

# Statement of Representations Procedure

## Chichester Local Plan 2021-2039 Main Modifications Consultation

### Subject Matter and Area Covered

The Chichester Local Plan will set out the development strategy and policy framework for the plan area and once adopted, will be used to guide decisions on planning applications up to 2039. The Local Plan will cover the District of Chichester excluding the part of the district covered by the South Downs National Park. The Local Plan is currently at examination stage.

This consultation relates specifically to Main Modifications needed to resolve any soundness or legal compliance issues and which are proposed without prejudice to the Inspectors' final conclusions on the Plan. To assist with reading the proposed modification in the context of the Local Plan itself, the council has produced a 'tracked changes' version of the plan. However, please note that this is for reference only and comments should not be made in relation to this document as any such representations will not be considered. As part of this consultation you can comment on:

- **MC01 Main Modifications Schedule** – this is the primary document on which we are consulting. Main Modifications should only be made if they are necessary to make the plan sound and legally compliant. All responses will be sent to the Local Plan Inspectors to consider before they prepare their final report. **Comments should relate only to the identified wording changes in the schedule.**
- **Supporting Documents**
  - **MC02 Schedule of Policies Map Changes** – this shows changes to the Policies Map that result from the Main Modifications or corrections. Although the Local Plan Inspectors do not formally examine the map, they will want to ensure it is correct. **Comments should only relate to the changes made.**
  - **MC04 Sustainability Appraisal Addendum** - The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Addendum has been produced to assess the Main Modifications.
  - **MC05 Habitats Regulations Assessment Addendum** – The Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Addendum considers the impact of the Main Modifications on European Habitats sites.
- **MC03 Schedule of Additional Modifications** – Additional modifications are minor changes that the council would also like to make to the Local Plan to improve the presentation or to address or correct any typographical or factual errors, which are not necessary to resolve soundness or legal compliance issues. **These additional modifications are not examined or recommended by the Inspectors but are published by the council for comment alongside the main modifications.**

## **Where to view the consultation documents**

Reference copies of the consultation documents will be available for inspection for six weeks from 10 April to 29 May 2025:

- a. on the council's website at [www.chichester.gov.uk/main-modifications-consultation](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/main-modifications-consultation)
- b. Chichester District Council Offices East Pallant House, 1 East Pallant Chichester PO19 1TY (09:00 – 16:00 Mon- Fri)
- c. at Chichester, Selsey, Petworth, Midhurst and Southbourne libraries. Opening times and addresses for the libraries can be found at: [http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/find\\_a\\_library.aspx](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/find_a_library.aspx) and
- d. at the South Downs Centre in Midhurst. Opening times and the address for the South Downs Centre can be found at: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/contact/>

## **Period of consultation**

The consultation runs for 6 weeks from 10 April to 29 May 2025. All comments must be received by 17.00 on the 29 May 2025.

## **How to comment**

Representations should be submitted using the council's online consultation portal <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/localplanconsultation>

If you are unable to use the online portal you may send comments by email to [planningpolicy@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@chichester.gov.uk) or by post to Planning Policy, Chichester District Council Offices, East Pallant House, 1 East Pallant, Chichester, PO19 1TY. Alternatively, response forms are available at the locations listed under “Where to view the consultation documents” above or can be requested by telephoning 01243 785166 or emailing [planningpolicy@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@chichester.gov.uk).

## **Content and Structure of representations**

Consultation at this stage of the Local Plan Examination is limited to the proposed wording changes, known as “Main Modifications”, which have been identified through the examination as necessary to make the plan sound and legally compliant. The legislation does not allow the Inspectors to consider comments on any other parts of the plan.

When commenting on the Main Modifications Schedule you are asked to comment specifically on whether the proposed Main Modifications are sound and legally compliant. Please include the Main Modification reference number (MMx) in your response.

Legal Compliance means that the plan, with the proposed Main Modifications, meets the legal requirements for plan making as set out by planning and environmental laws.

Sound means that the plan, with the proposed Main Modifications, has been positively prepared, is it justified, effective, and consistent with national policy.

When using the online consultation portal you can click the question mark when responding for a reminder of these tests.

If you wish to make a representation seeking a change to a Main Modification you should make it clear in what way the Main Modification has not met the legal requirement or is not 'Sound' having regard to the four 'Soundness' requirements set out above. Your representation should be supported by evidence wherever possible.

It will be helpful if you also say precisely how you think the Main Modification should be modified. Representations should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested change to the Main Modification. There will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further submissions on Main Modifications.

You may also comment on the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal Addendum, Habitats Regulation Addendum and Changes to the Policies Map.

Comments on all of these documents, which relate to the proposed changes, will be sent to the Planning Inspectors for consideration before they prepare their final recommendations.

You may also comment on the Schedule of Additional Modifications. Comments on these will not be passed to the Inspector but considered by the council.

A step by step guide to using the online consultation portal is available on the Main Modifications web page [www.chichester.gov.uk/main-modifications-consultation](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/main-modifications-consultation)

## **Data Protection**

The Planning Inspector needs to know who has commented on the Main Modifications and Supporting Documents as part of the examination process. All comments will be made public on the council's website, including the names of those who submitted them. All other personal information will remain confidential and will be managed in line with the council's Planning Policy Privacy Statement which can be viewed at [www.chichester.gov.uk/dataprotectionandfreedomofinformation](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/dataprotectionandfreedomofinformation) or in paper copy at the locations identified above.

Anyone that comments will be notified of the next stages of the Local Plan, including the publication of the Inspectors' recommendations and the adoption of the Plan – you may opt out of future communications by selecting "no communication" when logged into the consultation portal or by contacting us using the contact details above.