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Dear East Cambridgeshire District,

As Chair of the Cambridgeshire Development Forum, I write following a further discussion at the Forum, at which members expressed their continuing concern and dissatisfaction at your Council's proposals for the Single Issue Review of the Local Plan.

Our previous submission of 7th May 2021 remains relevant.

We continue to believe that the requirements of national policy, as set out in the NPPF, have not been complied with.

While we would advocate a full Plan Review, which would enable planning policy in this area to be framed in the light of economic, social and environmental changes and prospects, we consider that the value of the review has in any case been seriously reduced by the limitations of the approach taken.

Two specific issues arise:

a) that the plan period should exceed 15 years from the date of adoption, as the NPPF requires. This suggests 2038 not 2031. And to correspond with the Greater Cambridge plan period of 2041 would be much preferable;

b) that the housing requirement as derived from the standard method should be a minimum, not the requirement. As a minimum figure, it would continue to allow for the dynamic changes arising as a consequence of the significant developments in the Council's area; and to enable the case for additional growth to meet demand to be made, between now and the next Plan Review.

Please take full account of these local views. We again call on the Council to take an approach to plan-making which supports the economic, social and environmental needs of the area. If planning decisions are to be plan-led, then the Local Plan must be regularly reviewed and up to date, or the quality of decisions made and the effect on the opportunities for high-quality development will be severely undermined.

Yours sincerely,
Andrew, Lord Lansley of Orwell
Chair, Cambridgeshire Development Forum

Sent from my iPhone