



Place Directorate

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

Date: 27 October 2023

Inspector Simon Berkeley BA MA MRTPI  
Inspector Paul Griffiths BSc(Hons) BArch IHBC  
C/O Carole Crookes  
Independent Programme Officer Solutions  
PO Box 789  
Wakefield  
West Yorkshire  
WF1 9UY

Dear Mr Berkeley and Mr Griffiths,

I write in response to the queries you set out in your letter dated 22 September 2023 [[EXINS44](#)].

We have produced the attached document to address your request to:

- Understand the situation relating to issues raised in the Fol material you mention in your letter (Matter 1 in our response);
- Have demonstrated the suitability and deliverability of Outgang Lane, Osbaldwick, in response to concerns raised by the York Travellers Trust, including those set out in their representations on the Main Modifications Consultation (Matter 2 in our response).

As you will appreciate, it is important that specific emails such as those included in the Fol material need to be seen in their proper context, including the overall decision-making structure within the Council.

Officers responsible for the Local Plan, including myself, were aware of the emails. For the reasons set out in the attached document, they were not considered to alter the approach which should be taken to strategic policy relating to gypsy and traveller provision within the Local Plan, in

particular policy relating to the Osbaldwick site. Matter 1 provides a fuller picture of the position.

Matter 2 provides a detailed response to the YTT position and explains why the Council maintains the view that the policy approach to the Osbaldwick site, as confirmed in the Proposed Modifications, remains sound.

Your letter also seeks our views on the implications of a conclusion on your part that the approach to gypsies and travellers in the draft Local Plan, with the proposed modifications, fails to achieve soundness. As our response to Matters 1 and 2 explains, we consider that the Local Plan is sound in this respect. However, in the event that you are not satisfied with our response, we consider that the Local Plan could still proceed to adoption and we would welcome the opportunity to explain our position, should this be necessary.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Neil Ferris  
Corporate Director of Place