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My Ref:
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Date: 21st October 2019

Dear Louise

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN

Thank you for sending across the Inspector's letter dated 14th October 2019. We were, of course, extremely disappointed to receive this.

The Inspector's initial conclusions are at odds with the independent advice that the Council received in advance of submission, including our discussions with the Government's own Planning Advisory Service (PAS), the opinion of a QC and industry experts - including former senior Planning Inspectors. This extensive peer review was undertaken in good faith, to inform the examination process and avoid the circumstances that we now appear to find ourselves in.

In respect of the duty to cooperate in particular, we have concerns as to whether the Inspector's initial thoughts, as set out in her letter, take account of all relevant matters. The Council considers that the Inspector's deliberations may be assisted by the attached addendum to the Duty to Co-operate statement. A further commentary on this matter will be provided following the Inspector's more detailed letter.

The Council believes that withdrawing the plan from examination would run contrary to the spirit of the Government's own advice on Plan Making. We are pleased to hear that the Inspector has not reached a final conclusion on this matter and hope that a positive and pragmatic way forward can be found

Yours sincerely

James Gleave
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