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Mr Mark Silverman
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Our Ref: PINS/N1920/429/10

Date: 3 April 2012

Dear Mr Silverman

EXAMINATION INTO THE SOUNDNESS OF HERTSMERE REVISED CORE STRATEGY (RCS) DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

As you are aware, last week the Government issued the National Planning Policy Framework (with associated Technical Guidance) (the Framework) and the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites. I have written to all representors (via the Programme Officer) to alert them to the publication of the above documents, and to offer them the opportunity to comment on the implications of the relevant policy changes for the RCS. A notice has also been placed on the examination website. I understand that your Council is currently working on its response to the new policy context as part of its preparation for the examination hearings, opening on 1 May.

From my own initial consideration of the implications, I would be grateful for your Council's specific response that addresses the test of 'positive preparation' set out in paragraph 182 of the Framework. This should build on the Statement of Collaboration that you provided at submission stage and elaborate on the way in which the RCS seeks to meet needs and requirements as summarised in paragraph 182.

Consideration should be given to specific policy areas including overall housing provision, sites for travellers (also bearing in mind the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites), infrastructure, and provision for economic development. While the Statement of Collaboration already gives details of joint working that has informed the evidence base, more information on the outcome of joint working with adjoining authorities and other stakeholders on specific key policy issues and how this is reflected in the RCS should be provided. It may also be appropriate to comment on the implications for any main modifications of the RCS and review of the development plan.

It would be helpful to provide this response as an addendum to your Council's statement for Matter 1 of the hearings. I appreciate that given the short timescale, it is unlikely that it could be provided by the statement deadline of 13 April. However, a

response as soon as possible thereafter and preferably not later than 20 April would be appreciated.

Please note that this request is without prejudice to any further matters that I may need to raise with you during the course of the examination.

As always, I would be grateful if you would contact me through the Programme Officer.

Yours sincerely

Mary Travers

Inspector