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Dear Sir / Madam,

West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy/Local Plan Part 1 – Programme Officer Note

As a result of the recent final revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy and in the light of the evidence considered and discussed at the hearings on 16 April - 1 May 2013, the Joint Planning Unit (JPU), representing the 3 Councils, will now be undertaking a fresh assessment of the objectively assessed needs for new housing in the area over the plan period and beyond, as requested by the Inspector.

This will take into account both the latest Office of National Statistics (ONS) household projections and the early 2011 Census results, including by reference to the "How Many Homes/What Homes Where toolkit", recently launched by Lord Taylor at the House of Lords.

They have also been asked by the Inspector to prepare a Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) Addendum Report to address acknowledged shortcomings in the work done to date, particularly relating to the reasons for selecting Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) sites around Northampton and other urban areas on a comparative basis and related to the reassessed new housing needs of the area.

This work will be done as soon as possible and the JPU will assess the outcomes "with an open mind", before deciding whether to put forward any more modifications for the Inspector to consider, beyond the existing list of minor ones.

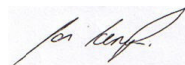
The JPU will then undertake a further 6 week public consultation (dates to be confirmed, but likely to be Summer 2013).

The Inspector and I have therefore agreed with the JPU and other interested parties attending the hearings that there should be a further 3 days of hearings, starting on Tuesday 15 October, to consider the outcomes and responses.

All those who attended the relevant hearing sessions held to date will be invited to attend again.

The Inspector and I will decide the programme, subject matter and issues for each further session in due course, once the additional work has been completed, and I will advise everyone as soon as possible, as well as updating the website.

Yours sincerely



Ian Kemp
Programme Officer
West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy