



The Planning Inspectorate

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Mrs Annie Shepperd
Chief Executive
London Borough of Southwark
Chiltern House
Portland Street
London
SE17 2ES

Our Ref: PINS/A5840/429/4

Date: 23 October 2009

Dear Mrs Shepperd

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004: Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004

Southwark London Borough Council Local Development Framework Aylesbury Area Action Plan

1. As you know, I was appointed by the Secretary of State to carry out an independent examination of the Aylesbury Area Action Plan Development Plan Document (DPD), which was submitted to the Secretary of State on 15 May 2009, pursuant to section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (the 2004 Act).
2. I held a pre-examination meeting on 9 July 2009 and conducted the examination of the Area Action Plan by way of written exchanges and by a series of hearing sessions held at the Thurlow Lodge Community Centre, Thurlow Street on 2 and 3 September 2009.
3. The purpose of the independent examination is set out in section 20(5) of the 2004 Act. This falls into two parts: first, whether the submitted DPD was 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 second, whether the DPD is sound. In making an assessment of soundness, I applied guidance set out in Planning Policy Statement 12 (2008) – *Local Spatial Planning* (PPS 12).
4. With this letter is a copy of my report on the submitted Area Action Plan. This contains my recommendations and the reasons for them as required by section 20(7) of the 2004 Act. It is accompanied by an annex with three appendices which are largely based on the helpful documentation provided by the Council during the course of the examination. My overall conclusion is that, with the changes recommended in my report, the Aylesbury Area Action Plan satisfies the requirements of s20(5)(a) & (b) of the 2004 Act and the associated



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regulations and can be considered sound in accordance with the guidance in PPS12.

5. In coming to my conclusions on the soundness of the plan, I have considered all of the representations made during the 6-week period following submission, in accordance with Regulation 29 of the 2004 Regulations, together with the other written submissions made. While these have informed the identification of the matters and issues for examination, my principal task was 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. However, it is not a requirement of the 2004 Act that I consider or report on "objections", and consequently, my report does not list individual representations or respond to all the points made. During the course of the examination, and as a result of the discussions at the hearing session, the Council suggested some changes to the text, tables and illustrations of the submitted Area Action Plan. I have considered these changes as part of my assessment of the Plan's soundness.

6. I would like to thank all of the Council's staff who attended the hearing sessions for the professional manner in which they conducted themselves during the examination process and the courtesy with which I was treated. I am also grateful for the quality of the documentation produced, which was exemplary. A number of local residents played a significant part in the hearing sessions and I wish to record my thanks for their helpful attitude and the extent to which they had briefed themselves on the plan's complexities; this made for productive and efficient hearing sessions.

7. The facilities provided at Thurlow Lodge were excellent and I would like to thank the staff there for their help in running the various sessions smoothly. Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to the Programme Officer, Leonna Staple, without whose efficiency, boundless enthusiasm and extensive local knowledge the examination process would not have run as smoothly as it did.

8. Please pass on my thanks to the relevant staff.

Yours sincerely,

B J Juniper

Inspector

cc: Government Office for London