Mr Michael J Hetherington BSc (Hons) MA MRTPI  
C/o Shepway Core Strategy Examination Programme Office  
Shepway District Council  
Civic Centre  
Castle Hill Avenue  
Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY

Dear Mr Hetherington

Core Strategy Examination

The Council, in the letter dated 18 June 2012, endeavoured to report briefly on the production of Core Strategy modifications following your Interim Conclusions.

A Cabinet meeting to agree the modifications and consultation process has been scheduled for 26 September 2012. I attach a copy of the proposed timetable, as previously submitted and published on the Council’s website, with the updated position reflected in the commentary on the right hand side.

In relation to the next steps, I would like to highlight our current intentions in relation to the presentation of changes (“modifications”) for public consultation -

Agreement of Modifications at Cabinet - Action F

The schedule of modifications that will be presented to the Council’s Cabinet for agreement will include the material changes that the District Council intends to make to both the Core Strategy policies and the supporting text in order to address issues raised in your interim report and at the public hearing sessions.

In terms of changes to individual policies contained within the plan, some changes will be of a substantial nature and some more minor. Given that the definition of a material change is subject to interpretation, it is intended to apply the precautionary principle. Where a change to the wording of policy is proposed, the revised policy will be included as part of the consultation. This is likely to include the majority of policies within the plan although as previously stated the extent of such changes will vary from policy to policy and in some cases these changes will only be to discreet parts of the policy.
With regard to changes to supporting text, it is intended to include only those changes that are clearly material in nature and can not be made by the District Council under the provisions of the Section 23(3) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase act 2004.

Any diagrams, where a material change is proposed, will be included in an appendix.

Public Consultation on Modifications - Action G

This would be undertaken in line within Paragraph 5 of your Interim Conclusions and in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012. The council will consult on the schedule of proposed modification in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 35, including notifying specific consultation bodies and those who made a representation at the publication stage.

I anticipate that the material changes would be presented with paragraphs showing additional text in bold and deleted text crossed-through. This means it is clear what has been changed. The alternative would be simply to show the proposed text as finalised.

We would welcome any comments on the points above and any further instruction appropriate at this point in relation to the last stage (H – Submission to Inspector)

Yours sincerely

Christopher Lewis
Head of Planning Services