



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Strategic Planning Directorate
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB
Tel: 0300 200 7830

Your ref: MUDC DPS Sub1

Date: 22nd Sept 2023

Dear Mr Beggs,

RE: Mid Ulster Local Development Plan — Draft Plan Strategy (2030): Response to Request for Further Clarification

I write further to our recent correspondence and associated enclosed paper dated 8 August 2023 entitled 'Response to queries raised by the Department for Infrastructure', which addresses the queries raised in your 17 June 2022 letter.

You will be aware that the Council sought confirmation within twenty-eight days of the date of the letter that the Department now intends to cause an independent examination to be held in accordance with section 10(4) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 as soon as possible. At the time of writing this letter no such confirmation or any other correspondence has been received. As previously stated in our letter of 8 August 2023, the delay hitherto has been a source of considerable frustration amongst the public and elected members in Mid Ulster.

Further, the Council understands that the Planning Appeals Commission has written to you regarding its inability to hold future independent examinations. The Council would be grateful if you could confirm whether this is the case; and, if it is, it would be grateful if you could provide the Council with a copy of this correspondence. In so far as it is necessary to do so, please treat this as a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

If it is the case that the Planning Appeals Commission has indicated that it does not currently have the resource to hold independent examinations. The Council would be grateful for confirmation that the Department will consider exercising its powers to appoint an external inspector and then proceed to appoint an independent person under section 10(4)(b) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 to undertake the independent examination of the Mid Ulster District Council — Draft Plan Strategy (2030). You will appreciate that it is fundamental feature of the plan led system that plans should be up to date. It is the expectation of the Northern Ireland government that new plans will be adopted without undue delay. Furthermore, should there be a substantial delay there is a potential risk underlying evidence base will become more dated.

Cookstown Office
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT

Dungannon Office
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

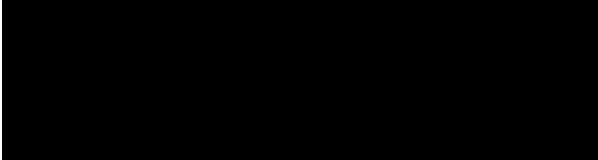
Magherafelt Office
Ballyronan Road
Magherafelt
BT45 6EN

Telephone 03000 132 132
info@midulstercouncil.org
www.midulstercouncil.org

Accordingly, I would be most grateful if you could provide an immediate response indicating that the Department now intends to cause an independent examination to be held in accordance with section 10(4) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 without further delay.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Chris Boomer