



The Planning Inspectorate

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David Rawlings
Chief Executive
Stafford Borough Council
Civic Centre
Riverside
Stafford
ST16 3AQ

Your Ref:

Our Ref: PINS/Y3425/429/3

Date: 07 July 2006

Dear Mr Rawlings

Stafford Borough Council Core Strategy Development Plan Document

1 As you know I was appointed by the Secretary of State to carry out an independent examination of Stafford Borough Council's Core Strategy Development Plan Document which was submitted on 7th October 2005, pursuant to section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, (the 2004 Act).

2 I held a Pre Examination Meeting on 10th March 2006 and conducted the Examination by way of written exchanges, by an exploratory meeting held on 7th March and by hearing sessions held on 6th to 9th June 2006.

3 The purpose of the independent examination is set out in section 20(5) of the 2004 Act. This falls into 2 parts. The first is whether the submitted DPD has been prepared in accordance with certain statutory requirements under the Act and "the 2004 Regulations" (The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004). The second part is whether the DPD is sound. In making an assessment of soundness I have applied the 9 tests set out in paragraph 4.24 of Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 12, Local Development Frameworks.

4 My report contains my recommendation that the submitted DPD is unsound and should not be adopted and the reasons why I have come to that view. In coming to my conclusions on the soundness of the DPD I have had regard to the representations which were made on it in the 6 weeks following submission in accordance with regulation 29 of the 2004 Regulations, along with subsequent written submissions and oral contributions made at the hearing sessions.

5 May I express my thanks to the Council's advocate and officers for the helpful manner in which they conducted themselves both before and during the hearing sessions. I would also like to record my grateful thanks to the assistance given me by the Programme Officer, Mrs Barbara Stott. Her diligence



and organisational skills helped to ensure that the examination process, including the hearing sessions, ran smoothly and to programme.

Yours sincerely

David Fenton

David Fenton
Inspector