

Examination into the Luton & southern Central Bedfordshire Joint Core Strategy

# EXPLORATORY MEETING AGENDA

To be held at 14.00 hours (2pm) on Wednesday 18 May 2011

Central Bedfordshire Council Offices, High Street North, Dunstable, LU6 1LF

1. Inspector's introduction – purpose of meeting

The Inspector will explain that on a preliminary reading of the Joint Core Strategy (the CS), the submitted evidence base and the representations he has some concerns about the soundness of the CS. He has not found the CS unsound at this point. This Exploratory Meeting (the EM) is to explore his concerns, not the soundness of the CS, and to enable the Joint Technical Unit (the JTU) and Joint Committee to consider the risk of the CS being found unsound if the Examination proceeds.

The Inspector will explain the limitations on his recommendation powers to make the CS sound. He will explain the possible outcomes of the EM, namely: ▪ the Examination is temporarily suspended to enable further work on the CS; ▪ the concerns are resolved now and the Examination continues; ▪ the concerns are not resolved but the Examination continues; ▪ it is decided to withdraw the CS.

2. Inspector's summary of main concerns – Annex 1: to be taken in subject order

3. JTU's response to the concerns raised

4. Any comments from neighbouring Councils

5. Any comments from other participants

6. Schedule of Proposed Minor Changes (Document JCS2 & separate JTU responses)

The Inspector has identified a number of minor changes proposed by the JTU which might not, in fact, be minor but might instead be significant changes. After discussion the Inspector will give his opinion on them.

7. Discussion of options open to the Inspector, the JTU and the Joint Committee

After hearing the discussion on the above, the Inspector would welcome the participant's brief views on how the Examination should proceed, bearing in mind the possible outcomes set out in his Introduction.

8. The way forward

It is likely that a final decision will not be made at the Meeting as JTU officers will need to seek the instructions of the two Councils' Joint Committee. In that case, the Inspector will make his recommendation later in writing, deciding whether and, if so, how the Examination should proceed. If the Examination proceeds, the Inspector will expect a clear timetable from the JTU for each stage of any extra work envisaged so that the PHM and hearings can be provisionally programmed.