



The Planning Inspectorate

Adrian Tofts
Strategy, Policy and Performance
Lead Specialist
Folkestone & Hythe District Council

Our Ref:
Date:

PINS/L2250/429/7
24 February 2021

Dear Mr Tofts,

Examination of the Folkestone and Hythe District Core Strategy Review

As you know, we were unable to conclude the hearing sessions for the examination as planned, primarily due to ongoing work and discussions between the Council and Highways England. These discussions focussed on the transport implications and mitigation requirements for the proposed New Garden Settlement at Otterpool. We understood at the time that a relatively short postponement of the hearing sessions was required to enable work to be completed and an updated statement of common ground to be submitted. Following recent discussions with the Programme Officer, we now understand that it is likely to be some time before the necessary work has been completed and we are in a position to resume the hearing sessions. You will appreciate that at various points in the examination we have been told that the outstanding matters with Highways England are being addressed and that an updated statement of common ground would be submitted.

Given the above, we would be grateful if you could provide clarity on the situation. Specifically if you can confirm the current state of play with any additional work being undertaken and discussions with Highways England and a clear timescale for the completion of this along with confirmation of the intention to provide an updated statement of common ground. Whilst we are keen to resume and conclude the hearing sessions as soon as possible, we are unable to make arrangements to do so until the work referred to above has been completed or at least we have a clear and definite timescale for this. We would appreciate regular updates on progress during this period.

We are grateful for the work undertaken by the Council on the various action points arising from the hearing sessions. There are still some outstanding actions however. Of particular importance is further information relating to infrastructure requirements and phasing of the New Garden Settlement. We would appreciate this being prioritised. We look forward to your response in relation to the above and will take a view as to how to progress the examination in the light of it.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Ward and Philip Mileham

INSPECTORS