

Matthew Birkinshaw MRTPI
The Planning Inspectorate
The Square
Temple Quay House
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Date: 02/06/23

Dear Mr Birkinshaw,

RE: Examination of the Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan: Next Steps

I am writing further to my letter dated 17 February 2023 which set out the timeframe for further decision making on the next steps for the Local Plan examination by the Council, and the anticipated indicative milestones for the next stages of the examination.

On Thursday 4th May our Council undertook elections for a third of the seats available, and on Friday 5th May the results of those elections were announced. Whilst there have been some changes to elected members, the Council is still under no overall control by any single political party. Nevertheless, at the Annual Meeting of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council on Wednesday 24 May Council Leader Ben Chapelard confirmed that the Borough partnership established following the 2022 elections will continue.

However, following on from the elections, I must advise you that we are unable to meet the previously advertised indicative timeframes for progressing the examination and that the broad dates for these milestones must be revised.

The Council is still assessing the options put to us in your Initial Findings letter of November 2022 and the resultant implications on the timeframes for the examination of the Plan. Owing to delays on some of the inter-related pieces of work, there will now be some delays to the timeframe meaning a slippage to reporting to our Members until at least August.

This will have a knock-on impact on the later milestones which remain the anticipated next stages for the examination. Please rest assured that work is progressing at pace with all available resources and I aim to be able to set out for you a revised timeframe in due course.

Yours sincerely



**Carlos Hone MRTPI
Head of Planning Services
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council**