

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above plan on behalf of my client Romsey Ltd. My comments are as follows:

1. I do not consider that splitting the regulation 18 consultation into two separate stages will work effectively in developing an effective strategic strategy for development in Test Valley. It is very difficult for anyone to properly visualise the alternatives available for development without some specific allocations being proposed for consideration and comment.
2. It is particularly difficult for the sustainability appraisal to undertake its work effectively without consideration of alternative site developments and the impact these could have on the community.
3. Nevertheless, it is agreed that the intention to promote development in the most sustainable locations is appropriate.
4. In terms of the scale of housing requirement, concern is raised no consideration seems to have been given to the PfSH assessment for regional housing need and cross boundary requirements.
5. It is also noted that the housing supply relies on the development of 1300 houses at Whitenap, Romsey as identified in the current local plan. This development has not even been the subject of a planning application as yet and the indications are that the developers of the site are only looking at providing 1000 to 1100 housing units. Should this be permitted, or if the planned development is further delayed, there will be a serious impact on the housing supply assumptions.
6. It is also noted that there is no consideration in the document about the possibilities of creating strategic areas of open space and biodiversity on the periphery of Romsey in association with reviewing the local gap designation. Strategic proposals supporting the creation of significant areas of open space have been submitted by Romsey Ltd as part of the SHELAA process and the call for strategic open space sites and it is considered that these should be formally assessed through the planning process. It is hoped that this will occur during the stage 2 submission.

Yours sincerely

Paul Airey
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