

Acting Programme Officer: Louise St John Howe
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Suffolk CO10 7JD

13th October, 2010

Ms. Sandra Eastaugh,
Greater Norwich Development Partnership
PO Box 3466
Norwich, NR7 7NX

Dear Ms. Eastaugh,

JCS for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk

I note the following comments taken from item 4 of the minutes of the GNDP Policy Group meeting of 23 September 2010 under the heading 'Joint Core Strategy (JCS) Next Steps'

".....Members emphasised the need for an early and timely review of the JCS, given all the factors ongoing currently, in addition to considerable financial constraints, which could have a bearing on the Strategy.

There was a general consensus that the GNDP should continue moving towards adoption of the Strategy, notwithstanding any announcements yet to be heard on the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review....."

However, **"An additional recommendation was proposed and agreed:**

The GNDP acknowledges that since the Strategy was prepared the political and financial context has changed such that delivery may be more challenging. Consequently, a timely review will be undertaken to revisit assumptions in the light of emerging changes to the planning system, the localism agenda and the availability of investment. It is expected that early evidence from this review will be available to inform any decision to proceed on adoption of the submitted JCS. The GNDP team will put together a programme of work setting out the activities that could start following the examination, to be reported to the next meeting of the GNDP Policy Group."

Since a review of the JCS is to be made before its adoption these comments may raise some questions about the commitment of the GNDP to the JCS in its submitted form (including the focused changes) and, indeed, whether the Partnership is having second thoughts about the soundness of the strategy.

I think it is appropriate for me to point out that, as at 8 October, I had completed 22.8 days of rechargeable work on initial examination of the JCS, plus the costs of travel and subsistence for the Exploratory Meeting. I am due to commence work on the JCS in earnest as from 13 October. Rechargeable work would then occur in the form of up to 16 days more initial examination before the hearings, 3 weeks of hearings (with travel and subsistence), plus up to 40 or so days of reporting.

In the circumstances I consider it appropriate to enquire whether or not GNDP wishes to continue with the process of the hearings and the Inspector's report.

Roy Foster
Inspector

12 October 2010

14 October 2010

Inspector Roy Foster MA MRTPI
c/o Louise St John Howe
Claypit Hall
Foxearth
Sudbury
Suffolk
CO10 7JD

Dear Mr Foster,

JOINT CORE STRATEGY FOR BROADLAND, NORWICH AND SOUTH NORFOLK

Thank you for your letter of 13 October 2010. You can rest assured that if the GNDP authorities had wished to withdraw the JCS they would have done.

We consider that the JCS is, and remains, fundamentally sound and the submission of focussed changes confirms the authorities' commitment to the process. You will be aware that the partnership approach for the planning of the area requires the support of all three districts and the County Council at each stage. I would hope that the ongoing consensus among four different authorities would provide additional comfort. We have of course invested considerable resources to get to this stage, not least in assembling a comprehensive evidence base.

The recommendation does not commit to a review of the JCS before its adoption. It recognises that forward planning is a continuous process of monitoring and review, and that further information from this ongoing process will become available prior to adoption of this JCS. We live in challenging times and it is possible, but we hope unlikely, that emerging evidence will influence the decision to adopt. It might be positive, negative or neutral and will include confirmation of matched council tax funding, issues arising from the Comprehensive Spending Review, and the Government's changes to the planning system.

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At the 23 September meeting, the GNDP Policy Group asked the GNDP team to undertake some preparatory work that will set out the elements of a work programme for the team that could follow on from the examination; for them to consider at their next meeting on 16 December. This request for a work programme demonstrates the authorities' commitment to working together beyond the development and adoption of the Joint Core Strategy, showing that implementation and a timely review of the JCS are viewed as ongoing activities that require the authorities' commitment to future resources.

I trust that this addresses any concerns that prompted your letter

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Eastaugh
Greater Norwich Development Partnership Manager

Copy to: Inspector Mike Fox BA (hons) DipTP MRTPI