

Cllr Lucille Thompson
Leader, Winchester City Council
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First of all, congratulations on becoming the new Leader of Winchester City Council.

As I have done with your predecessors, I hope we can work constructively together for the benefit of my constituents in this part of the District.

I wanted to write early in your tenure on the subject of **Eastleigh Borough Council's Local Plan** and the grave concerns many on our side of the border have about its impact on communities including Colden Common, Brambridge, Twyford, Otterbourne, Compton and Shawford.

You will be very aware of the issue I know and the energetic campaign being led by ADD (*Against Destructive Development*). It has been supported from the start by myself, neighbouring MPs in Eastleigh and the Meon Valley as well as Winchester – and Hampshire – councillors/prospective councillors of all parties and none.

Eastleigh's Local Plan has, of course, been a torturous process to-date. Unlike Winchester, where you inherit a signed off Plan (now undergoing its revision in line with statute), Eastleigh has had no updated Local Plan for the best part of ten years.

After warning's from the Secretary of State, it presented a set of proposals for future development in the Borough and representations were received on the pre submission draft of the Local Plan during the six week consultation which ran from 25 June - 8 August 2018.

Your officials will be able to brief you on Winchester's response which, in a submission dated 3 August 2018, lodged formal objection to the Plan. I have enclosed a copy of Cllr Horrill's letter and officers will of course be able to provide you with the longer individual response from the respective portfolio holder.

I wrote myself, on 8 August 2018, and a copy of my Local Plan response is also attached for ease.

Following the invitation by EBC to submit representations on the submission draft of the Local Plan, it was submitted to the Secretary of State on 31 October 2018 for independent examination. He has now appointed Inspector Christa Masters to conduct the Examination and we await details on the timetable and hearing sessions to come.

Winchester's response, rightly, recognised its obligation to engage constructively in the Local Plan process and made it clear the City Council's wish to take part at the oral examination.

As the incoming leader of Winchester, and a party colleague of the leader over in Eastleigh, I am therefore seeking to understand your position on their Local Plan and whether there is any deviation from the existing stance as expressed in the LP submission of 3 August 2018.

Furthermore, I seek confirmation that Winchester will speak against the Plan at the oral examination when that takes place.

I appreciate you are only just settling into your new position but you will appreciate there is a great deal of anxiety among my constituents on this issue and they, as well as I, want to know where the City Council stands now it is under new leadership.

I have sent a copy of this letter to relevant local councillors, ADD and to the *Hampshire Chronicle*.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Brine MP

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