

Dear Stephen

Apologies for the delay with the response (and its 'rough' appearance). Please see below and attached for the SCI related Agenda item for the July Cabinet meeting.

Many residents & organisations raised concerns about the Sustainability Appraisal at the **Regulation 18** consultation. Concerns were raised again **before** the start of the Reg 19 consultation, following the letter from Inspector Clews to the NEAs. Councillors were told by Ms French, in an email, that the Inspector's letter 'was helpful to us and should provide members with **greater confidence about the soundness of the plan** before them at Council on Tuesday.....'. However Officers then immediately commissioned a review from AECOM, **without informing Cllrs or the public** and we had to spend significant amounts of time reading the evidence base and writing responses not just to one consultation but two, based on an SA that Officers were unsure of the soundness of!!

*Honesty and truthfulness are not the same thing. Being honest means not telling lies. Being truthful means actively making known all the full truth of a matter.*

Whilst UDC were not dishonest, they engaged both with Cllrs and the public in an untruthful manner. What I really don't understand is why Councillors weren't outraged by this as they were the ones who voted on motions without knowing the truth.

I hope that provide some clarity.

Kind regards

Joanna

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Dear Joanna Francis

[Planning Policy Working Group last night](#) considered the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). Members asked officers to follow up on one of your representations. The representation that we were asked to follow up on is set out below:

*Whilst UDC was not dishonest with residents when they were consulted on the Addendum of Focussed Changes, you were not truthful. The AECOM report had been commissioned in June and a draft issued by the end of September 2018. The SCI document merely states how the Council will engage with their communities, what measures will be taken to ensure we are engaged with in a truthful manner?*

The proposed response to this representation from officers was:

*The statement is not clear on the untruthfulness aspect. The Consultation on the Addendum of Focussed Changes was duly accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal and so was the Consultation undertaken on the updated Sustainability Appraisal. Consultation in these cases was undertaken as and when the relevant documents were available and relevant decisions had been undertaken. UDC will continue in being transparent when undertaking consultations in line with the SCI.*

Members asked us to see if you were able to explain how the Council has engaged in an untruthful manner. Members would like to understand this representation better, so that the Council can respond appropriately.

Kind regards

Stephen

Stephen Miles  
Planning Policy Team Leader  
Uttlesford District Council  
London Road  
Saffron Walden  
Essex  
CB11 4ER