

## **WOKING BOROUGH COUNCIL'S OPEN STATEMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT (DPD)**

Sir, on behalf of the Council, I would like to welcome you to Woking and to the Examination of the Development Management Policies DPD. I would also like to welcome everyone who is participating in the Examination either as a representor or as an observer.

In accordance with paragraph 182 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the Council has submitted to you for examination what it considers to be a sound Development Management Policies DPD. The Council has published a 'self assessment to demonstrate how the legal and procedural requirements and the tests of soundness have been met. It has submitted a Consultation Statement and a Duty to Cooperate Statement to demonstrate the extent of community and stakeholder involvement throughout the various stages of the DPD process. A Sustainability Appraisal Report has been prepared to demonstrate that the DPD will overall promote sustainable development across the Borough.

In summary the Council considers that the Development Management Policies DPD has been prepared in accordance with:

- the Woking Core Strategy;
- the Local Development Scheme;
- the Statement of Community Involvement;
- relevant legislation and Regulations;
- national planning policy framework;
- A Sustainability Appraisal Report, which assesses the social, economic and environmental implications of the DPD, has also been submitted.

The Council is also satisfied that the DPD is:

- justified by evidence;
- deliverable;
- flexible to accommodate change; and
- able to be monitored.

The Council's response to the Inspector's initial questions provides further clarification of how these matters have been addressed. Throughout the hearing, there will further opportunity to highlight and/or clarify any issues relating to these matters.

The DPD is a significant document to enable the effective and comprehensive delivery of the Woking Core Strategy. Its expeditious preparation is vital to satisfying the requirements of the presumption in favour of sustainable development. In this regard, the Council hopes that the DPD will be supported to enable it to be adopted in accordance with the timescales set out in the Local Development Scheme.

Thank you.

Ernest Amoako  
Planning Policy Manager  
Woking Borough Council