

South Gloucestershire Local Development Framework Core Strategy DPD Examination

Inspector: Paul Crysell BSc MSc MRTPI

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30 September 2011

Dear Mr Conroy,

South Gloucestershire Core Strategy DPD

Thank you for your response of 2nd September to my letter regarding the concerns I have with elements of the South Gloucestershire Core Strategy. I understand why you do not want to withdraw your Plan and instead wish to undertake further work to address the issues I have identified. I am aware that the Government is advising councils to put plans in place as soon as possible and I am encouraged that the Council appears willing to commit sufficient resources to move the process forward. To this end I note that you believe you can carry out the work within a reasonable period and you have proved a draft timetable to illustrate how this can be achieved.

I have therefore decided to formally suspend the examination process for a period of up to six months commencing from 1st October. However, I regard your suggestion of a pre-hearing meeting in December as premature. Your timetable indicates that you will not have undertaken the consultation work on the revised Plan by this date, the outcome of which is key to my consideration of issues and initial programming of hearing sessions. I should also point out that while I am not averse to making rapid progress once I am in receipt of consultation responses the timing will, in part, be dependent on other commitments I may have although it would be my intention to minimise any further delay.

I would also advise you that I am examining the Core Strategy as originally submitted together with any changes made since then. It would therefore be advisable, in my opinion, to allow consultation on all elements of the Core Strategy since the original submission. In doing so you may wish to indicate that I will take into account all those made to date so that previous representations do not need to be repeated.

You have identified the areas you intend to review in order to support and supplement the approach the Council wishes to follow. In broad terms I am satisfied with this although I

would reiterate the importance of showing how future housing provision will meet identified needs that the approach to the Green Belt is consistent with national guidance and how the release of Filton Airfield would be integrated into your Plan. On the latter you need to provide clear direction as to the potential use of this area and the implications of doing so both in relation to other parts of your District and that of the neighbouring authority.

As the examination will remain open, you will need to have regard to any further changes in national guidance, ministerial statements and legal judgements. You will also be aware that addressing the issues I have raised may have consequences for other elements of the Plan and that there is no guarantee, despite the Council's best efforts, that deficiencies will not remain which would render the Plan unsound.

Finally, could I ask you to keep the Programme Officer informed of any changes to the anticipated timetable you have outlined or indeed any other matters which might affect progress on the Plan.

Yours sincerely,

P R Crysell
Inspector