



John Slater Planning
Examiner of the Bracknell Town Neighbourhood Plan
(By Email)

Xxxx November 2019

Dear Mr Slater,

BRACKNELL TOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION

Following on from your 'Further Comments' dated 1 November 2019, please find set out below the comments of Bracknell Forest Council in relation to the focused consultation on the revised version of the Bracknell Town Neighbourhood Plan.

In line with your comments, this response is focused on the structure and form of the Plan, and not proposed policies. Therefore, all the Council's previous comments on other matters made at the Regulation 16 stage (see letter of 15 February 2019), Responses to Examiner's Questions (see comments of 10 May 2019), and those made orally at the Public Hearing of 14 May 2019 continue to apply.

Format of the Plan

There are a number of points which still appear to not have been addressed which make the document difficult to navigate namely:

- Contents page does not include reference to page numbers of sections/chapters/policies.
- No continuous/consecutive page numbering for the whole document.
- Illustration numbering not consecutive (e.g. still occurrences of several illustration 2 etc).
- No paragraph numbering within the document.
- Some inconsistency in formatting (some text in columns, some text across page width).

It is noted that a Glossary is now included in Part 2 of the Plan. However, this could be consolidated. For example, there are 4 entries for 'green infrastructure'.

Background Information

Much of the previous introductory background information to each chapter, which sometimes included matters national and strategic in nature, now appear to have been removed, which results in the sections of the plan being more focused and succinct. For example:

- Chapter 3 (Environment and Community): removal of reference to other authority documents and population data (previous pages 41-45 of 82, and 53-55 of 82).
- Chapter 4 (Heritage): removal of reference to national parks and viability of assets (previous pages 2-5 of 18).
- Chapter 5 (Housing): removal of sections on national housing, post-war new towns etc (previous pages 1-14 of 50).

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- Chapter 7 (Economy): removal of sections relating to strategic matters (previous pages 2-12 of 40).
- Chapter 8 (Transport): removal of sections relating to strategic matters (previous pages 1-5 of 39).

It is also noted that the previous 'Actions' sections at the end of each Chapter have been removed, which helps to focus the Plan, and the flow between chapters.

Evidence

It now appears that reference to other authorities' documents within the Plan has been addressed (please note that not every previous example has been checked). For example:

- Reference to Great Aycliffe, London and Reading, West Berkshire Plans/evidence now removed from Section 3.
- Reference to Barnet Design Guide now removed from Section 5.

Maps and Illustrations

The quality of the maps in the printed copy of the 'Interim Report Version' of the Plan are clearer than the 'Submission Version'. For example:

- The Neighbourhood Designation Area Map in the introduction (page 3 of 12).
- Active OSPV Map (was page 2 of 82, now page 2 of 34).

However, it is noted that the notations on some maps has been altered, and on others it has not been changed to address previous concerns relating to whether the maps provide sufficient clarity over the precise spatial extent/location to which Policies apply. For example:

- EV4 Avenue of tree (was page 19 of 82, now page 11 of 34). This was shown as lines (which were not clear), and is now shown as dots.
- EV8 Allotments (page 20 of 34), locations still shown as dots.

The scale of some maps has still not been changed, so precise boundaries of designations cannot be ascertained. For example:

- EV3 Green Space Map (page 8 of 34).
- HE1-HE3 Heritage Map (page 1 of 12).

It is noted that there does not appear to be an overarching/composite Policies Map for the Plan, which was discussed at the Public Hearing.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Development Plans Team if you require any clarification on the points raised (email: development.plan@bracknell-forest.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

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