



City of York Council
West Offices
Station Rise
York
YO1 6GA

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government
Department for Communities & Local Government
4th Floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

30th January 2018

Dear Sir,

City of York Local Plan

Further to your letter dated 16th November 2017 with regard to the City of York Local Plan, set out below is the response of the Council within the deadline of 31st January 2018.

I would like to begin by expressing our full commitment to producing a sound plan for the City of York as expeditiously as possible. We have consistently kept DCLG updated on our progress and officers have met with your civil servants on a number of occasions. We are making significant progress with the production of a Local Plan having completed a Regulation 18 consultation in Autumn 2017. Subsequently on the 25th January following detailed consideration of the representation from this consultation approval was given by the Council's Member Executive to undertake a Regulation 19 consultation which will begin before the end of February 2018.

Both of these actions are in accordance with our published Local Development Scheme and the Council will be in a position to submit a plan for examination by the end of May 2018. I therefore believe that the Council's progress to date and the continued strong adherence to its published Local Development Scheme will provide you with sufficient assurance & confidence of our commitment and you will therefore not have the need to accelerate intervention through your office.

In respect of the exceptional circumstances that you have asked that we lay out for your consideration I would draw your attention to my previous letters to your department in January 2017 (please see attached). As indicated in that letter our programme for delivery of the Local Plan was changed significantly following the announcements on the 7th November 2016 by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) that they would be disposing of a number of military sites across the country as part of their Strategy – A Better Defence

Estate (MOD, 7th November 2016). Previous dialogue with the MOD in relation to their land interests in York had been inconclusive about potential asset disposal; effectively highlighting the potential of sites for redevelopment or the intensification for military use. The announcement effectively confirmed the disposal of the three substantially significant York sites:

- Imphal Barracks (estimated date of disposal 2031);
- Queen Elizabeth Barracks (estimated date of disposal 2021); and
- Towthorpe Lines (estimated date of disposal 2021).

Officers had to undertake the necessary work to evaluate whether the MOD sites represented reasonable alternative sites and concluded they were a material change to the plan previously consulted on. This therefore led as required by regulation to a further consultation before progressing to the Publication Stage and hence the delay over the last calendar year to ensure a sound & robust approach to the submission of the plan.

In light of the above progress and mitigating circumstance I trust that you will agree with me, that we are close to achieving our ambition for York to have in place its first Local Plan in over 50 years, therefore the most expeditious route for the Local Plan in York is for the democratically elected Members of York to retain control of the process. Intervention at this stage, I believe, would be premature and detrimental to our shared ambition of delivering a Local Plan for York and accelerating the delivery of homes for the people of York.

Please see attached link to the Local Plan report which was tabled at our formal Council's Executive meeting on 25th January 2018:

<http://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=733&MIId=10195&Ver=4>.

The Chief Executive would welcome the opportunity to meet with yourself or your representatives to discuss this matter further. Should you wish to arrange a meeting, please do not hesitate to contact Mike Slater, Assistant Director for Planning and Public Protection. We are also happy to explore support from PAS, DCLG and PINs where possible and appropriate.

Yours sincerely



Cllr David Carr
Leader of City of York Council