

Planning Policy and Local Plan Committee

29th June 2021

UPDATE SHEET

Report A.1 – SECTION 2 LOCAL PLAN: MODIFICATIONS STAGE

On publication of the agenda for the above meeting, Officers emailed the Local Plan Inspectors (through their Programme Officer) to update them on progress and to share with them the updated Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) which are listed as background documents for any comments.

The Inspectors have responded to confirm that they are happy for the Council to proceed to consultation on the modifications and associated documents, but have made just one suggestion having considered the updated SA – which is to add some additional wording to one of the main modifications before it goes out to consultation.

The Inspectors have asked that a reference to the Essex Recreational Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) be included within the supporting text of Policy PPL4 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity'.

Members may recall that the SPD was adopted by the Council via Cabinet decision on 13th November 2020 (following consideration by the Planning Policy and Local Plan Committee on 14th October 2020) and is therefore already a material consideration in planning decisions.

Officers have agreed wording with the Inspectors that can be added into Main Modification MM33.1 in respect of paragraph 7.4.3 (shown on pages 89 and 90 of the published agenda). It is proposed that the following sentence be added to the end of the paragraph:-

“Subsequently, this strategic approach has been distilled in the RAMS Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) adopted in 2020, to provide a practical document that outlines the requirements for use by the Council, applicants and the public.”

Members are therefore asked to **AGREE** that this addition is made to the schedule of Main Modifications before it is published for consultation.