

22 November 2024

Tom Ridley
Stroud District Council

Dear Tom,

[Response to comments raised within the Stroud Local Plan Review – Examination Pause Technical Evidence Consultation 2024 – Sharpness Developments LLP](#)

Please find enclosed a response prepared by Sharpness Developments LLP to each of the comments raised to the latest Local Plan consultation, those comments of which responded to the technical documentation prepared in support of proposed allocation PS36 Sharpness New Settlement (ref. EB136), which sought to answer queries previously raised by the Local Plan Inspectors.

In summary, the responses relate to:

- The deliverability of the passenger rail service at the Sharpness New Settlement.
- The ability for Junction 14, M5 to accommodate 1,000 units of the entire allocation ahead of major improvements to that junction.
- The viability for Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) and Demand for Rapid Transport.

The comments prepared by Sharpness Developments LLP conclude:

- In relation to the passenger rail service, the Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) that was submitted as part of the latest local plan consultation acknowledges that there are regional benefits to providing a service at a more strategic level. The commissioning of the SOBC was undertaken following engagement with Network Rail and Gloucestershire County Council. A stakeholder group is being formed to ensure that the deliverability of the passenger rail service is harnessed at the strategic level envisioned. The ability of the service is therefore progressing, but goes beyond the realms of it being delivered within the forthcoming plan period. It should also be reminded that the delivery of the emerging allocation is not reliant on the passenger rail service to come forward.
- The modelling work undertaken to date and that was submitted as part of the recent local plan consultation has been discussed with National Highways, using their validated microsimulation transport model. To gain full support from National Highways, Sharpness Developments LLP were informed the modelling would need to consider the additional traffic associated with the development at Charfield. At the time of writing this work is ongoing and will be shared with National Highways ahead of the hearing sessions reopening.
- Sharpness Developments LLP is working with a demand responsive public transport operator to determine the operational requirements and costs associated with Demand for Rapid Transport. Equally, the note prepared on MaaS that was submitted in response to the Local Plan examination

consultation was prepared in the context of updated guidance, providing examples of where MaaS can be successful.

The technical documentation in support of the latest local plan consultation addresses the concerns raised previously by the Local Plan Inspectors. Work is continuing in preparation for the reopening of the local plan hearing sessions.

Sharpness Developments LLP is confident that the technical work to date will satisfy the Inspectors previous concerns about the deliverability of Sharpness New Settlement. In support of this, a planning application will be submitted by the end of 2024 for the first phase of development, reflecting the requirements of proposed allocation PS36.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,



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