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Chief Executive Derek Myers
Royal Borough of Kensington &
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Town Hall
Hornton Street
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Our Ref: PINS/K5600/429/5
Date: 9 July 2013

Dear Mr Myers,

The partial review of the Core Strategy for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea with a focus on North Kensington: Policies relating to the protection of public houses and other uses

As you know, I have been appointed by the Secretary of State to carry out an independent examination of the aforementioned partial review of the adopted Core Strategy. This was submitted to the Secretary of State on 1 February 2013 pursuant to section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) (the 2004 Act).

I conducted the Examination by way of written exchange and hearings. The hearing sessions were held at the Town Hall on 1 May 2013.

The purpose of the independent examination is set out in the 2004 Act. This falls into two parts: firstly, whether the submitted review has been prepared in accordance with certain statutory requirements under the 2004 Act and the associated regulations (*The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)*); and secondly, whether the review is sound. In making an assessment of soundness, I have focused on the requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

With this letter is a copy of my report on the submitted review which contains my recommendations and the reasons for them as required by the 2004 Act.

In coming to my conclusions on the soundness of the review, I have considered all the representations made during the consultation period preceding the submission of the original document, in accordance with the Regulations. I have taken account of both the written statements and oral contributions made during the course of the Examination. I have also considered all of these as part of my assessment of the soundness of the document. However, my primary task is to

consider whether the document is sound. It is not a requirement of the 2004 Act that I consider or report on "objections" and consequently my report does not list individual representations or respond to all the points made.

All the statements, representations, documents and other material submitted during the course of the Examination, including at the hearing sessions, are contained in the Examination library. These include the core documents, which contain the Authority's "core evidence base" for the review.

My overall conclusion is that, with the amendments put forward by the Authority and set out in my report, the review satisfies the requirements of the 2004 Act and the associated Regulations. It satisfies the tests of soundness set out in the NPPF and is, therefore, **sound**.

During the Examination, I was assisted by my Programme Officer, Mr Chris Banks, whom I thank for his diligence, good humour and organisational skills, which ensured that the Examination process, particularly the hearing sessions, ran smoothly. I also wish to express my thanks to the Authority's officer team, particularly Mr Jonathan Wade, and all those attending the hearing sessions for the helpful, positive and professional manner they adopted during the hearings and throughout the Examination. I am certain that the atmosphere of co-operation which was displayed helped to ensure the resolution of issues which have led to a review which will provide a firmer foundation for planning in the Royal Borough over the remaining 15 years of the Core Strategy.

I hope that my conclusions and recommendations in the accompanying report will enable the Authority to adopt the review in an efficient manner.

Yours sincerely

Simon Berkeley

Inspector