

Dear Mr Cookson

**Hastings and Rother Strategic Housing Market Assessment
Update: Housing Needs Assessment, June 2013**

Thank you for your letter of 31 July 2013 and for the various attachments.

I agree that all the participants at the Hearing scheduled for 10 September 2013 should be aware of this evidence and given the opportunity to comment on it in the context of the proposed Main Modifications and other matters on the agenda. You suggest that a short note be circulated to them regarding the updated evidence, and I agree that this would be helpful to all concerned. It could usefully include a weblink and details about obtaining hard copies either directly from the Council or viewing them at the Examination Library.

You note at paragraph 21 of the Committee Report the likelihood of my asking questions about the Duty to Co-operate, especially with Rother District Council. It would be useful to have further written evidence about this matter for the Hearing, and I would ask you to prepare it as soon as possible. This would give participants at least 2 weeks to consider it prior to the Hearing. I realise, however, that this will no doubt have to be updated at the Hearing to take account of replies from the various local authorities to which you have sent your letter of 19 July 2013.

As previously mentioned, the Hearing would be a good opportunity to update me and others on the latest position concerning Hastings Pier and the restoration of Pelham Place and the latest position on identifying requirements and sites for gypsies and travellers, bearing in mind the requirements of the Framework. Please also advise me then on whether the Council has a recent annual target for affordable homes and the latest unemployment figure for the Borough. A short note dealing with all these points should suffice, but I suggest that you leave it until September so I get the most recent information.

I have asked Lynette to put this letter on the Examination website.

Yours sincerely

Richard E Hollox

Inspector

6 August 2013