

LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATIONS CAMBRIDGE CITY and SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

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15 November 2017

Mrs Caroline Hunt
Planning Policy
South Cambridgeshire District Council

Mr Matthew Paterson
Planning Policy
Cambridge City Council

Dear Caroline and Matthew

Cambridge City Local Plan and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Examinations

The Inspectors have provided the following for your attention:

We note that the email exchanges between the Programme Officer (on our behalf) and the Councils have now been published as a reference document on the Councils' websites. We indicated in our email of 10/11/2017 that we have no objection to the publication of the emails, but we have to express our surprise that this was done without any prior communication with the Programme Officer. Bearing in mind that this could lead to a significant level of correspondence from representors and others, we would have expected you to contact the Programme Officer in advance, not only as a matter of courtesy, but also in the light of the requests we have made that no new reference documents should be added to the already extensive reference documents list without our prior agreement.

We are also concerned that a recent email, which was copied to Gloria Alexander, the Programme Officer, suggests that 'the Inspectors...have not raised any fundamental concerns with the development strategy'. You will recall that we raised some fundamental concerns regarding the development strategy in our preliminary conclusions of May 2015. The Council undertook further work to address these concerns and the Examination has continued.

However, our final conclusions will be contained in our reports to the Councils and it is not appropriate for you to jump to conclusions prior to the receipt of our reports.

Furthermore, and as we have previously indicated in our email of 23/10/2017, we have tried to provide a comprehensive response regarding modifications that may be necessary to make the plan sound, but we cannot rule out the need to revisit issues as we progress with the writing of our reports. You should bear in mind that the Examination remains open until the Councils receive our reports.

In order to avoid any perception that we have reached fixed conclusions on the soundness of these plans in advance of the forthcoming consultation and the completion of the process of writing our reports, we are asking you publish this letter on the Councils' websites.

We are also instructing the Programme Officer to advise representors, or others, who seek to comment on the proposed modifications, or related matters, that the Inspectors will not accept comments outside the formal consultation process and that any queries should be addressed to the Councils.

Laura Graham
Alan Wood
Inspectors

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Kind regards

Gloria Alexander

Gloria Alexander
Programme Officer