

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK EXAMINATION MEDWAY COUNCIL

Date: 14 September 2012

Mr Peter Court
Peter Court Associates
Cleaveland
Chart Road
Chart Sutton
Kent
ME17 3RB

Dear Mr Court

I refer to the letter dated 5 September from Mr Woodfield of Bioscan to you, which you forwarded to the Programme Officer with a covering email. My response to the Council's letter of 28 August will be available on the Council's website, or from the Programme Officer. In addition, my response to the points you raise is as follows:

Timescales and phasing implications

The Council's letter to me dated 28 August recognises (bullet point 6 on page 2) that this is an issue to be taken into account, so I expect it to be covered and I will be asking further questions if that does not happen.

Participation of stakeholders.

As I understand it, the Council has approached all those respondents who were invited to participate in the hearing session on Lodge Hill. Representations made on behalf of your clients did not directly address Policy CS33, but were more concerned with the role of the Lodge Hill proposal in relation to housing delivery. I am, of course, aware of your letter to me of 20 July, but I do not know whether you made a direct request to the Council to participate in the further work to be undertaken. As I have indicated in my response to the Council, you will have an opportunity to comment on the draft report, but have suggested that they may wish to invite Mr Woodfield to be involved in the earlier stages of the work, bearing in mind the technical nature of his letter. I would be grateful, however, if you could ensure that Mr Woodfield is aware of the general expectations that govern the role of acting as expert witness in a planning inquiry or examination. Specifically, that he must apply his professional judgement to the evidence that is available, not approach the exercise with a pre-determined point of view. For this reason I do not think it appropriate to comment on the "Conclusions" section of Mr Woodfield's letter.

Laura Graham

Inspector

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