

Ian Kemp
Programme Officer
Gloucester, Cheltenham & Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy

49 All Saints Place
Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 0AX
Phone: 01527 837 920 Mobile: 07723 009 166
E-Mail: idkemp@icloud.com

Inspector Elizabeth Ord LLB(Hons), LLM, MA, DipTUS

18th March 2015

Dear Sir / Madam,

Gloucester, Cheltenham & Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy

Further to previous representations submitted in respect of the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy (the JCS), I write to inform you that the Secretary of State has appointed Planning Inspector, Elizabeth Ord LLB(Hons) LLM MA DipTUS to conduct an Examination into the soundness of the JCS.

The Hearing Sessions, which are part of the overall Examination, will open on will open on **Tuesday 19th May 2015 at 10.00am within the Council Chamber of Cheltenham Borough Council, Municipal Offices, Promenade, Cheltenham, GL50 9SA.**

The Inspector's task is to consider the soundness of the submitted Plan, based on the criteria set out in paragraph 182 of the National Planning Policy Framework (*the Framework*). The relevant soundness criteria are whether the JCS is: 1 – **positively prepared** (based on a strategy that seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development); 2 - **justified** (the most appropriate strategy when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence); 3 – **effective** (the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities); and 4 – **consistent with national policy** (the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in *the Framework*).

I will act as Programme Officer for the Examination and will be responsible for assisting the Inspector with administrative and procedural aspects of the Examination. I am not an Officer of the Joint Authorities and have not been involved in the preparation of the JCS.

Enclosed with this correspondence is a copy of the Inspector's Briefing Note together with a Programme including draft list of Matters and Issues for the Hearing Sessions. The Briefing Notes will help to explain many of the procedural and administrative aspects of the Examination.

As a representor essentially you are faced with three options:

a) **If you are content to rely on your original representations and do not intend to provide any further written comments or attend the Hearing Sessions you need do nothing further.** The Inspector will take your submitted comments into consideration when preparing her Report in so far as they relate to soundness considerations.

b) If having considered the Inspector's Matters and Issues you feel you would like to make further written comments but not participate in the Hearing Sessions you may do so. Guidance on the form and submission of written statements can be found in the Briefing Note (see para's 35 – 39 & Appendix B). The submission of further written statements must however specifically address the questions the Inspector has posed where they are relevant to your representations. The Inspector will not now accept further representations beyond her intended Issues for discussion or in relation to elements of the JCS that you have not commented upon previously. The deadlines for submission of written statements are:

- 17:00 on Friday 24th April 2015 for matters up to and including 10th June 2015;
- 17:00 on Friday 12th June 2015 for all matters scheduled for 7th July 2015 or later.

c) Lastly if you wish to participate within a specific hearing session please let me know by **17.00 on Friday 24th April 2015 together with an indication of which matter(s) you wish to attend.** Following the deadline a decision will be taken upon the participants and the Programme will be finalised.

If it is your intention to participate the Inspector would appreciate a written statement addressing the Matters and Issues as far as they relate to your representations. However, whilst appreciated, additional written statements are non compulsory should you have nothing further to add to your original comments.

Commonly Asked Questions

The Issues I've raised do not appear for discussion, why?

The Inspector has read and will be considering all submitted representations when preparing her report. Many of the Issues listed have either been put together following the Inspector's personal queries or in direct relation to key areas covered by the representations. If you feel there are important considerations of soundness omitted please let me know by **Friday 24th April 2015** and I shall discuss the matter with the Inspector.

Will I be disadvantaged if I cannot participate?

No, the Inspector is keen to stress that views submitted in writing or made orally at the Hearing Sessions carry equal weight.

I'm supportive of the JCS but can I still participate in the Hearings?

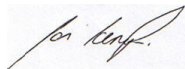
It is not usually necessary for those supporting the JCS to participate in the Hearing Sessions. This is due to the fact that as a starting point an assumption is made that the Joint Authorities have submitted (in what they consider to be) a sound Plan. It is for those seeking changes to the JCS to demonstrate why they feel the document is unsound and what changes are sought to make it sound. This is why parties who support the JCS are not usually heard except in circumstances where the Inspector feels they have specific knowledge of the subject in question which may assist the discussions.

I do not wish to participate in the Hearing Sessions but can I still attend and observe?

Yes, the sessions are all open to the public and if you're not listed as a participant you remain welcome to attend to observe. The Programme may be subject to change however and you are urged to contact me nearer the time to ascertain how closely we are running to schedule.

If you have any queries at this stage please do not hesitate to contact me and I shall be happy to assist.

Yours faithfully



Ian Kemp
Programme Officer
Gloucester, Cheltenham & Tewkesbury JCS