

## **Extract from 'Examining Development Plan Documents: Learning from Experience' (Sept 2009)**

### **Introduction**

1. In June 2007 we produced our first Lessons Learnt document. This Learning from Experience – 2009 document seeks to update the 2007 material in the light of the experience we have gained from examining approaching 100 Development Plan Documents (DPDs) submitted between June 2007 and August 2009, discussions with a wide variety of interested parties and over 90 visits we have carried out to local authorities as part of an Early Engagement project. The document does not aim to be comprehensive or concentrate on procedural matters – which are covered in the Inspectorate's Examining Development Plan Documents: Procedure Guidance (August 2009 2nd Edition)<sup>1</sup> and the CLG Manual<sup>2</sup> hosted by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) – it concentrates on matters that commonly arise and which seem to us to be of general interest.

### **Procedural and Administrative Matters**

2. The Procedure Guidance issued by the Inspectorate has been well received and evidently provides adequate guidance as few procedural problems have been encountered.

**Authorities are required to supply a statement of the issues raised in the representations; but there is no need to summarise all the representations unless the Inspector requests this.**

3. Under Regulation 30(1)(e) of The Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England) Regulations 2004 (as amended)<sup>3</sup> authorities are required to supply a statement of the issues raised in the representations. Most authorities have done this in a succinct way but a few have produced very extensive statements that go into far more detail than is necessary. This approach is likely to have unnecessarily extended the time between publication and submission. The important point is that the critical issues are identified and briefly articulated. There is no need to summarise the representations (unless the Inspector requests this), which will always be supplied to the Inspector.