

Hampshire Chamber of Commerce

Planning and Transport Business Strategy Group

Policy paper

February 2020

Subject: Fareham Local Plan

Issue

Fareham Borough Council is currently consulting on its Local Plan. The deadline for responses is 1 March 2020

The plan includes policies that guide future development in Fareham concerning the provision of housing, jobs, sports and leisure, transport and community facilities, as well as the protection of the environment and the impact of climate change.

The Fareham Borough Local Plan sets out the Planning Strategy for the Borough up to 2026. The Council has recently committed to a review of its Local Plan to reflect emerging housing and employment needs until 2036.

The consultation provides an opportunity for the Hampshire Chamber of Commerce to comment on the plans contained therein.

Considerations

On initial study of the plan there are concerns that no new employment land has been proposed.

The plan seems to rely on the existing commercial space allocations at Daedalus and Welborne, which are either heavily restricted in their uses or indeed have not been built. These allocations do not meet requirements of SMEs or general commercial businesses.

Other previously allocated employment land around Fareham Station (around 4 Hectares) has now been withdrawn and designated as housing.

Proposed housing areas include areas next to the M27 and on previously designated strategic gaps.

Transport problems seem to be underplayed

- Junction 10, which needs major improvement to access to the proposed Welborne Development, currently has insufficient funding to be constructed.
- The Junction between the proposed Stubbington Bypass and the A27 needs considerable upgrading from existing plans.
- There is little consideration about sustainable transport plans to support development.

Group policy position

The Group objects to the current plan proposals on the following grounds:

- There are no new employment land allocations proposed
- The existing employment land allocations at Deadalus and Welborne do not meet the needs for SMEs or general commercial businesses.
- The plan is too focussed on the provision of housing and compromises existing strategic gaps.
- The plan should address the issues relating to road infrastructure; its capacity, interactions with existing networks and funding complications.
- Junction 10 needs to be fully funded and constructed.
- The plan should strengthen considerably provision for additional sustainable transport services and infrastructure including: bus rapid transit, railway development (including a new station at Knowle Hospital to serve Welborne), as well as more pedestrian links and cycleways. All should take account of the Transforming Cities Fund for the Solent and recent Government announcements on bus services, infrastructure, cycling and general sustainable transport initiatives.

Produced by Mark Miller, Chair

17 February 2020