

Ms. Rosalind Fallon
Herefordshire Council
Plough Lane
Hereford
HR1 0LE

Date: 9 February 2015

Dear Ms. Fallon

Herefordshire Council Core Strategy Examination

Further to my letter of the 9 January 2015, in relation to the upcoming Examination, I am writing to provide an update on the outstanding issues with regard to the Councils evidence base (issues within our remit) i.e. the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Water Cycle Study (WCS); documents which inform the appropriateness and deliverability of sites and policies.

As stated in my previous responses we have raised potential soundness issues with regard to a lack of up-to-date SFRA and WCS. Since 9 January 2015 we have provided the Council with further information and met with them to assist in the updating of these documents.

WCS

We provided some data and information on water quality and waste water infrastructure on 28 January 2015. We provided this, as an exceptional case, to try and assist the Council move forward with the required updates, to inform their plan. We met with the Council on 30 January 2015 to help explain the data and how it could be used to provide a robust evidence base.

Further email correspondence was provided on 4 February 2015 and 5 February 2015 to help steer the Council on the relevant issues to include, in helping demonstrate the plan can deliver sustainable growth in respect of environmental water quality considerations. For example, we advised the need to ensure sufficient detail to confirm that growth is viable and deliverable i.e. can come forward in the short, medium and long term, using information from the Utility Companies to ensure that appropriate infrastructure will / can be in place.

We understand the Council have recently met with Welsh Water to obtain additional data and evidence on options, to assist the update. Following a telephone discussion with Kevin Singleton this morning, we understand that Welsh Water have been asked to provide a response to the draft WCS which we have received today. We would anticipate that Welsh Water would be able to inform on the detail of possible options and solutions.

SFRA

With regard to the SFRA we have provided the Council with a scope of work to be updated.

We received the final scope for the SFRA update/addendum on 21 January 2015, which we responded to on 23 January 2015. It is understood that this work has been commissioned and the final SFRA addendum should be available prior to the discussions around 'Matter 11' on the 19 February 2015.

Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)

A key element of the updated WCS is the NMP which we have been progressing with Natural England (NE) alongside the Council. I have attached a copy of our 'EA/NE joint statement to the Inspector on the NMP'. This is provided in response to questions posed by the Inspector and third parties related to the NMP (SAC issues).

As you are aware, we will be present tomorrow (10 February) to discuss the NMP in relation to Policy SS3.

The Council have confirmed that they expect "the non NMP issues (both WCS and SFRA) to be dealt with through the sessions on SD3 and SD4 currently scheduled for the afternoon of 19th Feb and recognise the need to complete the work prior to that session".

I trust the above confirms our position at this time. Please can you also copy in any future correspondence to my team email address at SHWGPlanning@environment-agency.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Mr. Graeme Irwin

Senior Planning Advisor

Direct dial: 01743 283579

Direct e-mail: graeme.irwin@environment-agency.gov.uk

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