

Date: 25 February 2020  
Our ref: 306781



Martyn Fulcher BSc (Hons) PGDip MRTPI  
Head of Development  
Ipswich Borough Council  
planningpolicy@ipswich.gov.uk

Customer Services  
Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Mr Fulcher

**Ipswich Local Plan Review final draft:**

- (1) Core Strategy and Policies Development Plan Document Review Final Draft;
- (2) Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) Development Plan Document Review Final Draft;
- (3) Final Draft Ipswich Local Plan 2018 – 2036 Sustainability Appraisal Report (Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal);

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

**Local Plan – Core Strategy and Policies Development Plan document review final draft**

We have the following comments on the soundness of the Local Plan.

Natural England is satisfied that our recommendations at earlier stages in the Local Plan process have been taken into account within the Ipswich Local Plan final draft.

We are also satisfied that the Habitats Regulations Assessment has provided a robust assessment of the Ipswich Local Plan final draft, in accordance with the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and having regard to relevant caselaw.

We are pleased that the recommendations for the strengthening of policy wording in the HRA screening report have been incorporated within the final draft of the Core Strategy, and issues carried forward into the Appropriate Assessment stage as we would expect, with recommendations for appropriate mitigation.

We are also satisfied that the methodology and baseline information used to inform the report appears to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive [2001/42/EC] and associated guidance. Furthermore the final SA contains a robust assessment of the environmental effects of plan policies and allocations on statutorily designated sites and landscapes including the Orwell Estuary SPA, SSSIs and the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and has taken into account both our advice and the findings of the HRA.

**Therefore, Natural England considers the approach taken with regards to the natural environment to be sound (in accordance with our remit) within the Ipswich Local Plan final draft.**

I hope you have found this letter helpful. If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact me on [Francesca.shapland@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Francesca.shapland@naturalengland.org.uk) or at 0208 0265792.

Yours sincerely

Francesca Shapland  
Lead Adviser, Norfolk & Suffolk Team