Dear Ms Reed

Examination of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan

1. Further to my letter of 16 May 2019, I am writing with my initial questions relating the provision of employment land and in respect of sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. Your responses to these further questions will also help to inform me how the Examination should proceed and to better focus the Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) for the Hearings.

Supporting and facilitating economic growth

2. Please would the Council highlight to me where I would find the most up-to-date and succinct explanation/justification for the Council’s approach to economic growth/jobs/employment land and floorspace. It would be very helpful for my Examination if the Council would provide a briefing note in this regard, which signposts me, with precise references to the relevant specific parts of the evidence as appropriate.

3. In the briefing note, please also address the following points:

a) In my initial reading, I have seen that the Plan and evidence base documents state different figures for the ‘baseline’ employment land requirement. For example, Policy SCLP3.1 refers to 11.7 Hectares (Ha), the first bullet point under the heading Ambitions for growth supporting business and growth on page 29 states 13 Ha, whilst table 4.2 of Ipswich Economic Area Employment Land Supply Assessment Suffolk Coastal (D2) refers to 14.4 Ha. What is the minimum employment land requirement for the plan period and how has it been derived?
b) The Plan is seeking to supply significantly more employment land than the baseline requirement. It is not clear however how much additional employment land is proposed over the plan period, or whether the existing allocations carried forward form part of the baseline provision. Please highlight where I can find the total figure of additional employment land proposed, or otherwise please provide confirmation of it.

c) Where would I find the justification for the proposed provision of employment land providing ‘significantly more’ than the baseline requirement and above that to meet anticipated needs over the plan period?

d) Has the forecast of additional jobs (6,500) which would be created during the plan period taken into account the proposed provision of employment land in the Plan? If not, are there potential consequences of this for the future jobs forecast and the development and infrastructure provisions of the Plan?

**Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople**

4. The submitted Plan does not make any allocations for sites for Gypsies, Travellers or Travelling Showpeople. Policy SCLP5.17 does not identify what is the need for such sites over the plan-period, nor the immediate need so as to identify what is the required 5 year supply of pitches and plots.

5. In order to reflect national policy, I would normally expect a local plan to state in a policy that provision will be made for specific numbers of pitches and plots (for Gypsies/Travellers and Travelling Showpeople respectively) for the whole plan-period, as identified in an up-to-date needs assessment; confirm what is the immediate need (to assess whether there is the required 5 year supply) and, where a plan is making allocations to meet at least the 5 year supply of land for conventional housing, make allocations to at least provide the 5 year supply. If a plan does not do so, there should be very good reasons why.

6. It would be helpful if the Council would consider what potential modifications could be made to the Plan, reflecting these national planning policy requirements, in order to advance matters during the Examination.

7. The Gypsy, Traveller, Travelling Showpeople and Boat Dwellers Accommodation Needs Assessment (ANA) for Babergh, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney, May 2017 (D17) appears to provide
the necessary information to achieve the above requirements on identified needs.

**Boat Dwellers**

8. In respect of provision for boat dwellers, please confirm whether the it is intended that the need for additional residential moorings would be met within areas designated under Policy SCLP5.15.

**Conclusion**

9. I would be grateful for your response to these questions by 31 May 2019, after which I will be able to complete my MIQs. If that is not possible, please provide me with a timetable for your response.

10. Please publish this letter on the Examination website.

Yours sincerely

*Philip Lewis*

INSPECTOR