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Your ref:
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Date: 6th October 2020

Forward Planning Team
North Warwickshire Borough Council
The Council House
South Street
Atherstone
Warwickshire
CV9 1DE

Sent via email

Dear Sir / Madam,

RE: Draft North Warwickshire Local Plan – Additional Documents

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the schedule of potential Main Modifications (NWBC20E) and additional documents published since April 2019.

The Borough Council notes and welcomes the correspondence to the Planning Inspector (NWBC26) confirming that MHCLG have committed to funding of £79.5m – alternative funding to the HIF bid of £58m – to ensure that improvements to the A5 are carried out as outlined in the HIF bid. HBBC also welcomes the inclusion of the revised infrastructure table (Appendix A) which summarises the infrastructure requirements that are key to the delivery of the overall strategy within the Local Plan – including confirmation that improvements to the A5 are critical to realising the strategy. The intention to agree a position statement / statement of common ground to show the commitment to the delivery of the A5 improvements, which will inform the revised housing trajectory to be applied to the Plan is also welcomed.

As the improvements to the A5 are critical to the delivery of three strategic site allocations underpinning the spatial strategy, HBBC recommends that the changes referred to above are reflected in an updated Infrastructure Delivery Plan. HBBC also maintains its recommendation in response to the pre-submission plan dated 31st January 2018, that LP28 includes an explicit reference to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and a commitment to prioritise investment in the A5, informed by the emerging position statement. For clarification, it would be helpful that the supporting text to Policy LP28 summarises the phased delivery of the A5 improvements and the relationship to the revised housing trajectory.

A number of changes are proposed to Policies H2 (Land to the north-west of Atherstone) and H7 (Land to the east of Polesworth and Dordon), primarily addressing site specific requirements such as matters relating to flood risk and the historic environment. HBBC's response to the pre-submission draft of the plan recommended that Policy H2 could be strengthened to either include direct reference to improvements to the A5 or to the strategic aims of Policy LP28. Whilst HBBC maintain this recommendation, the Council also suggest policies H2 and H7 include a policy requirement that specifically identifies the improvements to the A5 that are to be delivered in line with the revised housing trajectory and phasing of the schemes.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Colbourn
Senior Planning Officer (Policy)