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Dear Louise,

Examination of the Sevenoaks Local Plan

I am writing as the site promoter of Pedham Place regarding the correspondence between the Inspector and the Council, noting that the Inspector has raised significant concerns with regard the Duty to Cooperate. Gladman have been involved in all the sessions in weeks 1 and 2 of the examination and prepared evidence in relation to the Duty to Cooperate.

Gladman recognise the importance of the role of the Planning Inspectorate and the challenging job it has in balancing the range of views that are put forward through the examination of Local Plans. Having considered the Sevenoaks Local Plan in detail Gladman noted a number of instances in which we considered that the plan was not sound, we identified and put these forward in representations and orally at the hearings, however we at no point considered that these issues of soundness were ones that could not be addressed through further work and main modifications to the Local Plan. It was with some surprise therefore that we read the Inspectors interim findings indicating that she considered the plan needed to be withdrawn or she would need to prepare a report recommending non-adoption.

The reality is that the Council is in an extremely challenging position given the level of constraints which sit across the district, and whilst it is not meeting its housing need in full, it has to its credit been open and upfront about those issues with its neighbouring authorities. In circumstances such as this several similarly constrained authorities have not sought to take as proactive and pragmatic an approach as Sevenoaks. Whilst we consider that further work is needed on the plan, we would urge the inspector to look again at the work done by the Council with regard the Duty to Cooperate.

Gladman hope that, in this instance, the Inspector will take a pragmatic view to the plan making process in Sevenoaks in order to ensure that much needed housing and infrastructure can be brought forward as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely



Mathieu Evans
Senior Strategic Planning Director