

CHAIRMAN

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK AT THIS MEETING.

I AM MOYRA TOURLAMAIN, AND I AM SPEAKING AT THE REQUEST, AND ON BEHALF OF GREAT CHESTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL.

WE HAVE STUDIED THE REQUISITION FOR THIS EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING AND THE NOTICE OF MOTION.

ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS.

WE WELCOME THE FOCUS OF THIS MEETING IN SEEKING CLARITY AS TO PROCESS AND AS TO THE TIMETABLE OF THE LOCAL PLAN.

WE FURTHER WELCOME THE REQUEST FOR SPECIFICATION OF THE POTENTIAL SPATIAL STRATEGIES AND THE EVIDENCE BASE THAT ILLUMINATES THOSE SPATIAL STRATEGIES. IN PARTICULAR THE STATE OF THE EVIDENCE BASE WHEN THE LOCAL PLAN WAS PAUSED LAST MONTH.

WE WELCOME CLARITY AS TO THE DISCUSSIONS AND INTERACTIONS WITH NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES. NOTABLY SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE, IN FULFILLMENT OF THE DUTY TO COOPERATE.

WE NOTE THAT MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL RECEIVED BRIEFINGS ON THE PROPOSED STRATEGY ON 11 OCTOBER AND 17 OCTOBER. WE NOTE THAT THE PRESS WERE ALSO BRIEFED.

SADLY, THIS SAME COURTESY HAS NOT BEEN EXTENDED TO RESIDENTS OR TO PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS.

INDEED OUR REQUEST FOR SIGHT OF THE EVIDENCE BASE AND THE BRIEFINGS MADE TO MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL AND THE PRESS HAS BEEN REFUSED BY OFFICERS, WHO *INTER ALIA*, HAVE ASSERTED THE NEED FOR WHAT THEY TERM A “SAFE SPACE” TO DEVELOP THE PLAN.

WE REGARD IT AS ESSENTIAL TO HAVE A ROBUST UNDERSTANDING OF THE EVIDENCE BASE AT THE DATE THE PLAN WAS PAUSED.

OUR CONCERN, WHICH WE MUST MAKE CLEAR, IS THAT THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS EXPLICIT – IT SEEKS TO SUBSTITUTE REVISED ASSUMPTIONS, PRESUMPTIONS AND STARTING POINTS IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF THE PROCESS.

WE QUESTION THE RELEVANCE OF A NUMBER OF POINTS IN THE DRAFT MOTION BEFORE YOU AND SUGGEST IT MAY BE AN ABUSE OF PROCESS WITH THE INTENTION OF INFLUENCING WHAT MUST BE AN OBJECTIVE AND EVIDENCE LED PLAN.

THUS;

THE PURPOSE OF THE LOCAL PLAN IS TO MEET THE HOUSING NEEDS AND EMPLOYMENT LAND NEEDS OF THE DISTRICT.

THAT AND THAT ALONE.

IT IS NOT TO ASSIST WITH THE HOUSING NEEDS OF THE CAMBRIDGE REGION OR TO AID OR AUGMENT THE CAMBRIDGE PHENOMENON.

THAT IS A MATTER FOR SOUTH CAMBS, CAMBRIDGE CITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

WE ARE INFORMED THAT SOUTH CAMBS WOULD NOT WELCOME A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT ON THEIR SOUTHERN BOUNDARY, AND, BY DEFINITION OUR NORTHERN BOUNDARY.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE A1301/A505 JUNCTION IS FREQUENTLY GRIDLOCKED AS IS JUNCTION 10 OF THE M11. EXTRA TRAFFIC IS UNSUSTAINABLE AS CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HAVE MADE CLEAR. EVEN IF DEVELOPMENT ON OUR NORTHERN BOUNDARY WERE WELCOMED BY OUR NEIGHBOURS, THE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE DOES NOT EXIST TO SUPPORT IT.

WE FEEL IT INCUMBENT UPON US TO REMIND MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL THAT UNLESS NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES REQUEST OUR ASSISTANCE THEN THE LOCAL PLAN MUST RESTRICT ITSELF TO OUR DISTRICT.

THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS FATALLY FLAWED AND TO PASS IT WOULD WE SUGGEST INCREASE DELAY, ADD TO COST AND MAKE THE LOCAL PLAN MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO CHALLENGE AT THE PUBLIC EXAMINATION.

THANK YOU