

From: Bridges, Hannah [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 July 2023 09:13
To: Richmond Local Plan
Cc: Biggs, Ann; Horn, Martin
Subject: London Borough of Richmond Regulation 19 Local Plan.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for consulting Spelthorne Borough Council on the London Borough of Richmond Regulation 19 Local Plan.

We have in previous correspondence and discussions with LB Richmond identified the following strategic, cross-boundary matters between our local authorities: housing; flood risk, with continued joint working arrangements; and Green Belt.

It is noted that the Draft Richmond Local Plan is proposing to meet the requirement of 4,110 dwellings over a 10-year period as per the London Plan requirement, and that anticipated completions are in excess of this figure, with the latest housing Authority Monitoring Report setting out that the borough is on course to meet and exceed the strategic dwelling requirement over a 10-year period. Furthermore, the Housing Delivery Test has consistently been met and the Borough has not faced any further actions as a result. Given the anticipated exceedance of the London Plan target, we are interested to know if this surplus supply has been considered in cross boundary discussions to help address any unmet needs of neighbouring authorities, particularly those of the Greater London area.

Whilst the Mayor of London is responsible for the overall distribution of housing need in London, we recognize that there remains a notable amount of unmet need therefore further work should be undertaken across the wider area to review the implications associated with this and to identify further capacity options to ensure this is met within Greater London.

The emphasis on higher density development and smaller units is supported but could have implications for Surrey, since previous under-delivery in London and lack of affordable family units has added to housing pressures in Surrey districts and boroughs, with potential knock-on impacts on infrastructure.

We note there are no site allocations proposed in close proximity to the boundary of the two authorities and also note that there is no additional need to plan for additional gypsy and traveller needs in the Local Plan.

Spelthorne Local Plan

The Spelthorne Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for Examination on 25 November 2022. The spatial strategy is centred on an efficient use of brownfield land in the urban area and a small amount of Green Belt release to meet specific needs of the community. The Local Plan is currently under examination and the Week 1 hearings took place in May 2023. However, following an Extraordinary Council Meeting on 6 June 2023 where a motion was agreed to pause the remainder of the Local Plan examination hearings, the Chief Executive wrote to the Planning Inspectorate to put forward this request on behalf of the Council. The Council will meet on 14 September 2023 to determine what actions may be necessary before the Local Plan examination may proceed. We have through the Duty to Co-operate had the opportunity for discussion as part of the process of the preparation of our respective Local Plans but we will keep under review potential implications on strategic matters and the Duty to Cooperate that may arise as a result of the pause and will be in touch in due course.

Please note that this response is at officer level and as such, Spelthorne Borough Council reserves the right to raise any further issues during the preparation of the LB Richmond Local Plan if Members of the Council wish to do so. We look forward to continued discussions through the Duty to Co-operate and continued joint working.

Kind regards

Hannah

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