



# The Planning Inspectorate

3/25 Hawk Wing  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Temple Quay  
Bristol BS1 6PN

Direct Line 0117-372 8902  
Switchboard 0117-372 8000  
Fax No 0117-372 8804  
GTN 1371-8902

<http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk>

Mr Bruce McDonald  
Chief Executive  
The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames  
High Street  
Kingston upon Thames  
KT1 1EU

Your Ref:

Our Ref: LDF 744

Date: 8 April 2008

Dear Mr McDonald

## **Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames Local Development Framework Kingston Town Centre Area Action Plan**

1. As you know, I have been appointed by the Secretary of State to carry out an independent examination of the Kingston Town Centre Area Action Plan Development Plan Document (DPD), which was submitted to the Secretary of State on 25 May 2007, pursuant to section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (the 2004 Act).
2. I held a pre-examination meeting on 28 November 2007 and conducted the examination of the Area Action Plan by way of written exchanges and by a series of hearings for those who exercised their right to be heard along with several invited attendees. The hearing sessions were held at The Guildhall, High Street, Kingston upon Thames between 29 January and 6 February 2008.
3. The purpose of the independent examination is set out in section 20(5) of the 2004 Act. This falls into two parts: first, whether the submitted DPD has been prepared in accordance with certain statutory requirements under s19 & s24(1) of the 2004 Act and the associated regulations (*The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004; SI.2004 No. 2204*); and second, whether the DPD is sound. In making an assessment of soundness, I have applied the nine tests set out in paragraph 4.24 of Planning Policy Statement 12: *Local Development Frameworks* (PPS 12).
4. With this letter is a copy of my report on the submitted Area Action Plan. This contains my recommendations and the reasons for them as required by section 20(7) of the 2004 Act.
5. My overall conclusion is that, with the changes recommended in my report, the Kingston Town Centre Area Action Plan satisfies the requirements of s20(5)(a) & (b) of the 2004 Act and the associated Regulations, and meets the tests of soundness set out in paragraph 4.24 of PPS12.



6. In coming to my conclusions on the soundness of the Area Action Plan, I have considered all the representations made during the 6-week period following submission, in accordance with Regulation 29 of the 2004 Regulations, along with other written submissions that have been made. While these have informed the identification of the matters and issues for examination, my primary task is to consider whether the document is sound. I have also taken account of the subsequent written statements and oral contributions made during the course of the examination. However, it is not a requirement of the 2004 Act that I consider or report on "objections", and consequently, my report does not list individual representations or respond to all the points made. During the course of the examination, and as a result of the discussions at the hearing sessions, the Council suggested a number of changes to the text of the submitted Area Action Plan. I have considered these changes as part of my assessment of the Plan's soundness.

7 During the examination, I was assisted by my Programme Officer, Mr Robert Young, whom I thank for his diligence, good humour and organisational expertise. This ensured that the examination process, particularly the hearing sessions, ran smoothly. All the statements, representations, documents and other material submitted during the course of the examination, including at the hearing sessions, are contained in the examination library. Copies of most documents can be accessed via the examination website: [http://www.kingston.gov.uk/browse/environment/planning/kplus20/kplus20\\_eip.htm](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/browse/environment/planning/kplus20/kplus20_eip.htm)

8 I also wish to express my thanks to the Council's officers and all those attending the hearing sessions for the helpful, positive and professional manner they adopted during the hearings and throughout the examination. I hope that my conclusions and recommendations in the accompanying report will enable the Council to adopt the Kingston Town Centre Area Action Plan as soon as is practicable.

Yours sincerely

*M J Hetherington*

INSPECTOR