CllrA.Rennie Havant Borough Council

Public Service Plaza

Havant P09 2AZ

Dear Councillor Rennie 15th November 2021

**HAVANT LOCAL PLAN – INTERIM INSPECTORS’ REPORT**

We write to you, as Leader of the Council, on behalf of increasingly concerned residents of the Borough. Whilst noting your stated position that “This is the right plan for the right place” with respect we cannot agree.

The Council’s position has always been that it must meet the housing targets set by the government, as then filtered through PfSH. Paragraph 55 of the Inspectors’ interim report has given you the opportunity to take an alternative approach based on the NPPF. Rather than fight your residents by continuing to push for more unwanted housing we exhort you to challenge the government to push back on the numbers being foisted on you in order to protect the Boroughs precious environment.

We appreciate that this would need a fundamental change in mind set by both members and officers and whilst we know that previous approaches to the Secretary of State have not proved successful we believe that armed with the Inspectors’ findings and backed by a firm case setting out the insurmountable constraints this would provide a strong reason for restricting the overall scale, type and distribution of development in the Borough by explaining the exceptional circumstances required for a departure from the standard method.

We understand the need to provide adequate housing for residents but believe that the current approach is not delivering the type of affordable/first homes development the Borough needs and that the numbers currently proposed only encourage in-migration causing unacceptable pressures on infrastructure, services and amenities and resulting in irreparable environmental damage. In support of this we would refer to Michael Gove’s reply to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee on 8th November in reply to a question about leeway in housing targets. He stated *“My colleague Chris Pincher has made it clear that in developing a plan a local authority can say, “Right, this is the number to which we have been working. However, in this community, in this area, you have to take account of the fact that we have AONBs here, SSSIs here, green belt there and so on. It would be unrealistic to expect us, consistently with all those factors, to meet the figure that has been produced.””*

We also suggest you call for urgent release of the preliminary 2021 census results for Havant population and households in order to ground truth the projections currently in use.

We believe that you are now awaiting a response to David Hayward’s letter of 4th November to the Inspectors but in view of the above and the seriousness of the situation we would request an urgent meeting with you and your Cabinet colleagues.

Yours sincerely

Ann Buckley, CMCIH,

HBRA Co-ordinator for:

CPRE Hampshire Hayling Island R.A. Save Our Island

Emsworth Residents’Assn. Langstone R.A. Waterlooville RA.

Havant Civic Society Save Old Bedhampton West Bedhampton and North Hill RAs

Havant Friends of the Earth Save Long Cops Lane Warblington and Denvilles RA