

**THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA CORE
STRATEGY WITH A FOCUS ON NORTH KENSINGTON****PRE-HEARING MEETING
Inspector's Briefing Note****The Inspector and Programme Officer**

The Secretary of State has appointed Patrick Whitehead DipTP (Nott) MRTPI as Inspector under Section 20 of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to hold the Examination into the soundness of the Core Strategy.

The Programme Officer for the Examination is Mr Chris Banks. He is acting as an independent officer under the Inspector's direction. He will be responsible for organising the programme of hearings, maintaining the Examination library, recording and circulating all material received and assisting the Inspector with procedural and administrative matters. He will advise on any programming and procedural queries and any questions or matters should be addressed to him. His contact details are Tel: 01403 253148 Email: chris.banks@zen.co.uk

The Scope and Purpose of the PHM and the Examination

The purpose of the pre-hearing meeting (PHM) is to provide an opportunity for procedural and administrative matters relating to the examination to be explained and discussed. A note of the meeting will be sent to all of those who have made representations on the Core Strategy.

The examination of the Core Strategy is intended to investigate whether or not it is sound. The starting point is the assumption that the Council has submitted what it considers to be a sound plan – that is: it proposes the right actions for the area; it will achieve what it sets out to achieve; and is consistent with national policy.

The Inspector examining soundness is required to consider all representations made to the submission document but only in so far as they relate to the satisfaction of legal requirements that the plan should be justified, effective and consistent with national policy. The Inspector is not required to consider each and every 'objection' or to report on it. The representations are the starting point but he is able to raise other matters too. Nevertheless anyone who has made a representation seeking to change the Core Strategy has a right to be heard by the Inspector if they have already indicated that they wish to be heard.

The Hearing sessions

Hearing sessions for the public examination will begin on Tuesday 20 July 2010, at 1000 hours. The location of the Hearings will be the Council Offices at Kensington Town Hall. A draft list of matters and issues will be made available at the PHM.

The hearing format will provide a relaxed and informal setting for dealing with issues by way of discussion that the Inspector will lead. Those identified to participate may be represented by professional advocates and witnesses if they so wish, but there will be no formal presentation of evidence or cross-examination.

The Inspector will start by making a few brief comments on matters he wants to cover. If necessary, an agenda will be circulated before the session. The Inspector will direct a question to a person – sometimes the Council representative – to start the discussion in response to points raised. The hearing will then progress under the Inspector's guidance, drawing those present into the discussion in such a way as to enable him to gain the information necessary to come to a firm conclusion and decision on the matters.

The Programme Officer will provide name boards for each participant which should be up-ended to indicate a wish to speak so that the Inspector can invite contributions as he goes along without overlooking anyone with a point to make.

The submission of further statements

The Council has submitted an extensive evidence base for the plan, but further questions on the matters to be covered may be necessary. These matters and questions will be identified in a separate list, copies of which will be available through the Programme Officer. If necessary the Council will be asked to provide further evidence. Where it is asked to do this, representors who wish to can also submit further comments directed to helping the Inspector to answer the listed questions. Any further statements should be no more than 3,000 words. The Council will not be asked to respond to each and every representation.

Main Reference Documents

The Council has prepared a list of Reference Documents that will be available in the Examination Library. These are the documents expected to be referred to most frequently and include the London Plan and the Consultation draft replacement London Plan, national policy documents such as Planning Policy Guidance (PPGs) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), and other Background Papers. Extracts of these documents should not be attached to statements.

The Examination Library will be available at the venue during the Hearings. Anyone wishing to consult the Library during or before the Hearings should contact the Programme Officer.

The Reference Documents list will be kept updated and is available from the Programme Officer. It is also posted on the Council's website with links to electronic versions of the documents wherever possible.

Other matters

The hearing sessions will normally start at 10.00 and 14.00 each day with a short break mid-morning and mid-afternoon, where convenient. Lunch will be taken at about 13.00. Individual participants must keep in touch with the Programme Officer to check the progress of the examination and to ensure that they are present at the appropriate time.

The Inspector will be making unaccompanied site visits before, during and after the hearings, viewing sites from public roads and land. If any sites are not readily visible from publicly accessible land it may be necessary to arrange accompanied visits to them.