

Inspector Mr. Roger Clews BA, MSc, Dip Ed, Dip TP, MRTPI

Mr Mike Best  
Executive Director  
Turley  
9 Colmore Row  
Birmingham  
B3 2BJ

18<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Dear Mr Best,

Thank you for your letter of 28 October, to which I am now able to respond. I am sorry for the delay, but as I hope you will appreciate, it was necessary for me to consult the inspector before replying. In turn, he wished to familiarise himself with the contents of all the responses to the recent consultation on the Revised Sustainability Appraisal [RSA] before advising on this reply.

I turn first to the specific points raised in your letter. Your concerns about the way the transport evidence was dealt with in the RSA are summarised in the numbered points on the second page. The inspector is aware of these concerns and indeed they are reflected in the representations on the RSA submitted on behalf of your clients. He will take full account of them in reaching his conclusions and recommendations on the BDP.

In any Local Plan examination it is open to the inspector to hold further hearing sessions after consultation on the main modifications has taken place. In considering whether this would be appropriate in the case of the BDP examination, the inspector has had regard to relevant guidance at paragraph 4.32 of the Planning Inspectorate's publication *Examining Local Plans: Procedural Practice*, December 2013 (3rd Edition v.1):

*The examination remains open while the Inspector is writing the report and if necessary the Inspector may hold further sessions during the reporting period. This would only occur if absolutely necessary, for example, where a fundamental soundness issue has not been resolved or a hearing is necessary exceptionally on a representation made on a proposed Main Modification.*

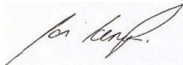
Having considered the contents of all the consultation responses on the Proposed Main Modifications and RSA, the inspector's view is that none raises any fundamental new soundness issue that would justify the exceptional step of holding a further hearing session. That does not mean that the responses do not deal with important issues: but the inspector considers that none of them requires further oral discussion to assist him in completing his report.

The inspector notes the further points you make about discussions over the use of the PRISM model. However, he does not consider it essential that further modelling work is carried out in order to inform his assessment of the BDP and the RSA. His reasons for taking

this view will be given in his report on the examination and I hope you will understand that he is not able to make them public now, before the whole report is complete.

For these reasons, the inspector asks me to inform you that he does not intend to hold another examination hearing session to discuss the Revised Sustainability Appraisal of the BDP. But he will, of course, consider all the consultation responses, on both the Proposed Main Modifications and the Revised Sustainability Appraisal, when drawing up his report and recommendations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Kemp', is placed over a light grey rectangular background.

Ian Kemp  
Programme Officer  
Birmingham Development Plan