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Our ref: SP8010.12
Ask for: Nicholas Dean

3rd October 2011

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document:
Consultation on the Addendum to the Submission Document - 3rd October to
5.30pm 15th November 2011**

We consulted you on the Waste Core Strategy Publication Document (Regulation 27) between March and May 2011. We received many helpful responses to that consultation and on 30th June 2011, Council resolved that the Waste Core Strategy Submission Document and supporting documents be approved for formal submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination. Since this time, in accordance with good practice, we have been negotiating with a number of consultees who submitted representations on the soundness and legal compliance of the Waste Core Strategy with a view to reducing the time needed to discuss them at Examination.

These negotiations revealed that further Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Waste Core Strategy was required to ensure that the Waste Core Strategy complies with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and statutory regulations, and that some of the wording of the Strategy itself needed to be changed. This gives the Council an opportunity to put forward other changes to address the majority of the representations which were received. Additional Sustainability Appraisal work has also been undertaken to ensure that all the implications of the changes have been considered.

The changes are set out in an **Addendum** to be submitted to the Secretary of State with the Waste Core Strategy **Submission document**. Many of the changes are small, such as correcting grammar or for clarification, but some are more substantial

Nicholas Dean
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(see attached information sheet). We have also produced additional supporting evidence, including an **Addendum to the Habitats Regulations Assessment**, and a **Sustainability Appraisal of the Submission Document Addendum**. This consultation is on all of these documents.

At this stage we want your comments on the 'soundness' of the Waste Core Strategy Submission Document **incorporating the Addendum**. To be 'sound' the Waste Core Strategy must be:

- ✓ Justified:
 - ✓ Founded on a robust and credible evidence base
 - ✓ The most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives
- ✓ Effective:
 - ✓ Deliverable
 - ✓ Flexible
 - ✓ Able to be monitored
- ✓ Consistent with national policy
- ✓ Comply with the law.

The documents and a **response form** and **guidance notes** are available on our website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/wcs and in libraries and Worcestershire Hub customer centres. Alternatively paper copies are available on request from the address below.

Following this consultation, we intend to submit all the documents and any representations we receive to the Secretary of State who will appoint a Planning Inspector to assess the 'soundness' and legal compliance of the strategy. The Inspector will take account of any comments you make on this consultation and will then choose which matters to discuss. It would be helpful if you could make any comments using the enclosed **response form** (guidance notes attached), indicating which the aspect of soundness or legal compliance your comment relates to. The response form can also be completed online at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/wcs.

All comments must be made **between 3rd October and 5.30pm on 15th November 2011**. Any comments made after the closing date are unlikely to be considered by the Inspector when they assess the Strategy.

Yours faithfully



Nicholas Dean

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