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EXAMINATION INTO THE SOUNDNESS OF THE HARTLEPOOL LOCAL PLAN

6 December 2017

Dear Mr King

Hartlepool Local Plan Examination

Proposed Draft Main Modifications

Further to my correspondence of 15 November 2017 I am now in receipt of the Council's proposed main modifications and accompanying documentation. I have a small number of minor comments which I set out below. I emphasise that they are minor and they should not delay progress on consulting on the proposed main modifications.

DOCUMENT EX/HBC/132

Schedule of Proposed Additional Modifications – 1 December 2017

I note that a number of matters and amendments I identified in my note of 15 November (EX/INS/45) are included with this schedule. I agree with the Council's approach in that they were primarily matters of factual update rather than issues of soundness.

Document EX/HBC/133

Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications - 1 December 2017

MM032 – it will be necessary in column 'Policy/Site/Para/Fig' to say "Paragraph 10.6 and also see Appendix E to this schedule". That would help direct readers of the document and embed Appendix E as a main modification (Appendix 14 to the Plan).

MM037 – I would suggest adding the following text to the end of paragraph 10.24 for factual transparency for future decision makers. "For the avoidance of doubt, the housing land supply assessment includes an allowance for non-implementation of 10% on the supply from smaller sites (sites of 4 units or less). No such allowance has been made on larger sites given the annual detailed profiling of site supply takes a precautionary approach on site deliverability, informed by tested evidence from site owners and developers."

MM061 – Reference to Policy Ind4 should be INF4.

Subject to these very minor additions I do not to see an updated version of the main modifications and can confirm on this basis that they can be published for consultation. Responses on the proposed main modifications will need to be collated and sent to me after the close of the consultation.

DOCUMENT EX/HBC/134

HRA for Hartlepool Local Plan – version 4

I note the amendments to the document and the various proposed Main Modifications that have been put forward by the Council to address representations on the HRA. I have no further comment at this stage other than to re-affirm this latest version of the HRA should be published alongside the main modifications consultation. I will take into account any comments on the Revision 4 HRA document when making my recommendations to the Council.

DOCUMENT EX/HBC/135

Submission Plan with proposed Main & Additional Modifications

This composite document helpfully illustrates the various changes in context of the whole Plan. If published alongside the proposed main modifications consultation it needs to be clear that comments should be made against a referenced modification (MM1 etc) in the published schedule and not against this document.

DOCUMENTS EX/HBC/136, 137, 138, 139

Policies Map

The various documents reflect matters identified during the examination process to date. The improvements to the presentation of the Policies Map (including clarification of the NE2 typologies) are to be welcomed.

DOCUMENT EX/HBC/140

Sustainability Appraisal Addendum

I am satisfied the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) addendum has considered, where necessary, the sustainability implications of the proposed modifications in a consistent manner. It should be published alongside the main modifications consultation. I will take into account any comments on the SA document when making my recommendations to the Council.

I understand that the Council will shortly start consultation on the proposed modifications and accompanying SA, HRA and Policies Map material. I look forward to receiving the responses in due course.

Yours sincerely

David Spencer

Inspector.