

Ms R Trowse
Planning and Transport Department
PO Box No 125
Civic Offices
1 Saxon Gate East
Central Milton Keynes
MK9 3ZJ

14 March 2007

Dear Sir,

**RE: MILTON KEYNES WASTE CORE STRATEGY – SUBMISSION
DRAFT**

Under the provisions of Section 24 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (the Act) the South East England Regional Assembly has assessed the general conformity of the Milton Keynes Waste Core Strategy submission document against the adopted Regional Spatial Strategy (RPG9 and Alterations) and also the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (the Draft South East Plan).

An issue of non-general conformity has been identified by the Assembly, which means that the Core Strategy fails to satisfy PPS12 'Test of Soundness' Test iv.

Whilst the majority of policies are consistent with adopted and emerging RSS, the Core Strategy does not make provision for the disposal to landfill of a proportion of London's waste, as required by Policy W3 of RPG9 as altered (June 2006), and insufficient evidence has been provided to justify this position. Whilst PPS12 states that 'the fact that a development plan document is inconsistent with one or more policies in the regional spatial strategy, either directly or through the omission of a policy or proposal, does not, by itself, mean that the document is not in general conformity' (paragraph 4.20), the Assembly considers that the inconsistency is significant to the delivery of the regional spatial strategy, and that failure to address this key strand of regional waste policy may cause significant harm to the implementation of the regional spatial strategy (PPS12 paragraph 4.20).

We would wish to explore whether it is possible to overcome these concerns prior to the independent examination into the Core Strategy, and would therefore like to suggest a meeting between Milton Keynes Council, the Regional Assembly and the Government Office for the South East in order to discuss and where possible resolve this issue.

If agreement can be reached with the council over amendments to their Core Strategy so that it reflects the aims of Policy W3 of RPG9 as altered, the Assembly will withdraw its opinion that the Core Strategy is not in general conformity with the regional spatial strategy. As a result the Core Strategy would (assuming no other significant policy changes were made by the authorities) be considered by the Assembly to be in general conformity with the adopted Regional Spatial Strategy (RPG9) and the draft South East Plan.

In addition to this issue, the Assembly also has a number of additional representations, which are set out in the attached documentation.

If you have any comments or questions relating to this letter please do not hesitate to contact Sue Janota, Regional Planner, on 01483 555200 or at suejanota@southeast-ra.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Catriona Riddell
Planning Strategy Director

South East England Regional Assembly - Additional Representations

Representation 1 – Policy WDC3

To ensure alignment with Policy W16, it is recommended that Policy WDC3 be strengthened by the inclusion of a policy or policy reference that ensures waste transport infrastructure, including sites for waste transfer and bulking facilities are safeguarded.

Representation 2 - Paragraphs CS33-35 and Appendix 2

We would expect to see policy provision for management of hazardous waste in the Milton Keynes Waste DPD to address this policy gap in line with Policy W15 of both the draft South East Plan and RPG9 (adopted alterations). If hazardous waste policy is to be included in other DPD/Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) appropriate cross references must be made in the Waste Core Strategy.