

Annex 2 Draft Response letter July 2016



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12th July 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

Guildford Borough Proposed Submission Local Plan – Strategy and sites consultation

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2016 Guildford Borough Proposed Submission Local Plan: Strategy and Sites document and supporting documentation. Surrey Heath Borough Council wishes to make the following comments on the draft Plan and supporting documentation.

Surrey Heath Borough Council is pleased to note that most of the objections made to the 2014 Draft Guildford Local Plan consultation have been addressed. To this end Surrey Heath Borough Council no longer raise objections to the lack of evidence base, the identification of full objectively assessed housing need and the strategic growth location in the Blackwater Valley.

Surrey Heath Borough Council does raises and objection regarding the lack of duty to co-operate with respect of removing both Pirbright Barracks and Keogh Barracks from the Green Belt. As set out in our 2014 response Surrey Heath indicated that it is important that the plan-making process of both Surrey Heath and Guildford recognise these sites and that engagement and dialogue in relation to them is constructive and on-going.

In addition Surrey Heath Borough Council is concerned that no other land designation appears to be given to the areas to be removed from the Green Belt. The sites are described as major previously developed sites inset from the Green Belt in Paragraph 4.3.15 of the Submission Local Plan. This leaves the status of these sites quite unclear with no policy direction as to how they could be developed in the future. Pirbright is a large site and sits immediately adjacent to the Council's strategic housing site at Deepcut. Keogh Barracks abuts Surrey Heath.

In light of the above concern, Surrey Heath **objects** to the Local Plan as currently drafted.

The Council would welcome the opportunity to engage with Guildford via the duty to co-operate processes with a view to resolving these concerns and thus facilitating sound and effective plan making.

Yours sincerely

Surrey Heath Borough Council