to extend the time for making a decision as to whether or not to proceed to referendum

I am formally writing to you following the conversation between the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and officers of the Planning Policy Team on 10 December 2019.

As you are aware, Hart District Council received the Examiner's Report on the Crondall Neighbourhood Plan on the 8 November 2019.

Having considered the Examiner's Report in detail, we are concerned that some of the changes recommended undermine the strength of your Plan, specifically by referring to a housing need for 66 dwellings without correspondingly allocating sufficient sites to meet that need. As a result our concern is that the Plan fails the basic condition of achieving sustainable development and fails to provide the robust policy framework that both the District Council and Parish Council seek. Furthermore, we also have reservations in relation to the site scoring assessment and which sites were included for assessment through the Strategic Environmental Assessment process. In particular if the site scoring is flawed then this could have excluded evaluation of objective reasonable alternatives, which goes to the heart of your Plan.

Hart District Council is expected to make a decision on whether to send your Plan to referendum within 5 weeks of receipt of the Examiner's Report, under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

If the District Council had to make a decision now on whether to take the Neighbourhood Plan to referendum, officers would be minded to recommend that the Plan does not proceed to referendum, for the reasons set out above.

Regulation 17A of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), allows for the local planning authority [Hart District Council] and the qualifying body [Crandall Parish Council] to agree a date by which that decision will be made. You indicated that the Parish Council would like to do this to provide time for the Parish Council to resolve the issues we have identified.

You indicated that the Parish Council believed that they could propose modifications which would fix this issue by the end of January 2020. On that basis Hart District Council would seek to report the Crondall Neighbourhood Plan to Cabinet on the 5 March 2020. We therefore suggest that we agree to formally extend the period for the decision until 12 March 2020 as all Cabinet decisions are subject to a five day 'call in' period, so we would not be able to issue a decision prior to this.

Please could you confirm by Tuesday 17 December 2019 that you agree the date of 12 March 2020 as the date when the decision will be made. I should clarify that agreeing an extension to the time period to make a decision does not prejudice the outcome of the process.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Hawes  
Planning Policy Manager