

Cllr Stuart Bray, Leader
Hinckley & Bosworth B.C.
Council Offices
Hinckley Hub
Rugby Road
Hinckley
LE10 0FR
(by email)

14 January 2022

Dear Stuart,

As you know, the County Council is committed to supporting the delivery of sustainable growth. We put in considerable staff time at all stages of the development of Local Plans, for all seven districts, including supporting informal and formal periods of consultation. In Hinckley and Bosworth's case, the information we have been provided with is not sufficient – so are reiterating our request that you delay your timetable.

My officers have worked hard with yours to make the best of the Local Plan information your officers have provided. The reality is that the situation as presented to my Cabinet in September and October last year hasn't changed. There remain significant gaps in the information required to make a full judgement on your proposals, and without this, we are simply unable to support the Plan.

Indeed, when we met at County Hall on 2 November 2021 with your chief executive and local developers, we discussed what needed to happen, and we agreed to work together to help support your Local Plan. I was very disappointed to read your criticism of the County Council in your recent leader's position statement to your full Council. I accept it's politics but it also smacked of trying to apportion blame wrongly in the context of a forthcoming election. I would hope that you would want to concentrate more on your responsibility as leader of the local planning authority to agree a Local Plan, where you have a duty to cooperate with other local councils, particularly the County Council, to agree a sustainable and deliverable plan.

The County Council has, to date, never been in a position to have to formally object to a district's Local Plan and would only do so in exceptional circumstances. We understand the consequences of a district being without a Local Plan and the speculative development that follows. That's not in your interest or indeed ours, and certainly not of residents. I understand that the legislative requirement on Planning Authorities is that the plan is adopted by

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the end of 2023. A delay now, allowing for the completion of this key stage, would not compromise this commitment.

Let me be clear, I want to support your Plan, so I'll make the request again: delay your timetable, complete the development of your Plan, and provide to us all the information we require to provide a full and supportive response. Officers have sent (on 11 January) to Mr Bowers a detailed response which again sets out where the County Council believes information is required. I suggest your Council takes stock of this position and reassesses the time required to address these issues, taking into account the resourcing challenges which I understand your planning department is facing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' with a horizontal line extending to the right and a vertical line extending downwards.

Nicholas Rushton CC
Leader of the Council