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Graham Blew

**From:** Gravesham Borough Council Planning Consultations (do not reply) [do-not-reply@graveshamlocalplan.org.uk]  
**Sent:** 02 December 2013 13:26  
**To:** Graham Blew  
**Subject:** Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy - Consultation on the Schedule of Proposed Modifications, December 2013

### Message from Gravesham Borough Council Planning Consultations

Dear Sir or Madam

The independent Planning Inspector has been considering the soundness of Gravesham's Local Plan Core Strategy which the Council submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination in May 2013. Following the public hearings in September 2013, the Inspector wrote to the Council with his preliminary conclusion that the submitted Core Strategy was unsound as the level of housing provision proposed (4,600 new dwellings) was too low and would not provide sufficient new homes to meet the Borough's objectively assessed needs, as required by national government policy.

The Inspector has suggested four ways for the Council to proceed. These are: completing the examination on the basis of the submitted plan; suspending the examination for 6 months to enable the Council to carry out further work on housing need; asking the Inspector to make changes to the plan or withdrawing the plan and resubmitting at a later date.

The Council is keen to get an adopted Core Strategy in place as soon as possible to show where future housing and other development should go, as the current Local Plan is nearly 20 years old. A withdrawal of the plan or a declaration of unsoundness would deprive the Borough of an up to date planning framework to guide future development. This would lead to years of uncertainty and planning by appeal, with the potential development of greenfield and Green Belt sites in a random, uncoordinated way.

The Inspector has therefore been asked to recommend proposed main modifications to the Core Strategy which he believes are needed to make the Core Strategy sound.

The Schedule of Proposed Modifications, which includes the main modifications proposed by the Inspector and minor modifications proposed by the Council, has been published for public inspection. This is accompanied by a version of the Core Strategy and Appendices which includes the proposed modifications as tracked changes and updated Sustainability Appraisal Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Reports.

These are available to view, download and comment on for a six week period from **Wednesday 4 December 2013 until 5pm on Wednesday 15 January 2014**.

The Schedule of Proposed Modifications and supporting documents can be viewed on the Council's website at [www.gravesham.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/localplan) and, subject to opening times, at:

- Gravesham Gateway, Civic Centre, Gravesend
- Gravesend Library, Windmill Street, Gravesend
- Other branch libraries within Gravesham

#### How to make comments

This consultation is a formal part of the preparation of the Gravesham Local Plan and your comments must relate to the Schedule of Proposed Modifications. The tracked changes version of the Core Strategy and Appendices are for information only. Comments seeking changes to other parts of the Core Strategy will not be accepted as they have already been considered by the Inspector.

You can make comments by:

- Visiting [www.gravesham.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/localplan) to complete the form and submit it online
- Emailing or sending a scanned version of the form to [planning.policy@gravesham.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@gravesham.gov.uk)
- Completing a representation form available from the Gravesham Gateway, Civic Centre and libraries and returning it by post or by hand to Planning Policy, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU

Please note that the Planning Inspector needs the answers to the questions on the representation form, regardless of whether representations are submitted electronically or on paper. This is a formal legal stage

in the process and you must explain why the proposed changes are not 'sound' for your representation to be considered.

**Please ensure that your forms reach us by 5pm on Wednesday 15 January 2014.** Comments received after this date will not be accepted.

If you have a general enquiry about the Core Strategy or the Proposed Modifications, please contact the Planning Policy Team on 01474 33 76 03 or email [planning.policy@gravesham.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@gravesham.gov.uk)

If you have a query about the Examination please contact the Programme Officer, Lisa Martin, as follows:

- **Address:** c/o Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU
- **Email:** [programme.officer@gravesham.gov.uk](mailto:programme.officer@gravesham.gov.uk)
- **Telephone:** 01474 33 74 24

Yours faithfully

Wendy Lane  
Principal Planning Officer - Planning Policy