Council Response to ED/73: Inspector’s suggested change to paragraph 5.6.8

The Council welcomes the Inspector’s suggested wording regarding Map 10, however has some concerns regarding the identification of detailed Green Infrastructure (GI) corridor boundaries.

The GI corridors are derived from important evidence base supporting the Local Plan policies; however the policies have been and, in the case of the Sites and Policies document, are being developed to ensure that they are flexible and do not rely upon the detailed definition of GI corridors at a local level.

Any future work undertaken regarding detailed definitions and boundaries of the GI corridors can provide more local evidence base and could be a material consideration in determining planning applications. However, given the current constraints on local government finance the Council has not programmed a timetable for this work, as any further work will be dependant on resources available judged against the priorities set out in the Local Development Scheme.

Given the above the Council would be concerned at wording which committed it to defining the GI corridors through the Sites and Policies document; the additional work required would delay adoption of this document. The Council therefore suggests an amended form of words below which it considers more accurately reflects the position:

5.6.8 Map 10 "Strategic and Local Green Infrastructure Corridors" shows in broad terms the Borough's Strategic and Local Green Infrastructure Corridors which are summarised below in Table 6 "Strategic and Local Green Infrastructure Corridors". This Map sets the context for the application of Policy CS 19 to, and the boundaries and extent of the Corridors to be defined and more detailed development management policy which will be set out in the greater detail of, the Sites and Policies document DPD.