Dear Inspector,

**Tandridge District Council: Local Plan – High-level transport modelling update**

Further to my letter of 30 June I am writing to update you with the Council’s thoughts on how to progress our Local Plan Examination.

I am acutely aware of the fundamental importance of the high-level transport modelling of M25 Junction 6 for the overall spatial strategy of the Local Plan, as you set out clearly in ID16 (December 2020). I am grateful to you for giving the Council and its key stakeholders the opportunity to assess how an interim mitigation scheme might enable us to progress the important objective of sustainable development in the district.

I am also aware of the other issues you raise in ID16, namely the implications of the recalculation of the OAN using 2018 projections, the Housing Land Supply and its deliverability (intimately linked to Junction 6 capacity), provision for Gypsies and Travellers, and queries around particular sites and policies.

As was agreed between yourself and the Council in TED43 (8 February 2021) and ID17 (10 February 2021), before a decision is made on whether to pause the examination and continue to attempt to resolve these outstanding issues or to withdraw the Local Plan, the Council must first be confident that there is an interim solution to Junction 6 capacity constraints. I am disappointed that the timetable for the modelling work has fallen behind schedule as reported in Jackie King’s letter of 25 May (TED45), which has impacted on already tight timescales for decision-making.

As mentioned in my letter of 30 June (TED46), our consultants, dha, have drawn up a Position Statement (attached), agreed by the key stakeholders, and based on a Technical Note demonstrating the technical feasibility of creating capacity at the junction. The Technical Note is currently with Highways England and Surrey County Council who are in discussion over a few matters and, once agreed we will issue this document to you.
I hope it will give you confidence in the progress of our work and the existence of an interim solution to the Junction 6 capacity issue which all stakeholders can support allowing development to progress.

Once finalised and agreed, we propose to send the Technical Note for your consideration of its conclusions.

I would hope to place your feedback before the Planning Policy Committee in September, and at that point the Council would make an informed decision as to whether to request a pause to the examination in order to carry out further work to answer your questions set out in ID16, or to withdraw the plan.

I am aware that this is a change in approach from that set out in previous correspondence, but it appears to be the most practical way forward. I should be grateful if you would confirm that it is acceptable to you.

Yours sincerely,

David Ford
Chief Executive