Dear Mr Banks,

**Milton Keynes Core Strategy Examination: library documents**

**South East Milton Keynes Consortium**

We previously wrote on 1\textsuperscript{st} June with the written submissions on behalf of the South East Milton Keynes Consortium in relation to Matters 1, 3, 4 and 5. We have subsequently reviewed on the examination web site the written statements submitted by other parties including that on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC). The CBC statements are of particular relevance to the Consortium because of the cross-boundary element of the South East Strategic Development Area (SESDA), which the Consortium maintain should be reinstated in the MK Core Strategy in order to meet the housing and employment needs of the area.

The written statements by CBC refer to two new pieces of information that were not previously available as follows:

- the draft ‘Development Strategy for Central Bedfordshire’; and
- the statement of common ground between CBC and MKC (see CBC written statement on Matter 6, Appendix 1).

In light of this new information, the Consortium consider that it may be useful for the inspector to have available additional background information on the status of the SESDA in relation to both the CBC development plan and the arrangements for joint working between CBC/MKC.

In relation to the CBC development plan, we attach for information the inspector’s report in relation to the Central Bedfordshire Core Strategy, which was adopted in November 2009. The relevance of the South East Plan to Central Bedfordshire and the appropriate cross-boundary arrangements in relation to the Milton Keynes growth area are addressed in the CBC Core Strategy at Policy CS1. The inspector’s report, dated September 2009, provides additional background information in relation to this policy and its formulation, specifically at paragraphs 3.26 – 3.42.

Included in the evidence submitted by CBC to the examination of its Core Strategy in June 2009 was a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between CBC and MKC. The MoU outlined the arrangements for joint working between the two councils in relation to the planning and delivery of the SESDA and included a timescale for delivery, with an initial phase of infrastructure delivery planned in 2015. The Consortium considers the MoU to be an important document, not least in terms of illustrating the level of agreement that existed and the mechanisms that were put in place to ensure the successful delivery of the SESDA. The statement of common ground that CBC has now incorporated in its written statement for Matter 6 does not address the status of the MoU and it would perhaps be useful for this to be clarified either at, or in advance of, the forthcoming examination.
In addition to the SESDA-related planning policy and joint working cross-boundary issues, we have also included with this letter the document titled ‘South East Milton Keynes Strategic Development Area’, dated October 2008. The Consortium submitted this document to the Secretary of State as part of its representations in response to consultation on the South East Plan Proposed Changes. The document was also made available for reference to the inspector of the CBC Core Strategy at the time of the examination of that document in June/July 2009.

The Consortium acknowledges that due to the passage of time the SESDA document requires updating, for example to reflect policy and other changes in circumstances that have taken place since 2008. The Consortium is also aware that there may be a requirement for amendment to the balance of uses within the masterplan for the SESDA in light of the inspector’s findings in relation to the MK Core Strategy. Notwithstanding the need for updating, the Consortium submits the document to demonstrate the depth of analysis that has already been undertaken in relation to the SESDA and the overall capacity of the site to accommodate development.

I trust that the attached information can be added to the examination document library for wider reference.

Yours sincerely

David Jackson MA MRPI
Director

cc:  Consortium Principals
     Bob Wilson – MK Council
     Richard Fox – Central Beds Council