Examination of the New Forest District (outside the National Park) Local Plan - Part 1: Planning Strategy

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Note from Inspectors
Strategic Site Allocations and Minerals Consultation Areas

Introduction

1. In light of representations and further correspondence from Hampshire County Council, we consider it appropriate to seek further information and facilitate discussion on the issue of Minerals Consultation Areas insofar as they affect the strategic site allocations proposed in the Local Plan and the policy approach towards this issue.

2. With this in mind we have arranged an additional hearing session to take place on Wednesday 10 July 2019 starting at 15.15pm. The District Council and Hampshire County Council will participate in this hearing session. The question of what effect, if any, the location of a strategic site within a Minerals Consultation Area would have on the delivery of housing will also be discussed at the hearing session for Matter 12 on Thursday 18 July and Hampshire County Council will participate in that session. The District Council and Hampshire County Council are requested to submit written statements addressing the following questions. These statements should be submitted to the Programme Officer by 5pm on Wednesday 26 June 2019 at the latest.

Questions

3. Taking each of the strategic site allocations in turn:
   a) Is it within a Minerals Consultation Area?
   b) If it is, what information is available regarding the potential mineral resource and the viability/appropriateness of extracting it?
   c) On the basis of this information, can prior mineral extraction be ruled out?
   d) If prior extraction can’t be ruled out what effect would it have on the development of the strategic site, in particular in terms of the timescales for the delivery of housing?
   e) What evidence from real examples is available regarding the typical effect on delivery timescales on sites where prior extraction has taken place?
   f) Is the approach that the Local Plan takes towards the issue justified, effective and consistent with national policy? Is it consistent with the adopted Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan?
   g) Are main modifications required? If so, what form should these take?
   h) What effect would such main modifications have on the delivery of the strategic sites?