

Paragraph 151 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.

The representations we submitted on the pre-examination version of the draft Local Plan focused on Policy MTRA 2, as we consider that the policy excludes settlements which are equally, if not more sustainable than some of the other settlements identified in the policy, such as Colden Common.

In our view, the failure to take account of our representations and amend the draft Local Plan accordingly has resulted in the plan failing the “consistency” test as it would prevent land coming forward that would comply with the three dimensions of sustainable development as set out in paragraph 7 of the NPPF.

In respect of the first role (the economic role), the draft Local Plan as currently drafted would prevent sufficient land of the right type in the right place at the right time from coming forward.

In respect of the second role (the social role) the draft Local Plan as currently drafted would prevent achievement of this role as it would prevent housing being provided in a high quality environment that was accessible to local services.

In respect of the third role (the environmental role) the draft Local Plan as currently drafted would prevent achievement of this role as it would prevent housing being provided in a location which is not the subject of the restrictive landscape or ecological designations that much of the land in the District is subject to.

In light of the above, it is respectfully requested that Policy MTRA 2 of the draft Local Plan should be amended to include Otterbourne in the list of settlements subject of that policy, in order to make the draft Local Plan sound.