



Jess Brown-Fuller MP
Member of Parliament for Chichester
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 6342

Chichester District Council
East Pallant House
Chichester
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Dear Inspectors Lewis and Ayres

Re: The Chichester Local Plan Examination

I am honoured to represent the constituency of Chichester in Parliament, a significant portion of which sits within the Chichester District. The district boasts an historic ancient City, with a renowned cathedral, ancient Roman walls and rich cultural history. Within a short distance you are then enveloped in the beauty of our natural environment, most notably at Pagham Harbour's nature reserve, Chichester Harbour and the South Downs National Park. It is also the sunniest City in the UK, receiving nearly 2,000 hours of sunshine annually, so it is easy to appreciate why this desirable location is popular with those looking to relocate to the coast.

Before my election to Parliament this year, I also proudly served as a District Councillor and have seen the development of the local plan and the focus that the District Council gave to it since the local elections in 2023. Previous delays due to notable constraints and shifting planning policies have impacted its progress in recent years and I am pleased to see it moving forward under your examination.

I am sure in your examination that it is very clear, due to the unique circumstances facing the Chichester District, that it creates significant challenges in the deliverability of a four year housing land supply. With 70% of the district sitting within the National Park, and a further 5% allocated as a National Landscape, it results a perception of 100% of the District Council's housing allocation being concentrated into only 25% of the land area within the East and West corridors of the district, an area that encompasses some of the Country's highest quality agricultural land. Once lost, this valuable land is irreplaceable.

Additionally, Southern Water has raised concerns that several of its sewage treatment facilities are nearing or have reached capacity, leading to an increased dependence on storm overflows, a practise that should be the exceptional, not the norm. This situation is putting further stress on our water quality in the harbour and in our chalk streams.

Residents already report difficulties in accessing essential services such as healthcare, and new developments place further strain on local infrastructure, including roads, schools, and medical facilities.

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Flooding is another pressing issue, with various parts of the district increasingly affected due to rising rainfall and the low-lying coastal plain. Many local communities continue to experience frequent flooding, exacerbated by developments on floodplains and insufficient maintenance of watercourses.

The new Labour government's approach to unlocking housebuilding will no doubt be causing concern in communities across the district, when they have lost faith in a planning system that appears to favour large scale developers over the needs and visions of community-led projects.

A great deal of work has gone into creating the local plan for your inspection and it is of the greatest importance that the district has an in-date local plan as soon as possible, allowing communities to plan for development. I strongly support the landscape-led approach, with a strategy of dispersed, medium-level developments on appropriate sites that have been identified for future development, including the city regeneration playing a role in the delivery of a four-year housing land supply, making best use of brownfield sites.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jess Brown-Fuller".

Jess Brown-Fuller