

Examination into the West of Bewbush Joint Area Action Plan

Pre-Hearing Meeting

Tuesday 11th November 2008

Procedural Questions for the Councils:

- Test 1 – has the Joint Area Action Plan (the JAAP) been prepared in accordance with the Local Development Scheme?

The JAAP has been prepared in accordance with both Horsham District Council and Crawley Borough Councils' Local Development Schemes. It was prepared in accordance with Horsham District Council's Local Development Scheme (2006) which was published in June 2006 and Horsham District Council's Local Development Scheme (2007) which was published in March 2007. Also Crawley Borough Council's Local Development Scheme (2006) published in June 2006 and Crawley Borough Council's Local Development Scheme (2007) published in March 2007.

Consultation/period of representation:

Issues and Options – 29th September–10th November 2006

Preferred Options - 19th October- 30th November 2007

Submission – 30th May-11th July 2008

Alternative Development Sites and Boundary Changes – 22nd August-3rd October 2008

- Test 2 – has the JAAP been prepared in compliance with the Statement of Community Involvement (public consultation)?

The JAAP has been prepared in accordance with Horsham District Council's Statement of Community Involvement, which was adopted in February 2006 and Horsham District Council's reviewed Statement of Community Involvement, which was adopted in June 2007. It has also been prepared in accordance with Crawley Borough Council's Statement of Community Involvement, which was adopted in September 2006.

- Test 3 – has the JAAP been subjected to Sustainability Appraisal?

Yes, the JAAP has been subjected to Sustainability Appraisal, which has informed each stage in the preparation of the document to ensure that the West of Bewbush JAAP contributes to sustainable development.

The JAAP Issues and Options document was accompanied by the SA/SEA Scoping Report in September 2006; the Preferred Options document was accompanied by the SA/SEA Draft Final Report in October 2007; and the Submission document was accompanied by the SA/SEA Final Report in May 2008.

- Test 4c – is the JAAP in compliance with the Regional Spatial Strategy?

Yes. A letter of confirmation was received from the South East Regional Assembly on 11th July 2008 in accordance with Section 24 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 which stated that the Assembly was of the opinion that the West of Bewbush Submission JAAP was in general conformity with the adopted Regional Spatial Strategy (RPG9 and Alterations) and the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (the draft South East Plan as submitted to the Secretary of State on 31st March 2006).

- Is an Appropriate Assessment required?

Natural England confirmed on the 4th July 2008 that an Appropriate Assessment was not required for the West of Bewbush JAAP as there would be no likely effect on the water quality and abstraction at the Arun Valley, air quality and bat foraging grounds nor would the provisions of the JAAP have a significant recreational impact on Ashdown Forest.

Note:- A Self Assessment of Soundness document has been placed on the dedicated web site www.westofcrawley.gov.uk