

Upnor Road Inquiry
Note on Local Plan Progress

1. The Appellants have, understandably, drawn the Inspector's attention to a press release published on 6th October 2021 which explained that the discussion on the draft Local Plan which was due to take place at Full Council on 7th October had been postponed.
2. This short note is to provide the inspector with the full context and latest position.
3. As was clear from the supporting paper published ahead of the meeting on 7th October 2021 (ID8) it was originally intended that there would be an "early briefing" on the draft content of the plan. Full Council were to be asked to "approve, on an in-principle basis only, the strategic aims of the Draft Local Plan" and to delegate authority to make amendments to take account of the SA/SEA and HRA, neither of which have been published, and then publish the draft plan for Reg 19 consultation.
4. Following further consideration of the matter, it was decided to postpone consideration of the Draft Local Plan by Full Council until the SA/SEA and HRA have been published and (if necessary) any amendments to the plan made.
5. It is likely that the Draft Plan be presented to Full Council in January, following which the Regulation 19 consultation period will be 12 weeks. As a result, the timetable is being revised it is likely that, following consideration of consultation responses with the necessary amendments, the Draft Plan will go back to Full Council in June 2022 to agree submission to the Secretary of State for examination.

Dave Harris , Head of Planning

18th October 2021