



**Councillor John Mason**

**Representing the Hawkwell West Ward**

Wistaria Cottage  
Englefield Close  
Hawkwell  
Essex. SS5 4LE  
England

Tel: +44 1702 204377  
Email: CllrJohn.Mason@rochford.gov.uk

**Member Correspondence**

Date: 3 June 2011

Miss Laura Graham BSc MA MRTPI  
Planning Inspector  
C/O The Programme Office  
Rochford District Council

Dear Miss Graham

I have had occasion to ask the Council to let me see the correspondence that you have exchanged with the Council on the matter of the Sustainability Appraisal.

The Council were not able to do that immediately but have since referred me to the Council's web site where I am advised that the complete correspondence that I was referring to has been published.

I have read your letters with great interest and I noted the following;

11 May 2011, "If you decide to carry out further work on the SA, you must bear in mind that it is an integral part of the plan making process, which should be transparent and open to public participation. It must not be undertaken as an exercise to justify a predetermined strategy."

I presume that you are aware of the Executive Member Decision: Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation dated 18 May 2011.

Could I ask you, please, to examine and review the above Executive Member Decision, together with all of the underlying unpublished reports, and satisfy yourself that your concern noted in your letter of 11 May has been met by the proposal.

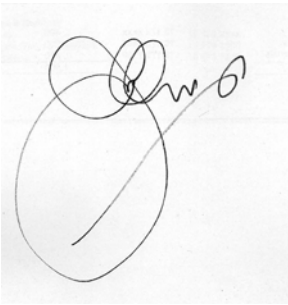
Furthermore I note from your letter of 1 June the following;

"In the light of this judgement, and my early indication to you that I have not been able to support your proposed changes, I would welcome your assurance that the further work on the SA and any other work will be undertaken so as to ensure that the Core Strategy is in general conformity with the Regional Strategy."

I do not believe that this issue is in the scope of the work to be undertaken under the Executive Member Decision: Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation dated 18 May 2011.

I note that you find Scenario 2 appropriate to the extent of work that you expect to be done.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Mason', is written over a large, faint, circular watermark or stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Councillor John Mason BSc FLS ACIB**

<http://cmis.rochford.gov.uk/CMISWebPublic/Binary.ashx?Document=17767>

RDC206/16 May 2011 **Enfusion**

Treenwood House

Rowden Lane

Bradford on Avon

BA15 2AU

t: 01225 867112

f: 01225 867115

[www.enfusion.co.uk](http://www.enfusion.co.uk)

Sam Hollingworth

Planning Policy Team Leader

Rochford District Council

South Street

Rochford

Essex SS4 1BW

16 May 2011 (by email)

Dear Sam

### **Rochford District Core Strategy**

#### **Additional SA Work arising from Forest Heath ruling– SA Addendum**

As per recent discussions with Toney Hallahan, it has been agreed that additional work for the SA of the Core Strategy document is required prior to the Core Strategy adoption.

The work is required due to the recent High Court ruling: Save Historic Newmarket v. Forest Heath District Council [2011] EWHC 606 (Admin). We are of the opinion that this has implications for the SA work undertaken at Rochford to date and necessitates a refresh of the SA work on alternatives. It is understood that legal counsel for Colonnade Land has also raised concerns about the SA in relation to the Forest Heath ruling.

The following outlines our proposed list of tasks and costs to undertake this work. Please note that we are providing this advice in our professional capacity as the Council's SA consultants; we would also advise that RDC consider taking further legal Counsel to obtain a legal interpretation in relation to this matter.

RDC206/16 May 2011 **Enfusion**

#### **Sustainability Appraisal tasks**

##### **Reconsider SA of alternatives**

1. This task will involve revisiting the approach to the SA of alternatives in light of the Forest Heath ruling, focusing on the procedures adopted and considering risks to soundness (as far as is possible in relation to known information about the Forest Heath ruling). The approach to alternatives taken in the SA will be summarised, ensuring that the reasons for the rejection of alternatives are reported (this will require some input from Officers).

##### **SA of alternative housing and employment locations**

2. Alternatives relating to general development locations were considered in the SA reports of the Core Strategy Issues and Options (September 2006), Preferred options (October 2008) and Core Strategy Submission document (September 2009). Notwithstanding, in light of the Forest Heath ruling, we are advising that further appraisal be undertaken of the broad housing locations, and included with the SA Addendum. RDC officers have provided Enfusion with a list of what they consider to be realistic alternatives for housing and employment

land, for this purpose. We would propose to undertake comparative appraisal of these 13 residential alternatives and 4 employment alternatives using SA matrices.

**SA Addendum Report, including Summary**

3. Preparation of a brief report that considers tasks 1-2 , includes a summary of why the proposed preferred alternative was adopted in each case. We have allowed for 1 draft and 1 final electronic copy of the report.

**Timetable:**

Subject to approval of our proposal, we confirm that a first draft addendum report can be provided 26 May.

**Estimated Fees & Expenses:**

We would propose that the majority of the work be undertaken by an experienced Principal, Toney Hallahan at our discounted day rates of £500/d. Additional support and QA will be provided by Company Director, Barbara Carroll (£750/d).

RDC206/16 May 2011 **Enfusion**

**Tasks/Staff days**

**Director**

**Principal**

**Planner**

Tasks 1: Reconsider SA of alternatives 1

Task 2: SA of alternative housing and employment locations(including meeting)

3.5

Task 5: SA Addendum Report, including Summary 0.5 1

**SA Total Staff Days 0.5 5.5**

**Total Fees & Expenses (excluding VAT)**

Sustainability Appraisal Addendum: **£3125**

For Enfusion Ltd

Barbara Carroll

Director

# ROCHFORD CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION

**Programme Officer: Lissa Higby**  
**Council Offices**  
**South Street**  
**Rochford**  
**Essex, SS4 1BW**

**Tel.: 01702 318062**

**Email: [programme.officer@rochford.gov.uk](mailto:programme.officer@rochford.gov.uk)**

**Ref: masonltr8.8.11**

**Date: 8 June 2011**

**Cllr. J. Mason**

Dear Councillor Mason,

I attach a reply from the Inspector to your recent letter.

“In response to your letter of 3 June, it is not part of my role in examining the soundness of the Core Strategy, to review or oversee the Council’s decision making procedures.

As you will be aware, the Council has, at my request, provided schedules for the further work it wishes to undertake. Both schedules provide for reasonable opportunities for public consultation. I suggested to the Council that in the second scenario, as consultation would be undertaken over the summer holiday, they may wish to extend the period a little and they have indicated that they will do so.

The Council’s response to me of 6 June 2011 confirms that the Council is aware of the current status of the East of England Plan and the legal requirement for Development Plan Documents to be in general conformity with it.

Laura Graham  
Inspector”

Yours sincerely,

Lissa Higby  
Programme Officer