Forest Heath & St Edmundsbury councils



Mr Simon Berkeley BA MA MRTPI and Ms Christa Masters MA (Hons) MRTPI C/o Programme Officer Mrs Annette Feeney

By email: <u>Annette.feeney@westsuffolk.gov.uk</u> Contact Marie Smith Direct Dial 01284 757368 Email planning.policy@westsuffolk.gov.uk

21st June 2019

Dear Mr Berkeley and Ms Masters,

Single Issue Review of Forest Heath Core Strategy Policy CS7 (SIR) and Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) Examination: Response to Newmarket Horsemen's Group additional highways submission – May 2019

As requested I am writing in response to the submission of additional highways evidence prepared by Cottee Transport Planning on behalf of the Newmarket Horsemen's Group for the recent Hatchfield Farm Inquiry (AP/140033/SOS).

The additional evidence was prepared in relation to the called in planning application for 400 dwellings at Hatchfield Farm which is being determined by the Secretary of State. This evidence would appear quite rightly to be addressing the requirements of draft policy SA6(b) which was introduced during the Local Plan process to ensure the highway impacts of any proposal are fully addressed. The development management stage is the correct forum to look at this detail.

The evidence has been prepared and heard at the Planning Inquiry for the planning application and this differs from the type of transport assessment undertaken to support and inform the Local Plan process. The Inspector who carried out the Inquiry will prepare his report and the Secretary of State will determine the application in due course.

Thus the two processes have a slightly different legal context.

Notwithstanding the above and having considered the Cottee submission the Council is content that its evidence submitted at the Local Plan Examination is robust, that the highway impacts of allocations have been assessed and that the SALP includes adequate mitigation measures where necessary.

Therefore, in conclusion having reviewed the information submitted it is considered there is nothing new of relevance that would impact on the SIR and site allocations in the SALP.

Julie Baird • Assistant Director - Planning and Growth

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

Marie Smith Service Manager (Planning Strategy)