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The Chief Executive
Suffolk Coastal District Council
Melton Hill
Woodbridge
Suffolk
IP12 1AU

Your Ref:

Our Ref: DP 573

Date: 25 May 2005

Dear Sir

Public Inquiry into objections to the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan 2nd Alteration

1. I was appointed by the First Secretary of State to hold a public inquiry into objections to the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan Second Alteration. The inquiry was held on 15 March 2005. Before and on the day after the inquiry I visited all of the sites the subject of and relevant to the objections.
2. The Alterations were placed on deposit on 14 May 2004 for a period of 6 weeks. In total, the Council received 70 duly made objections. After those had been considered, the Council resolved to proceed to an inquiry without a 2nd deposit stage with no changes to the altered Plan. Since deposit one objection has been withdrawn. I have considered all the outstanding objections, attaching the same weight to those dealt with by way of written representations as I have to those heard at the inquiry, which I held in the form of a Round Table Session (RTS). I have also taken into account 18 representations in support of the Plan alterations.
3. My report discusses the main topics discussed at the RTS and deals with other outstanding objections to both revised policies. It follows an issue-based approach; I have not summarised the objections in detail, but have nevertheless taken into account all written and oral evidence given on each topic. I have made recommendations about each issue. I have added two appendices setting out the appearance at the RTS and the Document Library.
4. Given the nature of the alterations and the ensuing RTS, the report is not unduly long and needs no summary here. In essence, I supported the Council's broad objectives to secure more affordable housing in the district, but tempered it to some extent to accord more closely with national policy. In particular, I recommended the exclusion of Woodbridge with West Melton from the list of 'rural exceptions settlements'. Also, I considered that in comparison with other parts of Suffolk and East England, local circumstances did not warrant a radical departure from national guidance



concerning the thresholds above which affordable dwellings should be provided on mixed tenure housing sites. I noted that the Council's housing survey is due to be updated this year; if this shows a significant change in local needs, the Council would be able to argue for a revised policy when it brings forward its Local Development Framework.

5. I wish to record my thanks for the courtesy, help and co-operation I received from all participants at the RTS, including Stephen Brown and Mike Eaton for the Council. Finally, I wish to express my thanks to Hazel Richards, the Programme Officer, for her hard work, support and valuable contribution to the smooth running of all aspects of the inquiry process.
6. A copy of this letter has been sent to the Government Office for the East of England and to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Geoff Salter

Geoff Salter
BA MRTPI Inspector