

**MILTON KEYNES
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

**MILTON KEYNES
WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT
EXAMINATION**

**NOTES OF
PRE-EXAMINATION MEETING**

18 JULY 2007

Hearings commence:

2 October 2007

Hearings venue:

Civic Offices
1 Saxon Gate East
Central Milton Keynes
MK9 3HQ

Programme Officer:

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Inspector:

Stephen J Pratt BA(Hons) MRTPI

MILTON KEYNES WASTE DPD EXAMINATION

NOTES OF PRE-EXAMINATION MEETING

held on Wednesday 18 July 2007 at 2.00pm
at Civic Offices, Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Inspector, **Stephen J Pratt** BA(Hons) MRTPI welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that he had been appointed by the Secretary of State under Section 20 of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to hold the Examination into the soundness of the Milton Keynes Waste Development Plan Document (DPD).
- 1.2 He explained that the purpose of the Pre-Examination Meeting (PEM) was to outline and discuss procedural and administrative matters relating to the management of the Examination, including the nature of the Examination process and procedure for examining the Waste DPD, the programme for the hearings, the Matters to be examined and related questions, the methods of dealing with representations, the timetable for submitting statements, and other relevant matters. The content or merits of the Waste DPD and the representations made would not be discussed at this meeting.
- 1.3 The agenda for the PEM had been circulated previously, along with copies of the Guidance Notes for Participants. The Inspector explained that Milton Keynes was amongst the first of the Councils to submit its Waste DPD under the new LDF regime. He confirmed that the "Examination" relates to the whole process from the time of submitting the Waste DPD to the Secretary of State to submitting the Inspector's report to the Council. The hearing sessions are one element of the Examination, and will commence on **Tuesday 2 October 2007** at the **Civic Offices, Milton Keynes**.
- 1.4 He then introduced the Programme Officer for the Examination, **Jamie Chalmers**, who is acting as an independent officer, under the Inspector's direction. He is responsible for organising the programme of hearings, maintaining the Examination library, recording and circulating all material received, and assisting the Inspector with procedural and administrative matters. He will advise on programming and procedural queries, and any matters which the Council or participants wish to raise with the Inspector should be addressed to him. His contact details are on the letter accompanying these notes and on the Council's web-site: [<http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/local%5Fplan%5Fpreview/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=48218>]. The inspector also confirmed that a note of the PEM, along with the programme for the hearing sessions and a Schedule of Matters & Issues for Examination, would be circulated to all those who had made representations at submission stage within a few days.
- 1.5 The Inspector then invited the Council to introduce their team. These included **Robert Wilson** (Development Plans Manager) & **Maureen Darrie** (Planning Consultant, acting on behalf of Milton Keynes Council). The Council confirmed that **Maureen Darrie** would be representing the Council at the hearing sessions.

2 Scope of the Examination and Inspector's role

- 2.1 The Inspector explained that the purpose of the Examination is to examine the soundness of the Waste DPD. His role is to consider whether the Waste DPD meets the requirements of Sections 19-20 of the 2004 Act and associated Regulations, and whether it is sound in terms of the tests set out in paragraphs 4.23-4.24 of Planning Policy Statement PPS12. The Examination will focus on these tests of soundness. There is no statutory definition of "soundness", but its ordinary meaning is "showing good judgement" and "able to be trusted".
- 2.2 The Inspector outlined the tests of soundness, which focus on three main areas: Procedural; Conformity; and Coherence, consistency and effectiveness. Further details are set out in the Guidance Notes and in PPS12 (¶ 4.23-4.24).
- 2.3 In terms of published documents, all participants should be familiar with:
 - *Planning Policy Statement PPS12 – Local Development Frameworks* [ODPM];
 - *Companion Guide to PPS12 – Creating Local Development Frameworks* [ODPM];
 - *Planning Policy Statement PPS10 – Planning for Sustainable Waste Management* and the accompanying *Companion Guide to PPS10* [ODPM/DCLG]
 - *Development Plans Examination – A Guide to the Process of Assessing the Soundness of Development Plan Documents* [PINS]

- *Frequently Asked Questions on the Examination of Development Plan Documents [PINS]*
 - *Brief Guide to Examining Development Plan Documents [PINS]*
 - *Lessons Learnt Examining Development Plan Documents [PINS]*
 - *Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and associated regulations*
- 2.4 The Inspector then highlighted some key features and differences in the process of examining development plan documents produced under the new LDF system:
- *The examination process is intended to be quick and efficient, with the aim of submitting the binding report within 12 months of the submission date;*
 - *The presumption that the plan is fundamentally sound, unless it is shown to be unsound by evidence presented during the Examination;*
 - *The Waste DPD is subject to an Examination, with hearing sessions, rather than a formal public inquiry;*
 - *The purpose of the Examination is to determine whether the Waste DPD is sound, rather than to consider individual objections;*
 - *The role of those making representations is to demonstrate that the plan is unsound and suggest how it could be made sound;*
 - *Under the new system, the representations are considered only insofar as they relate to the tests of soundness in PPS12; the Inspector is not required to consider each and every point made in every objection or to report on them, but to use the representations as the starting point in considering whether the plan is sound.*
- 2.5 He also explained that the hearing sessions of the Examination are an inquisitorial process under his direction, rather than the previous more adversarial approach of the local plan inquiry. He likened the process of examining the soundness of the Waste DPD to that of an Examination in Public into a Structure Plan or Regional Spatial Strategy, with hearing sessions addressing particular topics, rather than the traditional public inquiry considering individual objections. The topics selected for discussion arise from the tests of soundness and the representations made at the submission stage.
- 2.6 This Waste DPD comprises a Core Strategy, with Site Allocations and Development Control policies. The Examination will consider all relevant aspects related to the soundness of these elements of the plan, including the strategy, policies and proposed land allocations. However, although national and regional policies will not be debated as such, the Examination will consider the application and implications of such policies if they directly affect the areas and topics covered by the Waste DPD.
- 2.7 After the Examination has closed, the Inspector will submit his report to the Council with his conclusions and recommendations on the actions or changes needed as regards the soundness of the Waste DPD. These recommendations are binding on the Council and they have to amend the Waste DPD in the light of these binding recommendations and move swiftly to its formal adoption, in line with the deadlines set out in the current Local Development Scheme.
- 2.8 The Inspector explained that the scope for making changes to the submitted plan is somewhat limited, particularly where such changes might have implications for the sustainability appraisal and consultation processes already undertaken. The Inspector's role is to consider whether the plan is sound, rather than making an otherwise sound plan sounder, and he can only make changes on the basis of evidence assessed during the Examination. He outlined the three potential outcomes in considering the soundness of the plan:
- *to find that the plan is fundamentally sound, but that some policies/text need minor amendments to make them sound before the plan can be adopted;*
 - *to find that parts of the plan are unsound and*
 - *either require further work to be undertaken to make it sound before the plan can be adopted;*
 - *or exclude/change that part of the plan and adopt the rest of the plan;*
 - *or exclude that part of the plan and bring it forward in a revised form in a fresh DPD, and adopt the remainder of the plan;*
 - *to find that the plan is fundamentally unsound and should not be adopted, and consequently it should be formally withdrawn.*

3 Procedural questions for the Council

- 3.1 In response to the Inspector's questions, the Council confirmed that the Waste DPD had been prepared in accordance with the statutory procedures under Section 20(5)(a) of the 2004 Act, and the Council's Local Development Scheme. The Waste DPD had also been prepared in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, which was adopted in December 2006, and was supported by a Sustainability Appraisal. The Council confirmed that a Self-Assessment of Soundness of the Waste DPD had been undertaken, and was available on the Council's web-site. The Council knew of no fundamental procedural shortcomings in the process of preparing the Waste DPD.
- 3.2 The Council stated that the Regional Planning Body (SEERA) had assessed the general conformity of the Waste DPD with the adopted and emerging Regional Spatial Strategy. SEERA & GO-SE had identified an issue of non-conformity relating to the failure of the Waste DPD to make provision for the disposal to landfill of a proportion of London's waste, as required by Policy W3 (2006 RPG9) & the draft South-East Plan. However, a meeting between SEERA/GO-SE & the Council was held on 5 July 2007 at which revised wording of relevant text in the Waste DPD was put forward (see later). The Council confirmed that the EIP sessions of the draft South-East Plan had finished, and that the Panel report should be submitted to the Secretary of State by July 2007 and published by October 2007.
- 3.3 The Council confirmed that no policies in the adopted Waste Local Plan are currently saved beyond 2007. The programme for preparing other LDF documents, including the Core Strategy & Key Diagram and Allocations DPD, is set out in the latest version of the Local Development Scheme (February 2007), a copy of which would be put in the Examination Library. The Wolverton Area Action Plan would not be prepared until the Core Strategy has been completed. In response to the Inspector's question, the Council explained that the reason for producing a separate Waste DPD was that the Core Strategy was delayed pending the outcome of the draft South-East Plan. As the Waste DPD was at a more advanced stage, GO-SE was content for it to be progressed at an earlier time, as confirmed when considering the latest LDS. The Council also confirmed that the Waste DPD had taken account of the Council's other plans and those of adjoining authorities. The Inspector said that all these matters should be covered in the Council's Self-Assessment of Soundness, and would be confirmed at the start of the hearing sessions.

4 Representations on the Waste DPD

- 4.1 Under Regulation 31(2)(c) of the Local Development Regulations, the Council has confirmed that 57 representations were received from 38 organisations/individuals on the Waste DPD Submission Document within the specified 6-week period following its formal submission to the Secretary of State in January 2007, most of which considered elements of the Waste DPD to be unsound. 5 late representations had been received, which the Council has accepted. The Inspector can only consider duly-made representations accepted by the Council and has no discretion to consider any late representations that have not been accepted by the Council.
- 4.2 The representations cover most aspects and policies in the Waste DPD. The main areas of concern include:
- *Waste strategy, including provision for various types of waste, including commercial, hazardous and kitchen waste, in-vessel composting, autoclaving and biomass;*
 - *Making provision to accommodate a proportion of waste from London;*
 - *Waste minimisation;*
 - *Implementing and monitoring policies;*
 - *Preferred waste management site at Old Wolverton;*
 - *Reserve waste management site at Wymbush;*
 - *Existing landfill site at Bletchley;*
 - *Other additional and alternative waste management sites, including Bletchley landfill site;*
 - *Policy on incineration.*
- 4.3 The Council has formally considered the representations made on the Waste DPD (Reg 31 Statement) and will produce brief responses. Some limited minor changes to the text of the submitted Waste DPD are envisaged, to be outlined in one of the Topic Papers and published by 27 July 2007. These changes will be formally proposed, and the Inspector advised the Council to follow the procedure set out in

PPS 12 (¶ 4.18). The Inspector pointed out that, in line with the advice in PPS12, the Council should not propose any fundamental changes to the submitted Waste DPD before the hearing sessions of Examination, since there is a presumption against substantial changes at this stage. Any minor changes should be agreed and set out in detail in an Examination document well before the hearings commence. The Schedule of minor changes would be put on the Council's web-site, all representors would be informed, and there would be an opportunity to comment.

- 4.4 The Council confirmed that, following discussions with two representors, an additional Site Allocation "omission site", comprising two sites at the Bletchley landfill site, had been formally publicised under Regulation 32 on 4 July 2007. Letters had been sent to all 4000 addresses on the Council's LDF database, and the documents had been sent to the libraries, members and the Waste Forum and placed on the Council's web-site. Four representations had already been received, and the period for making representations expires on 15 August 2007.

5 Methods of considering representations

- 5.1 The Inspector outlined the two main ways in which representations on the Waste DPD will be considered:
- Written representations – based on the original representation, with a response, if necessary, from the Council. Most representations will be considered by this method. Written representations are not discussed at the hearings and attendance at the hearing sessions is not necessary. Those wishing to proceed by this method can rely on their original written representations and need take no further action.
 - Oral representations – where representors have indicated that they wish to have an oral hearing, relevant points in the representations will be dealt with at a Hearing Session of the Examination, where the Council and other participants debate the main points on the key issues identified by the Inspector in a structured and informed discussion.
- 5.2 The Inspector confirmed that both methods carry the same weight and he will have equal regard to views put orally and in writing. Only those parties seeking specific changes to the Waste DPD are entitled to attend the hearing sessions of the Examination, and attendance is only necessary if participants wish to contribute to the debate and help the Inspector to consider the soundness of the plan. There is no need for those supporting or making comments on the plan to attend.
- 5.3 The Inspector explained that the traditional form of public inquiry is not appropriate for considering representations on the soundness of this Waste DPD, but the hearings can be adapted to accommodate more formality if justified. The procedure is more like an Examination in Public into a Structure Plan or Regional Spatial Strategy, where the topics and issues are selected beforehand, and the Council and other participants have the opportunity to contribute to the debate on the specific matters identified.

6 Procedure at the Hearing Sessions of the Examination

- 6.1 The hearing sessions of the Examination commence on **Tuesday 2 October 2007** at the **Civic Offices, Milton Keynes** at 10.00am. Subsequent sessions will normally start at 9.30am and 2.00pm each day, with a lunch break at about 1.00pm, and finish at about 5.00pm. If convenient, a short break will be taken mid-morning and mid-afternoon. The hearings will be in session on Tuesday-Friday. The Inspector reminded the Council to advertise the opening date of the hearing sessions of the Examination at least six weeks before they start.
- 6.2 A separate hearing session of the Examination will be held for each of the main topics identified in the programme. The sessions will take the form of an informal hearing, where the Council and those who wish to be heard discuss the key points around a table. Those attending may bring professional representatives with them and ask questions, but there is no need for participants to have legal representation; the Council confirmed that they were not intending to be legally represented at the hearing sessions.
- 6.3 Before the sessions, the Inspector will set out an agenda with the points for discussion on each topic. The discussion will focus on the issues identified in the agenda and the questions posed. The Inspector will begin by making a few brief comments on the matters to be covered, ask questions and invite participants to contribute to the debate. The session will progress under the Inspector's guidance,

drawing participants into the discussion so as to enable him to gain the information necessary to come to a firm conclusion on the relevant issues. There is no formal presentation of evidence, cross-examination or formal submissions, but there will be every opportunity to ask questions contribute to the debate.

- 6.4 The hearings will be conducted on the basis that everyone taking part has read the relevant documents, although participants will be able to refer to and elaborate on relevant points, as necessary. The Inspector will endeavour to progress the hearing sessions in an effective and efficient manner, keeping a tight hand on the discussions and time taken. As part of that process, he will aim to minimise the amount of material that is necessary to come to informed conclusions on the issues. All evidence and material should be submitted beforehand, since it is most unlikely that new evidence will be allowed on the day of the hearings.

7 Examination Programme

- 7.1 A draft programme for the hearings is now available, along with a Schedule of the Matters & Issues identified for Examination. The hearing sessions of the Examination will take place between **Tuesday 2 – Friday 5 October 2007**. The Inspector outlined the draft programme, which is attached to these notes.

- 7.2 The Programme Officer will contact all participants to confirm when they are expected to attend the hearings, and participants should keep themselves up to date with the arrangements and programme. Not all matters and issues will be discussed at the hearings, and some matters will be dealt with by written representations; this will partly depend on those wishing to attend the hearings and the issues they wish to discuss. In some cases, issues will be discussed with the Council alone, without other participants taking part, but anyone may attend the hearings as an observer, although they will not be able to take an active part in the discussion.

- 7.3 The Inspector has published a Schedule of Matters & Issues identified for Examination, which accompanies these notes. It covers the following general matters:

- Procedure & Conformity matters
- Core Strategy, including
 - Overall soundness of the Waste strategy
 - Waste capacity, targets and requirements
 - Provision for particular types of waste
 - Sustainable design, construction and demolition
 - Making provision for accommodating a proportion of London's waste
 - Role of existing waste management sites
 - Alternative options and Cross-boundary issues
- Site allocations, including
 - The merits and deliverability of:
 - the proposed strategic waste management site at Old Wolverton
 - the reserve waste management site at Wymbush, including the circumstances for its release
 - other alternative/additional sites put forward in the representations
 - Safeguarding existing and allocated waste sites
- Development control policies, including
 - Development control criteria
 - Environmental objectives
 - Transport and restoration
- Other issues, including
 - Monitoring and implementation
 - Appendices
 - Key Diagram & Proposals Map
 - Other issues relating to soundness

8 Preparation and submission of further material

Core documents

- 8.1 The Inspector referred to the Council's initial list of **Core Documents**, which will be available in the Examination Library and accompanies these notes. This will include relevant Planning Policy Guidance Notes/Statements (PPGs/PPSs), Background Papers, Regional Spatial Strategy, existing Local Plans, Topic Papers, Technical Documents and any other documents/reports they are likely to refer to. The list of Core Documents should identify the Council's "core evidence base" for the

Examination. Participants should ensure that any documents they intend to refer to are included in the Core Documents list, and arrange for any missing documents to be sent to the Programme Officer (3 copies required). The Core Documents are available in the Examination library and are listed on the Council's web-site.

Topic Papers

- 8.2 The Council intends to produce 3 **Topic Papers**, which will cover *London's Waste, Approach to Consultation and Sustainability Appraisal* and *Summary of Objections and Suggested Minor Changes*. The Topic Papers should be published by the end of July 2007 and will be included on the Council's web-site. **Maureen Darrie** explained that there might be a slight delay in publishing some of the Topic Papers, but hoped they are on track for finalising them by the end of July 2007.
- 8.3 The Inspector advised that the Topic Papers should deal with the broad basis of the Council's case in respect of all representations on a particular topic, setting the scene for the issues to be debated and assisting the Inspector and other participants in preparing for the hearing sessions of the Examination. The Council confirmed that there are no other outstanding reports or studies to be undertaken, although the implications of the Panel Report on the EIP into the draft South-East Plan would need to be considered when it is published.

Submission of further written statements and other material

- 8.4 The representations already made at submission stage should include all the points, documents and evidence to substantiate representors' cases. It should not therefore be necessary to submit any further material based on the original representations. The Inspector pointed out that, even though representors may have made representations at earlier stages of the plan process, he only has copies of the representations made on the Waste DPD at submission stage.
- 8.5 From now on, all written submissions should address the Matters & Issues for Examination identified by the Inspector, which is circulated with these notes. Written submissions/statements from the Council and other participants based on the Matters & Issues for Examination should be submitted at least **FOUR WEEKS** before the hearing sessions open; i.e. by **4 September 2007**. Details of the form and length of submissions are set out in the Guidance Notes, but should be limited to 3,000 words for each Matter, with accompanying appendices if necessary.
- 8.6 The Examination starts from the basis that the Waste DPD is fundamentally sound unless otherwise shown. Essentially, when submitting further statements from participants, the Inspector needs to know:
- *Which particular part of the Waste DPD is unsound?*
 - *Which soundness test(s), set out in paragraphs 4.23-4.24 of PPS12, does it fail?*
 - *Why does it fail?*
 - *How can the Waste DPD be made sound?*
 - *What is the precise change/wording that is being sought?*
- 8.7 All statements should focus on the tests of soundness and specifically demonstrate why the plan is currently unsound and how it could be made sound by advocating the approach advocated, with all the evidence necessary to support the case, including suggested text/wording. The Council should respond on each Matter & Issue, commenting on the points made in the representations and explaining why they consider the Waste DPD to be sound in that respect and why the changes sought by other parties would make it unsound.
- 8.8 The Inspector emphasised the need for succinct statements, avoiding any unnecessary detail and repetition. There is no need for verbatim quotations from the Waste DPD or other policy guidance. It is vital that the fundamental elements of the cases are set out clearly and succinctly, with all the evidence necessary to support the case. The hearings are not the place for new points or evidence to be presented for the first time, and participants should try to agree factual matters and statistics before the hearings begin.
- 8.9 The Inspector emphasised the need for all participants to adhere to the timetable for submitting further statements. Participants should avoid circulating additional material during the hearings. He confirmed that **late submissions and additional papers will not be accepted on the day of the relevant session**, without very good reason, since this can cause disruption and result in unfairness, and can result in an adjournment of the hearing. He also confirmed that **those who fail to meet**

the deadlines may lose their right to be heard, unless he is satisfied that there is a genuine and unavoidable reason, and the representation will then be considered by written representations. If material is not received by the deadlines stated, the Programme Officer will assume that no representations are to be made by that participant.

9 Availability of information

- 9.1 The Programme Officer will maintain an Examination Library at the Council's offices. This will contain copies of the Waste DPD and associated documents, all representations, the Core Documents and further representations and statements, as received. The Programme Officer will assist anyone wishing to see and copy any document.
- 9.2 The Programme Officer will maintain lists of all documents submitted. Lists of documents, the up-to-date Programme for the hearing sessions of the Examination and other relevant material will be on display on the Examination notice board at the venue. Relevant information will also be included on the Council's web-site. Anyone who requires assistance or special facilities for disabled persons should contact the Programme Officer beforehand to enable appropriate arrangements to be made.

10 Site visit arrangements

- 10.1 The Inspector will carry out an unaccompanied tour of the area covered by the Waste DPD to familiarise himself with the area, visiting all the places referred to in the representations. If there are particular reasons for an accompanied visit, participants should discuss this with the Programme Officer.

11 Close of the Examination

- 11.1 The Examination will remain open until the Inspector's report is submitted to the Council. However, the Inspector will not accept any further representations or other material after the hearing sessions have finished unless he specifically requests further information. Any late or unsolicited material is likely to be returned.

12 Submission of Inspector's Report to the Council

- 12.1 After the Examination has closed, the Inspector will submit his report with binding recommendations to the Council. The date of submission will largely depend on the content, extent and length of the Examination, and the Inspector will confirm the likely date at the end of the hearing sessions of the Examination. At this stage, the Inspector considered his report would be likely to be submitted to the Council within the 12-month period from submission of the Waste DPD, as anticipated in PPS12.

13 Other Matters

London's waste issue

- 13.1 The Council explained that, following SEERA's indication of an issue of non-conformity relating to the failure of the Waste DPD to make provision for accommodating an element of London's waste, a meeting was held with SEERA & GO-SE on 5 July 2007. SEERA put forward amendments to the text of the Waste DPD to overcome this issue which the Council has now considered. The Council has prepared some amendments to the suggested text which it hoped would form the basis of a Statement of Agreed Matters, but these changes do not make any fundamental changes to the Waste DPD. If agreed, these amendments would be included in the Schedule of Proposed Changes and publicised, and representations could be made on these changes.

14 Questions

- 14.1 The Inspector advised the Council that their response to the Schedule of Matters & Issues should be thorough and complete, since it would form a key document to assist the discussion of these key issues at the hearing sessions. The Council confirmed that officers had delegated powers to make further minor changes to the Waste DPD if this was found necessary during the course of the Examination.
- 14.2 In response to **John Hollister** (Waste Recycling Group), the Inspector confirmed that the omission site at Bletchley landfill site would be considered on Day 3 of the hearing sessions. The Council confirmed that it is unlikely that any changes would be proposed to the submitted Waste DPD in relation to this omission site. The

Inspector explained that it is the responsibility of the representor to fully justify the allocation of this additional site, including the implications for the soundness of the plan and the sustainability appraisal already undertaken. This should be included in the statements addressing this matter, including any appendices, if necessary. Any requests for the Inspector to make an accompanied visit to the Bletchley landfill site should be raised through the Programme Officer. **Mr Hollister** also asked for the Council's database to ensure that he was the contact for all correspondence relating to his client (Waste Recycling Group).

- 14.3 Responding to **Mr Lean**, the Inspector confirmed that the hearings would take place within the week of 2-5 October 2007. He also explained that any representations should explain why the Waste DPD is unsound and how this unsoundness could be rectified, including any amended wording. **Mr Lean** asked whether the volume and compaction of refuse when collected would be considered, but the Inspector thought this might be more of an operational aspect of waste collection. Representations should be clearly related to the content of the Waste DPD and new representations or points should not be made at this stage.
- 14.4 **Cllr Holroyd** said that neither she nor Cllr Irons had received the letter about the omission site. **Bob Wilson** said that as far as he was aware all the letters had been sent out but he would double-check the database to ensure that the system was properly set up to notify all relevant parties. The Inspector confirmed that the Programme Officer would notify all those who had made representations at the submission stage when the Topic Papers and Council's responses had been produced. The Inspector also confirmed that matters about the joint working project with Northamptonshire County Council could be considered when cross-boundary issues are discussed at the hearings.
- 14.5 In response to **Cllr Irons**, the Inspector confirmed that representations could be made on the Proposed Minor Changes when they are published. He also confirmed that all information supporting the representation (such as local surveys) should be submitted with the statements due for submission on 4 September 2007. **Cllr Irons** was also concerned about the transportation issues related to the provision for accommodating some of London's waste. The Inspector confirmed that this aspect would be covered in the debate on the London waste issue. He also confirmed that Cllr Irons could attend the hearing session on the proposed waste management site at Old Wolverton.
- 14.6 In responding to **Pamela Furness**, the Inspector confirmed that observers can attend the hearings, but only those listed in the programme can take part in the debate. He also confirmed that the Council's responses to the Schedule of Matters & Issues for Examination would be fully publicised. Similarly, the availability of the Council's Topic Papers would be publicised. The Inspector confirmed that she could attend the hearing session about the Old Wolverton site. She did not need to submit any more evidence if the original representation included all the main points, but no new points or new evidence could be raised on the day of the hearing. He understood the difficulty of individuals in selecting an appropriate soundness test on the electronic representation form, but confirmed that he was mainly interested in the concerns being raised rather than the particular soundness test itself.
- 14.7 **Judy Roberts** was concerned about the "planning jargon" in the letter about the omission site, but she now understood the situation and suggested that the Council's web-site included the correct reference. The Council would consider this point.
- 14.8 The Inspector thanked everyone for attending and closed the PEM at 4.05pm.

SJP/JC 20.07.07

MILTON KEYNES WASTE DPD EXAMINATION

KEY DATES

Summary of representations made at submission stage and Council's responses available at Council offices and on the Council's web-site	29 June 2007
Initial Core Documents list produced	18 July 2007
Draft programme for hearing sessions of the Examination	18 July 2007
Inspector's draft Schedule of Matters & Issues for Examination	18 July 2007
Pre-Examination Meeting	<u>18 July 2007</u>
Topic Papers published, including Proposed Changes	27 July 2007
Notes of PEM, Schedule of Matters and Issues for Examination and programme for hearing sessions published	27 July 2007
Final date for making representations on "omission" sites	15 August 2007
Submission of written statements responding to Matters & Issues for Examination	<u>4 September 2007</u>
Hearing sessions commence	<u>2 October 2007</u>