



TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Counsel's comments at the opening of the Core Strategy Examination Session on 2/3/11

4th March 2011

Introduction

Following further consideration by the Council's Sustainability consultant of RLAM's response to the Further Sustainability Appraisal of Davenport Green (February 2011), received by the Council on 24th February 2011, David Park, Counsel for the Council made the following comments to the Examination at the start of Session 3:-

David Park's Statement

Full consideration of the response from JAM consultants by the Council's expert, Mr. Phillips, has not been possible as it has become apparent that Mr. Phillips had not received all the documents. The Council's SA consultant therefore requested more time to go through all the documentation that has been submitted by RLAM.

It was not deliberate that he had not received all the information. The Council's team was under the impression that all the information had been received electronically. However given the size of the documentation, it now appears that these were not received. The Council's consultant will therefore need to review the evidence and reconsider the SA in the light of this. The consultant will also reconsider issues of methodology and this will be done in discussion with JAM.

The Council's SA consultant will also, at the same time, be asked to produce an SA of returning the development site at Davenport Green to the Green Belt, as set out in the Submission version of the Trafford Core Strategy.

Mr. Phillips will need to review the information he has not seen. There may be a requirement to re-advertise/re-consult on the new SA work that he will be undertaking. It is unfortunate that this will delay proceedings, but given the importance of the matter, it needs to be dealt with in a systematic and careful way.

As such, the Council suggests that it is inappropriate to deal with SA related matters on 3rd March. The Council acknowledges that this will delay the examination process and that a further sitting day may be required in the future.

If there is to be any change to the SA, this should be available in 4-6 weeks. There will then need to be a period for consultation and consideration of any responses to that consultation. It is hoped that this should not exceed a period of 2/3 months in total.

The Council also considers that there will be a knock on effect for Friday 4th March's Green Belt session. It might be possible for the Inspector to deal with other Green Belt issues, but the Council will be guided by the Inspector on this matter.

The Council will produce a separate note for the Inspector setting out what its SA consultant will be undertaking including a draft timetable for its production.