



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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12 September 2023

Dear Ms V Lucas and Ms Y Wright,

Thank you for allowing the Council further time to provide you with an Action Plan setting out the details of the work the Council believe can overcome your concerns with the draft Local Plan. The Council has completed this work which is attached for your consideration.

The Council hopes that you can see that there is a pragmatic way forward for the Council and relevant stakeholders. The Council believes the request for a pause of up to 6 months to the examination reflects the direction of travel in terms of the Government's approach.

The Government announced in July 2023:

"The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill provides a new power for Inspectors to pause the local plan examination for a timebound period. We propose to set out in regulations that the pause period may not be longer than 6 months. It would be for the Inspector to decide the length of the pause period within this maximum timeframe. This change formalises a mechanism through which issues with local plans or minerals and waste plans, identified by an Inspector at the examination, can be properly considered and addressed by planning authorities outside of the examination process, without needing to withdraw the plan and start again. This will ensure that more plans can be adopted, more quickly."

(Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill-consultation on implementation of plan-making reforms, paragraph 121 (July 2023))

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/plan-making-reforms-consultation-on-implementation/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-consultation-on-implementation-of-plan-making-reforms#chapter7>

The Council hopes that, in addition to the points made in our previous letter to you of 29th August 2023, the further detail provided in the attached Action Plan and letters of support from the site promoters, demonstrates that there is a realistic and practicable workstream to pursue. The outcome of this work will then enable the Council to identify how best to address the concerns you have raised, including the potential for adoption with an early review. We believe that the requested pause in the Examination will ultimately allow the Examination to restart and the recognised benefits of delivering a sound adopted Local Plan for the community realised.

We look forward to hearing your views on the way forward shortly.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Russell

Head of Planning Strategy and Economic Development