

Inspector's Question 9

Review of the Core Strategy

Planning Practice Guidance confirms that the preferred approach is for each local planning authority to prepare a single local plan for its area and that to be effective plans need to be kept up-to-date. Most local plans are likely to require updating in whole or in part at least every five years.

The Sevenoaks Core Strategy (CS) was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in June 2010 and was adopted in February 2011. The revised Preferred Options document was prepared in 2008. The evidence on which the CS is based pre-dates the NPPF and concerns were raised at the hearing sessions on the Allocations and Development Management Plan (ADMP) about the validity of some of the evidence, for example in terms of housing supply.

It was not my task to examine the Council's strategic approach as embodied in the CS but I do understand the concerns that have been raised and in this light I consider that there should be a commitment from the Council to undertake a review of CS and that such a commitment should be referred to in the ADMP in the section on page 11. In this way it can be demonstrated that the Council is keen to ensure that it has an up-to-date suite of policies and proposals to deliver sustainable growth in accordance with the NPPF.

I would welcome a response from the Council by Friday 4 July.

David Hogger

Inspector

23 June 2014