



Bedfordshire
county council



Clare Skeels
Planning Policy and Projects
North Hertfordshire District Council
Council Offices
Gernon Road
Letchworth Garden City
Herts SG6 3JF

Your ref: PN27.08/CS
24th October 2007

**Core Strategy and Development Policies: Preferred Options Consultation
Officer Response from the Luton and South Bedfordshire Joint Technical Unit**

Dear Ms Skeels,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on your Core Strategy and Development Policies Preferred Options consultation document. At a recent meeting of the Luton and South Bedfordshire Joint Committee Senior Management Group, it was agreed that the Joint Committee should make a formal response to your consultation, but preliminary officer comments should be submitted before your response deadline. As such, the comments below are officer comments only, pending consideration by the Joint Committee on 29th November 2007. A full response from the Joint Committee will be submitted to you following that meeting.

Please find enclosed completed representation forms expressing the Joint Technical Unit's support for your document, particularly paragraph 2.18, Key Issue 13 and Core Policy D.

Further to the specific representations enclosed, the Joint Technical Unit would also like to reiterate their commitment to ensuring high quality development. Should it be decided through the preparation of our Core Strategy that the eastward expansion of Luton into North Hertfordshire is the most sustainable, and preferred option, we would want to work very closely with North Hertfordshire District Council and Hertfordshire County Council, and other partners as necessary, to ensure that any development is of the highest quality, sensitive to the landscape and existing settlements, and overcomes any cross-boundary administrative difficulties. As you state in your Core Strategy: Preferred Options paper, that should be achieved through the preparation of a joint Luton Area Action Plan.

Could I also take this opportunity to update the officer contact details you hold for South Bedfordshire District Council. David Atkinson has now left SBDC, so could you please replace his details on your consultee database with mine, as set out below.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Robinson
Planning Officer

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