

Rosemary Moreton
Programme Officer Local Plan Part 1
Winchester City Council
c/o Strategic Planning
City Offices, Colebrook Street
Winchester
Hampshire
SO23 9LJ



26 July 2012

Dear Ms Moreton,

Winchester District Local Plan Part 1 - submission

Thank you for the opportunity to add to comments submitted on behalf of the University of Southampton at the pre-submission stage (reference 20086).

In respect of the proposed modifications, the University supports further reference at paragraph 32 to the importance of Winchester's universities to the character and success of the city.

The University also wishes to reiterate its request for a direct reference to its Winchester Campus within the context to Winchester Town (chapter 2). We consider this is justified given its central location and the University's ambitions to further invest in the Campus over the plan period.

The University also wishes to add to its comments in respect of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published since the pre-submission consultation. A key objective of the NPPF is 'Building a strong, competitive economy'. Achieving this priority includes planning positively to support the knowledge driven, creative and high technology industries (paragraph 21). As is acknowledged in the Council's evidence base, the universities are an important part of Winchester's strengths and potential for growth in these sectors, and the student population also makes a valuable contribution to the local economy.

At the same paragraph, the NPPF is clear that policies should be flexible enough to accommodate needs anticipated in the plan and allow rapid response to changing economic circumstances. At pre-submission stage, the University stated that it did not support policy WT1 (as drafted) as it failed to clarify development capacity within Winchester Town to meet the competing development needs. To conform with the NPPF, the University considers that policy WT1 needs to set out a clear strategy for reconciling development needs over the plan period and ensure it has flexibility to respond to changing circumstances.

We thank you again for this opportunity to add to our representations and trust that these comments will be given due consideration at the examination.

Yours sincerely,



Amanda Caspari
Deputy Director, Estates and Facilities
University of Southampton

cc: James Iles, Terence O'Rourke, Everdene House, Deansleigh Road, Bournemouth, BH7 7DU