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3 June 2015

To: Chairman – Councillor Sue Ellington
Vice-Chairman – Councillor David McCraith
All Members of the Council

Quorum: 15

Dear Councillor

This is a supplement to the previously-published agenda for the meeting of **COUNCIL** on **THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2015**, containing those reports which had not been received by the original publication deadline.

Yours faithfully
JEAN HUNTER
Chief Executive

AGENDA

3. **SUSPENSION OF THE EXAMINATION OF THE SUBMITTED LOCAL PLAN**

The following motions have been received for consideration at this meeting:

Councillor Robert Turner

“This Council notes the letter from the Inspectors regarding the suspension of the Local Plan examination and their call for more work on the evidence supporting the Plan. It welcomes the opportunity to address the Inspectors’ preliminary concerns at this stage and looks forward to the officers presenting their plan and timetable for the additional work to the Planning Portfolio Holder and, subsequently, to present their findings, their evidence and any new or additional recommendations to Full Council at the earliest opportunity.”

Councillor Bridget Smith

“We note the contents of the letter from the inspector and are deeply concerned that this seriously jeopardises the protection that is afforded to the Green Belt and questions the number of houses that this Council has identified as sufficient to meet future needs.

We are extremely concerned that the Local Plan was not robust enough to enable the inspector to consider it sound without requiring further evidence in a number of key areas.

- (a) We call on this council to commission immediate independent advice to ascertain if the housing numbers and Green Belt study are correct and fit for purpose and to confirm that the extra evidence required by the inspector to support this can be delivered in a reasonable time, at reasonable cost and using our existing workforce.

If the commissioned study, or an internal study, indicates that the current housing numbers are insufficient and/or the Green Belt study is inaccurate or inadequate we call on this Council to instigate an independent inquiry as early as possible to identify how such fundamental errors could have arisen.

- (b) In order to ensure the fullest transparency, this Council resolves to establish a committee of at least 9 members to advise on and scrutinise the work of responding to the Inspector's letter.
- (c) We also call on this Council to commission immediate independent advice on how we can best manage the speculative planning applications which we are undoubtedly going to have to deal with in significant numbers over an unspecified period."