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Dawn Heppell
Southampton City Council
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Our Ref: PINS/D1780/429/5

Date: 19th December 2013

Dear Dawn,

EXAMINATION INTO THE SOUNDNESS OF SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL'S SOUTHAMPTON CITY CENTRE AREA ACTION PLAN

I am writing on behalf of the Secretary of State to inform you that in response to the submission of the above-named Local Plan, and in accordance with section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) Inspector Christina Jennifer Anne Downes BSc DipTP MRTPI has been appointed to conduct the examination to determine whether the above-named Local Plan is sound.

The precise date for the opening of any formal hearing part of the examination into the Local Plan will be decided by the Inspector. The anticipated date by which the report will be produced will be announced at the last programmed session of the examination.

Your Council will be responsible for the examination arrangements and also for all preliminary procedures. However, the Inspector will be available through the Programme Officer to offer advice on the examination programme and timetable, and to conduct a pre-examination procedural meeting (where needed). Arrangements should be made for providing the Inspector with comfortable seating and desk facilities at the examination venue, together with adequate accommodation for those making representations, the general public, the Press and Programme Officer.

Under current arrangements a charge will be made for determining whether your Local Plan is sound. The current fee rate is £993 per day. In addition your council will be required to reimburse any expenses paid for such items as travel costs, subsistence etc. An invoice will be issued for your Local Plan once the report has been despatched. Both the fees and expenses will be payable for all duties carried out in examining your Local Plan.

Once it is clear what the issues are that need to be examined it may be decided that another Inspector or Inspectors should be appointed to deal with certain aspects of the examination.

Yours sincerely

Steve Carnaby
Plans Team