



Nikki Nicholson
Principal Planning Officer
Spatial Planning Team
Surrey County Council

Civic Offices
Gloucester Square
Woking
Surrey GU21 6YL

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Telephone (01483)
755855
Facsimile (01483)
768746
DX 2931 WOKING
Email
wokbc@woking.gov.uk
Website
www.woking.gov.uk

Surrey 2050 Place Ambition

Dear Nikki

Thank you for giving Woking Borough Council the opportunity to comment on the draft Surrey 2050 Place Ambition. The Surrey 2050 Place Ambition provides a meaningful framework for an integrated approach to facilitating good growth across Surrey that will be aligned to infrastructure provision and underpinned by an effective partnership working. This is consistent with the objectives of the Corporate Plan recently published by Woking Borough Council and is therefore supported.

The Council is committed to working in partnership with the relevant stakeholders to ensure the preparation of the document to adoption and the delivery of its requirements. It would be necessary for Officers to engage with the County Council to explore further the rationale behind the definition of the Woking Hub and the implications for delivering the actions within it in an integrated manner. In particular, it would be critical to work in partnership to explore the governance arrangements that would be necessary to deliver the requirements of the Hub, giving that it covers three local authority areas. The Director of Planning has been given delegated authority to lead on this discussion and will be contacting you in due course.

The specific actions identified for implementation within the Woking Hub is broadly supported. However, the Council considers that the actions to deliver a single option for the Southern Rail Access, the promotion of the need for a Smart Road for the A245 and the feasibility work on Phase 2 of the Sustainable Transport Package does not go far enough and should be bolder and far more ambitious than just 'developing options', 'promoting the need for' and undertaking 'feasibility work' respectively in the next 10 years. Much work has already been done about these measures to be able to have a defined set of schemes for implementation within the next 10 years. The Council would be willing to work in partnership with the County Council and the other key stakeholders to bring forward these projects within a reasonable timeframe.

Flooding is a major constraint to development in Woking and has the potential to undermine the effort to achieve good growth at sustainable locations. Flood alleviation should be identified as a specific scheme for implementation because it has the potential to unlock land at sustainable locations for future development. A lot of feasibility work has been done by the Council on this issue and the Council will be prepared to work with relevant stakeholders to bring them forward for implementation.

The Council has started the process of preparing the Town Centre Masterplan. Part of this exercise is about engaging with local residents and businesses on the scale of the HIF housing requirement. It is requested that this and the intention to complete the Masterplan in the Spring/Summer of 2022 should be acknowledged in the document.

I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,

For further information, please contact Ernest Amoako on 01483 743427
Email ernest.amoako@woking.gov.uk