Milton Keynes Council
Response to Inspector’s Note ID/1
Question 1

COUNCIL’S RESPONSE TO INSPECTOR’S NOTE ID/1
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Conformity with the South East Plan

1. **Background**

   1.1 The Inspector (note ID/1, 14th April 2011) has asked the council to provide confirmation that the Submission Core Strategy is in general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the region, the South East Plan. This is in light of a comment made in the Self Assessment document (Document Reference: B128) submitted alongside the Core Strategy.

   1.2 The Self Assessment Toolkit asks the question:

   *Does the development plan document contain any policies or proposals that are not in general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy? If yes, is there local justification?*

   1.3 In response to this question the Council provided the following response (page 19 of the Self Assessment) which sets out the areas where policies are not considered to be in full conformity with the RSS.

   **Core Strategy policies relating to housing land supply and strategic Development Areas (CS1, 2, 5 and 6) do not fully comply with South East Plan Policies MKAV1 and MKAV2.** The Core Strategy proposes a lower level of housing growth up to 2026 than set out in the South East Plan. The justification for this is set out in Section 5 of the Submission Core Strategy and in the Housing Technical Paper.

   **South East Plan Policy MKAV2 states that the approximate jobs target for the Milton Keynes Growth Area should match the housing target.** The Submission Core Strategy sets a higher target of 1.5 jobs per net new dwelling. This is based on local reasoning. Justification is set out under policy CS3 in the Submission Core Strategy and in the accompanying Employment Technical Paper.

   1.4 The Inspector has asked for clarity that, notwithstanding the specific difference referred to above, that the Core Strategy remains in general conformity with the South East Plan, satisfying s24 of the Act.
2. Response of the Council

2.1 It is the Council’s view that, notwithstanding the specific differences set out above, for which local justification has been provided, that the Core Strategy is in general conformity with the South East Plan.

2.2 The Submission Core Strategy continues to promote the role and position of Milton Keynes as a key location within the South East region, as set out in the Spatial Strategy of the South East Plan.

2.3 The South East Plan set a requirement for the Milton Keynes local authority area to plan for significantly higher levels of housing development than in any other local authority area in the South East¹, a position which is maintained by the Submission Core Strategy.

2.4 The policies of the Submission Core Strategy each build on the policy content of the South East Plan, providing a locally distinctive and deliverable policy framework which is in general conformity with the RSS.

2.5.1 The Council’s position is that those specific differences set out above are necessary, given the changes in circumstances since the South East Plan was agreed. This is to ensure that the Core Strategy is deliverable and provides certainty as to how and where Milton Keynes will grow over the next 15 years.

¹ Source, The South East Plan (may 2009) table H1b, page 55