

## BRISTOL CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION

### INSPECTOR'S TIMETABLE FOR PROGRESSION OF THE EXAMINATION

1. As there was no government policy statement on the abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) made by the end of June, the provisional hearing on **21 July is cancelled**. Consideration of the implications of the intended abolition of the RSS, overall housing provision, the Green Belt and any consequential matters is now programmed for **7 & 8 September 2010**. These dates have been selected to avoid the main holiday period and to avoid imposing a new date at short notice. On the assumption that a Government policy statement is issued in the next few weeks the following timetable will apply.

2. These dates in September would also be the opportunity for any short hearing sessions arising from matters where I have requested further information from the Council, namely the affordable housing proportions (BCS17) and sustainable construction (BCS15) (see separate note on matters arising from the hearings). Participants at the hearing sessions where I have requested further information will be circulated as soon as it is available and given the opportunity to comment. I do not yet have a timetable for this separate process, but envisage it occurring more quickly than the timetable below.

#### By Monday 26 July

3. I will set out a short list of questions arising from the Government's policy statement to help frame participants' further statements on the matter. These questions are likely to be generic in nature: eg does the emerging RSS now have any status or relevance? What is the appropriate level of housing provision for the City and what evidence underpins this figure? Is development required in the Green Belt to deliver the planned level of housing?

#### Monday 23 August

4. **Deadline** for submission of new statements in response to my questions/Government policy statement. All evidence/representations previously submitted can still be relied on (and do not need to be duplicated), but parties should indicate any parts no longer relevant.

5. The Council should publish by this deadline:

- Statements in response to my questions/Government policy statement.
- Any changes to the Core Strategy which it now seeks in response to the changed policy context.
- The paper setting out the application of the sequential flood risk test to the housing strategy and any resulting changed policy/text for the Core Strategy. (This is the paper requested by me at the hearing session on flood risk under Issue 2.)
- Separate schedules setting out **all** the *significant* changes and **all** the *minor* changes which the Council suggests should be made. These schedules should incorporate all the matters arising from the discussion at the hearings where the Council agreed to reflect on new wording (see my separate note on matters arising from the hearings). These schedules do not, however, need to indicate how a possible change has evolved during the Examination, but simply show the up to date position on how the Council consider that the submission Core Strategy should be changed.
- The schedules should incorporate any consequential or other changes to the Key Diagram or other illustrative material within the document.

- A track change version of the Core Strategy incorporating the above and distinguishing between the significant and minor possible changes.
- The Council should also consider whether any of the changes would affect the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of Core Strategy. If so, a revised SA would need to be undertaken prior to the public consultation on changes (see below).

As before, it is critical for all parties to meet the deadline.

6. By this deadline, if any previous participants no longer wish to appear please inform the Programme Officer (PO). If any representors who made relevant representations on the matters to be covered by the postponed hearings previously did not wish to participate but now do, they should also inform the PO. Any relevant representor not wishing to participate in the hearings may submit a written statement in response to the Council's statements by Friday 3 September.

### **Friday 3 September**

7. I will set out agendas for the postponed hearings, provide a running order for discussion and questions to explore. As I do not yet know the scope or complexity of what will need to be discussed, participants should assume that they may need to attend on both 7 and 8 September.

### **Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 September**

8. Hearings

### **By beginning of October**

9. If no complications arise and I conclude that any unsoundness can be overcome by changes, I will confirm to the Council the content of 3 schedules of proposed changes to the Core Strategy: significant changes proposed by, or accepted as necessary by, the Council which I am likely to endorse; any other significant changes which I am minded to impose; minor changes covering corrections/updating/clarifications which don't change the scope of a policy. The Council will undertake appropriate consultation/publicity on these schedules (likely to be for a 6 week period). The opportunity to comment is confined to the content of the proposed changes and not matters that are left unchanged.

### **End of November**

10. I will take into account all representations as a result of the Council's consultation. If any new representor wishes to be heard or, in my view, new issues are raised which require discussion, a further hearing(s) will need to be held. The date for any such hearing session can be advertised in advance of any final decision on whether a further hearing will be required.

### **Mid December**

11. Possible further hearing if required (at least 6 weeks notice will need to have been given of the intended date).

**Simon Emerson**  
**INSPECTOR**  
**2 July 2010**