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John Best
Chief Executive
Milton Keynes Council
Civic Offices
1 Saxon Gate East
Central Milton Keynes
MK9 3HQ

Your Ref:

Our Ref: PINS/Y0435/429/6

Date: 28th November 2007

Dear Mr Best

Milton Keynes Council
Milton Keynes Local Development Framework
Milton Keynes Waste Development Plan Document

1 As you know, I have been appointed by the Secretary of State to carry out an independent examination of Milton Keynes Council's Waste Development Plan Document, which was submitted to the Secretary of State on 29 January 2007, pursuant to section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (the 2004 Act).

2 I held a Pre-Examination Meeting on 18th July 2007 to discuss the procedural and administrative arrangements for the hearing sessions of the Examination. At this meeting, I outlined the Matters & Issues to be debated at the Examination. I conducted the Examination of the Development Plan Document by way of written exchange and by a series of hearings for those who exercised their right to be heard. The hearing sessions were held at the Civic Offices, Milton Keynes between 2-5 October 2007.

3 The purpose of the independent examination is set out in section 20(5) of the 2004 Act. This falls into two parts: firstly, whether the submitted DPD has been prepared in accordance with certain statutory requirements under s19 & s24(1) of the 2004 Act and the associated regulations (*The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004; SI.2004 No. 2204*); and secondly, whether the DPD is sound. In making an assessment of soundness, I have focused on the nine tests set out in paragraph 4.24 of Planning Policy Statement (PPS)12 *Local Development Frameworks*. I have also used the Planning Inspectorate's *Guide to the Process of Assessing the Soundness of Development Plan Documents* (PINS; December 2005) as the framework for assessing the soundness of the Waste DPD.

4 With this letter is a copy of my report on the soundness of the submitted Waste DPD, which contains my recommendations and the reasons for them as required by section 20(7) of the 2004 Act.



5 In coming to my conclusions on the soundness of the Waste DPD, I have considered all the representations made during the 6-week period following submission, in accordance with Regulation 29 of the 2004 Regulations. These have informed the identification of the Matters & Issues for Examination, but my primary task is to consider whether the document is sound. I have also taken account of the subsequent written statements and oral contributions made during the course of the Examination, including those made before, during and after the hearing sessions. However, it is not a requirement of the 2004 Act that I report on "objections". Consequently, my report does not list individual representations or respond to all the points made, but concentrates on the key issues of soundness.

6 During the course of the Examination and as a result of the discussions at the hearing sessions, the Council suggested a number of minor changes to the text of the submitted Waste DPD [CDHD-01]. I have considered these changes as part of my assessment of the soundness of the Waste DPD.

7 My overall conclusion is that, with the amendments recommended in my report, the Milton Keynes Waste DPD satisfies the requirements of s20(5)(a) & (b) of the 2004 Act and the associated Regulations, and meets the tests of soundness set out in PPS12 (¶ 4.24).

8 During the Examination, I was assisted by my Programme Officer, Jamie Chalmers, whom I thank for the efficient manner in which he ensured that the Examination process, particularly the hearing sessions, ran smoothly. All the statements, representations, documents and other material submitted during the course of the Examination, including at the hearing sessions, are contained in the Examination library. These include the Core Documents, which contain the Council's "core evidence base" for the Waste DPD and the documents referred to thus [CD/TP] in my report.

8 I also wish to express my thanks to the Council's consultant and officers and all those attending the hearing sessions for the helpful, positive and professional manner they adopted during the hearings and throughout the Examination. I hope that my conclusions and recommendations in the accompanying report will enable the Council to adopt the Waste DPD in an efficient manner to provide a sound basis for dealing with waste management issues and proposals in Milton Keynes.

Yours sincerely

Stephen J Pratt

Inspector