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Reference:

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Dear Mr Barber,

Please accept this letter as an officer response on behalf of Coventry City Council (in its role as Local Planning Authority) in response to Warwick District Council's new Local Plan – Proposed Modifications Consultation (February 2016). This letter should be read alongside the initial representation made by the City Council in June 2014.

Since the initial Publication Draft was published the City Council have now submitted its own Local Plan (April 2016), whilst a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) relating to housing requirements across Coventry and Warwickshire has been formally agreed by 5 of the 6 respective authorities (September 2015). We also note that a MOU for the distribution of employment land across the sub-region is expected to be formally agreed in July 2016.

We note that the proposed modifications identify two new specific development proposals adjacent to the city's southern boundary. The city's own emerging Local Plan (Policy DS2 and GB2) and the agreed MOU recognised the potential for such options to come forward and support them in principle. This support was subject to ensuring sustainable development on a cross boundary basis including the appropriate provision and maintenance of supporting infrastructure. As such, we welcome the intention to continue working jointly on Design Briefs and Masterplans to ensure these sites are brought forward in a way that benefits all involved. We confirm our wish to be part of the working group to develop this supporting guidance.

Having regard to the above points and on-going engagement through the Duty to Cooperate to pro-actively and positively plan for strategic issues across the sub-region, we continue to support the emerging Local Plan for Warwick District. We believe that the proposed modifications overcome the initial concerns raised by the Inspector and only serve to strengthen the soundness of the Local Plan.

Yours sincerely

Mark Andrews
Planning and Housing Policy Manager

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