

16th July 2026

Ms Joanna Gilbert MA (Hons) MTP MRTPI
Via Programme Officer

Your contact is: Mark Worringham, Planning Section

Dear Ms Gilbert,

**Re. Examination of the Reading Borough Local Plan Partial Update - Inspector's Third Letter
following Stage 2 Hearings**

Thank you for your letter of 26th June regarding the issues of the needs of gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople and water quality and the implications for the progress of the Local Plan Partial Update (LPPU) examination.

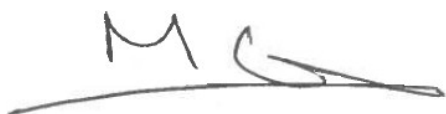
We have considered the issues that you set out in your letter. We regret that, having made substantial efforts to ensure that we have an up-to-date plan in place, the making of new Regulations after the stage 2 hearings had concluded have the effect of meaning that the Council must immediately begin work on a wholly new local plan. This is not what we had anticipated or had been discussed during the hearings, but we understand that the Regulations give you little choice but to come to this conclusion.

You have offered us two options for how to proceed.

- Option 1 – for you to recommend a main modification introducing a new policy committing the Council to commencing the preparation of a new-style local plan in the new system upon adoption
- Option 2 – for the Council to withdraw the LPPU from examination.

We would like to confirm that we wish to proceed with Option 1, the main modification regarding preparation of a new local plan. I have asked Council officers to work with you on the draft of this modification, and hope that this will allow us to make good progress toward adoption as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully



Councillor Micky Leng
Lead Councillor for Planning and Assets