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6<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Worcestershire County Council Waste Core Strategy Examination**

Further to your representations in respect of the above named strategy. I write to inform you that Hearing Sessions are to be held by the appointed Inspector to examine the soundness of the Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document. The Hearing Sessions will commence on Tuesday 13th March 2012 within the Kidderminster Room of County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP.

I have been appointed as Programme Officer for this Examination and will deal with all administrative, procedural and programming matters. I am not a Council Officer and have not been involved in the preparation of the Core Strategy. I work solely to the direction of the Inspector.

Enclosed with this letter are the Inspector's Guidance Notes, they are designed to assist in your understanding of the Examination process and include details of upcoming key dates. A Programme for the Hearing Sessions together with the Inspectors Issues and Questions for discussion are also enclosed.

I appreciate that this is a lot of information and many of you will be unfamiliar with the Examination process. Therefore, in an effort to be helpful I will summarise some of the common queries and explain your options.

Essentially you are faced with three options . . .

- a) If you are content to rely on your original representations and do not intend to provide any further written comments or attend the Examination you need do nothing further. The Inspector will take your submitted comments into consideration when preparing his report in so far as they relate to his Examination of Soundness.
- b) If having considered the Inspectors Issues and Questions you feel you would like to make further written comments but not participate in the Hearing Sessions you may do so. Guidance on the form and submission of written statements can be found in the Guidance Note. The submission of further written statements must however specifically address the questions the Inspector has posed. The Inspector will not now accept further representations beyond his Issues for discussion or in relation to elements of the Plan that you have personally not commented upon previously.

- c) Lastly, if you wish to participate in the Hearing Sessions you may do so provided the Issues for discussion relate to your representations. If you wish to participate and are not currently listed on the Programme please let me know by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

### **Commonly Asked Questions**

#### **How have the current Participants been identified?**

Quite simply the Participants as currently listed have been derived after they indicated a wish to appear in person at the Examination on the original representation form. Many Representors either did not specify this intention originally or submitted their comments through other methods. If you are not listed as a Participant and wish to be, please see point c) above and refer to the enclosed Guidance Notes.

#### **The Issues I've raised do not appear for discussion, why?**

The Inspector has read and will be considering all submitted representations when considering soundness and in preparing his report. Many of the Issues listed have either been put together following the Inspectors personal queries or in direct relation to the representations of those parties who have already indicated a wish to appear at the Hearing Sessions. If you feel there are important considerations of soundness omitted please let me know by the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2012 and I shall discuss the matter with the Inspector.

#### **Will I be disadvantaged if I cannot attend?**

No, the Inspector is keen to stress that views submitted in writing or made orally at the Hearing Sessions carry equal weight.

#### **I'm supportive of the document but can I still participate in the Hearings?**

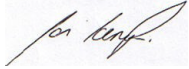
It is not usually necessary for those supporting the document to participate in the Hearing Sessions. This is due to the fact that as a starting point the Inspector must assume that the Council has submitted (in what they consider to be) a sound Plan. It is for those seeking changes to the Core Strategy to demonstrate why they feel the Plan is unsound and what changes are sought to make it sound. This is why parties in support are not usually heard except in circumstances where the Inspector feels they have specific knowledge of the subject in question which may assist the discussions.

#### **I do not wish to participate in the Hearing Sessions but can I still attend and observe?**

Yes of course, the sessions are all open to the public and if you're not listed as a Participant you remain welcome to attend to observe.

If you have any queries at this stage please do not hesitate to contact me and I shall be happy to assist.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Kemp', on a light blue background.

Ian Kemp  
Programme Officer