In response to your question 2 of 14 April (ID/1), planning and legal officers at Milton Keynes Council have had considerable dialogue with senior Councillors representing all three main political groups on the Council (which remains under No Overall Control following the recent elections).

There is a range of opinion on whether or not the Council has complied fully with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and associated regulations, but taken in the round we believe that a case can be made that Milton Keynes Council has complied and that the Examination in Public should proceed as planned.

However, we accept that others may have a different view and feel that it would be helpful if you were to arrange an exploratory meeting, with the Council and relevant third parties, so that this and possibly other points can be considered and ideally resolved before the EIP commences. We will endeavour to find a suitable venue for this meeting to take place.

We reiterate that the Council is keen to proceed with the EIP within the shortest possible timescale, particularly in view of the need to give a positive message about the future development of Milton Keynes.