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Subject: Response to Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) Options Consultation

Date: 02 November 2016 16:51:30

Cllr Hadland,

I wish to formally record my objection to this so-called "Options Consultation".

The Local Development Scheme clearly laid out three stages of consultation: 1) Scope and Issues; 2) Options; and 3) Pre-Submission Draft.

I believe it is reasonable to expect that an "options consultation" will include some options for consideration. However, the document published in September and its associated papers fail to present a single option on which residents of the Borough can comment.

I understand from officers that there is no plan to have any additional consultation and that you next plan to consult on the Pre-Submission Draft in March-April next year - by which time there will be pressure to make minimal changes to the document in order to get it submitted to the Secretary of State.

Whether this is simply a desire to keep to a timetable even though you are not ready to consult on options or a more deliberate attempt to stifle proper democratic debate I cannot tell. The result, however, is the same: residents of the Borough and other parties will have had no opportunity to comment properly on the Planning Department's proposals. This, in turn, will, I am sure, render these plans open to legal challenge.

I urge you to reconsider your plans and update the Local Development Scheme to make provision for a proper consultation on the substantive options being considered by the Borough Planning Department.

I would be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this email and confirm that it will be considered when reviewing the responses to this consultation.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Hawkins

[Redacted]
Tel:

Mob: [Redacted] (preferred)