

## **Closing Address South Somerset local Plan Examination**

Mr Hogger, when the examination opened on Tuesday, one of the main points that SSDC stressed was the need for the supply of housing to match the economic and population needs of the district .I believe we have demonstrated and evidenced the our preference to be driven by longer term trends and aspiration rather than short term data fluctuations.

You will have noted the detailed attention paid to the contents of your preliminary letter in particular the sections regarding the Sustainability Appraisal Process which prompted a detailed review of evidence and options and for the growth of Yeovil, and Ilminster. I hope you will have been assured that the formulation of the Main Modifications was not a pre- determined exercise. It has led to some very difficult choices which I hope you will see we have made against a background of accurate and robust evidence in a transparent way that has conformed to the legal framework to produce a sound plan.

You have raised issues of the need greater clarity around minor modifications for the delivery of housing pending a site allocations DPD, in relation to employment and, in the case of Wincanton posing the possibility of an early review of aspects of the local plan.

Subject to the consultation on these elements within the window that you have indicated, the council would look positively on measures it can make in the short term to ensure we have a local plan we can adopt and use.

We acknowledge that there will be a process of consultation of the further main modification(deletion of Buffer Zone) that we have accepted this week. But to reiterate, this council need to bring forward it's local plan to give certainty for the future and a plan for the sustainable development of South Somerset.

Finally, Mr Hogger, on behalf of South Somerset District Council, I would like to express our thanks to you and the Programme Officer Christine Self for the conduct of this Inquiry over the past 4 days. I believe I can speak on behalf of all participants to this Inquiry that you have been more than scrupulously fair in hearing comments and objections from all parties and no party can have any just cause for any complaint on that score.

ENDS