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10 JAN 2011

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My Ref: CR/77

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Date: 6 January 2011

Dear David Churchill

I refer to your FOIA/EIR request of the 9 December 2010 which I am considering, along with colleagues. In the meantime, by way of an interim response I would advise:

1. Your request for the information in a particular format namely paper may not be possible to fulfil given the extensive nature of the request set out in the Appendix 1 table. Depending on the form we hold the information, it may be that it is provided to you in an electronic format. You could then print to paper should you wish. Where reasonably possible we will provide it in a paper form.
2. In many of the rows in the table you request "Copies of written representations from all parties". However, we are not clear as to exactly what part of the process you are referring. Do you mean for instance, written representations from stakeholders and the public on documents after they were published; or alternatively, communication between the Council and the consultants during production, or after production, etc.
3. In the final row "other information" of the table please confirm or specify otherwise:
 - (a) That bullet points 1 and 2 concerns correspondence between Essex County Council and Rochford District Council's Planning Department in relation to general locations for housing in the Core Strategy DPD and Allocations DPD. and that reference to "East Rochford", "Stambridge Mills", "West Rochford", "East Ashingdon" and "South East Ashingdon" refer to the general locations identified in the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options (2008) and Core Strategy

Submission Document (2009) (including any proposed amendments).

- (b) Bullet point 5 refers to FOIA requests to the Planning & Transportation Department. Whilst the transportation function at Rochford falls under the same Head of Service, it comprises the operational matters of public car parks, on street car parking enforcement, taxi licensing and alike. It is not transportation in the strategic wider sense as Rochford is not a highway authority. In these circumstances, I trust the transportation FOIA requests for information are outside your scope of interest.

In terms of copies of all FOIA requests for information made to Planning between April 2005 and November 2010 this could entail quite a burden researching our records. Given that these requests for information received are extremely varied and specific in nature and to name a few include:

- Building Control Stats.
- Press Enquiry re Use of Consultants;
- Section 106 Agreement - Financial Contributions;
- Travellers,
- Meetings with Bellway Homes re Hall Road site;
- Power Stations;
- Planning Appeal Stats;
- The Price's Foundation for the Built Environment;
- Wind Turbines;
- Staffing – Powers of Entry.

It is likely that much, if not all, of this will fall outside your scope of interest. Thus in order to try and reasonably advise and assist you, I would welcome this request being focused specifically on the area(s) of work that are of an interest to you e.g. any FOIA requests regarding planning policy formulation between the said dates.

I look forward to your clarification of the above.

Yours sincerely



Shaun Scrutton
Head of Planning & Transportation