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please ask for
Paul Browning

Direct line
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my reference
544182/544390

your reference

7 August 2012

Dear Andy

Proposed Submission South Somerset Local Plan 2006-2028

Thank you for consulting Somerset County Council on the above document.

Somerset County Council is the statutory highways and transport authority for Somerset, but has also statutory responsibilities for waste planning and disposal, minerals planning, the provision of educational and social services, emergency planning, Rights of Way, economic development, consumer protection, and museums and libraries.

Somerset County Council appreciates the considerable range of material presented in this consultation document and the amount of work necessary to prepare this. Detailed officer comments can be found in Annex 1 to this letter. They have been drawn from a number of areas of County Council interest and expertise to assist with the progression on creating a sound Local Plan.

At this stage, and based on the information available to us, our main concern relates to the evidence base for the transport infrastructure that will be required to support the planned growth at Yeovil beyond 2011. As you are aware the Eastern and Western Corridor transport schemes were identified to support growth allocated in the adopted South Somerset Local Plan 1991-2011. Somerset County Council has delivered one of the Eastern Corridor schemes and has recently secured DfT funding to deliver the majority of the remaining schemes with design work currently under way. The Western Corridor schemes are to be delivered by way of developer contributions for which Section 106 agreements are in place for some of the schemes.

However, Somerset County Council began work on the Yeovil Transport Strategy to support the growth as set out in the Proposed Submission Local Plan once the district full council decision had been made on the 23rd of April 2012 to publish the document. To this end, Yeovil Transport Strategy Review 2 is expected to report its findings in 2013.

It will be important to note that this evidence will inform the spatial strategy and the supporting Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Our experience across the County is that this is often a soundness issue that Inspectors wish to consider. The County Council is looking forward to cooperating with you to take this work forward.

If you have any other queries or wish to discuss matters further please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself or the officers who have contributed to this response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. V. Browning', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Paul Browning

Spatial Planning Manager
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