

Forest Heath Local Plan – Examination of the Single Issue Review of Core Strategy Policy CS7

Suffolk County Council Representation on Matter 5 – Deliverability (Transport)

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This representation concerns Suffolk County Council's comments on highways and transport issues, as relevant to the questions identified under Matter 5. These relate to questions 5.2a), 5.2b) and 5.2c).
- 1.2 A further written representation on Matter 5 has been submitted in respect of education. Other County Council infrastructure requirements are set out in the Infrastructure Plan (**Ref: B29**).

2. Question 5.2

5.2 Is the level and distribution of housing based on a sound assessment of infrastructure requirements and their deliverability, including expected sources of funding? In particular:

a) What are the key infrastructure requirements for the successful delivery of the housing planned?

2.1 The key transport infrastructure requirements for this scale and distribution of growth are set out in the 2016 AECOM study (Table 9, **Ref: B17**). They are also recognised in Forest Heath's Infrastructure Plan (**Ref: B29**).

2.2 The Transport Assessment process, to be carried out at the point of determining planning applications, will identify the detailed requirements for development. In its response to consultation on the Site Allocations document, the County Council sought a modification to provide a strong policy approach to managing the cumulative impacts of development.

2.3 Underpinning the delivery of the Plan is a need to prioritise sustainable transport, which minimises the need for highway infrastructure requirements. These will be secured through policies set out in the NPPF and extant Local Plan.

b) What reassurances are there that these elements can and will be delivered when and where they are needed?

2.4 The County Council has no evidence to suggest that the necessary infrastructure cannot be delivered. An amendment is proposed to the Site Allocations document in order to help facilitate consideration of the cumulative impacts, but a policy framework exists to require that development makes provision for the necessary transport infrastructure.

c) Has the cost of these infrastructure elements been estimated, and funding sources identified?

2.5 The costs of the transport infrastructure requirements have not been estimated as they are not considered to be unusually expensive, beyond what development might normally expect to fund as a normal development costs.

2.6 If, upon further work through transport assessment a need for more significant transport mitigation is required, the following sources could be considered for enabling development:

- Government funding for housing delivery, such as the new Housing Infrastructure Fund
- Highways England's Housing and Growth Fund
- Local Enterprise Partnership funding
- Suffolk County Council Local Transport Plan funding