

# **FAWKHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

c/o 8 Viking Way, West Kingsdown, Kent, TN15 6DY

25th November 2019

Ms K Baker  
% Louise St John Howe  
Programme Office  
PO Services  
PO Box 10965  
Sudbury  
Suffolk  
CO10 3BF

Dear Ms Baker

I am writing to express Fawkham Parish Council's disappointment regarding the discontinuation of the Hearing Sessions and your suggestion that Sevenoaks District Council withdraws the Local Plan from further Examination. Considerable time and effort has been expended by Fawkham Parish Council members and by our residents in submitting responses to the Consultations and in preparing Hearing Position Statements.

Regarding the Duty to Cooperate, it is our view that it is evident SDC engaged in effective dialogue with neighbouring authorities, none of which has stated they believe the Duty to Cooperate is not met, and none of which is in a position to accommodate the unmet need. Withdrawing the plan at this stage does not appear to be the positive or pragmatic approach to plan making required by the NPPF.

We understand you also have concerns over aspects of soundness, although we cannot comment on these as you have not yet made full details available. However, Fawkham Parish Council considers that the extent of the housing need that is proposed to be met is reasonable for a district which is the third most constrained by Green Belt, with only 7% non-Green Belt land in which to build, and that the Green Belt should remain protected from development.

We trust that you will consider the responses provided by SDC in its letter of 18th November, and avoid further delay to the Local Plan's progression.

Yours sincerely

Laura Evans  
Chair, Fawkham Parish Council

c.c. James Gleave, Strategic Planning Manager, Sevenoaks District Council