

GO-East



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE EAST OF ENGLAND

David Spencer
Breckland Council
Elizabeth House
Walpole Loke
Dereham
Norfolk
NR19 1EE

Mary Marston
Development and Infrastructure

Eastbrook
Shaffesbury Road
Cambridge
CB2 8DF

Tel: 01223 372569
GTN: 3841 2569
Fax: 01223 372916
Internet email:
mary.marston@goeast.gsi.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.goeast.gov.uk>

16 February 2009

Dear David,

**PLANNING AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACT 2004
BRECKLAND CORE STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL POLICIES
DPD - PROPOSED SUBMISSION DOCUMENT- DECEMBER 2008**

Thank you for consulting the Government Office on the Breckland Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Proposed Submission Document. We welcome the opportunity to comment.

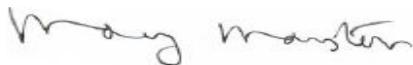
You will recall that we made a number of representations at the Preferred Options stage (as set out in Steve Bateman's letter to Andrea Long of 4 March 2008, and accompanying representations). Whilst we considered these to be more in the way of 'fine tuning' rather than indicative of any fundamental shortcomings or failings in the Breckland Core Strategy document, we urged that these be addressed prior to the preparation of the Submission Document.

We are pleased to see that in progressing to draft submission stage, you have taken much of our feedback into account, and the document reads well. There may however be some scope for further editing, both to avoid duplication and in the interests of brevity. In addition, we would re-iterate the advice given previously in relation to avoiding 'generic' policies that merely repeat national policy; in particular we question whether some of your DC policies add materially to national policy. For example DC policies 10 Telecommunications, 18 Historic Environment, and 23 Conversion of Buildings in the Countryside (formerly DC 25) are essentially unchanged since we commented at Preferred Options stage. We would also draw your attention to areas of overlap which in our view remain, for example between policy for Energy (CP 12), Energy Efficiency (DC14) and Renewable Energy (DC15), and between DC policies 20 Highway Safety (formerly DC 22) and 22 Corridors of Movement (formerly DC 24).

We have not submitted specific representations on these matters, as we do not consider that they amount to a 'soundness' issue, but we would urge you to look again at the scope for minimising repetitive policy and eliminating superfluous text prior to finalising your submission document. You will be aware that editorial changes may be undertaken without the need to re-consult, provided they do not change the submission document in any substantive way.

If you need to clarify anything in this letter or in our representation, or wish to discuss anything else concerning your Local Development Framework, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01223 372916.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Marston".

MARY MARSTON
Cambridgeshire, Suffolk Norfolk and Peterborough Team
Development and Infrastructure Division



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE