Dear Mr Shepherd

1. Thank you for your helpful letter of 31 January 2014. I am grateful to you for providing draft Main Modifications (MM) for my consideration.

2. I have made a number of changes to them. My main concerns relate to what I consider to be the urgent need for the production of a Strategic Housing Market Assessment of the entire housing market area. I also think that there should be more guidance in the Core Strategy about the trigger point(s) when contingencies and/or flexibility should be instigated. You will note my changes at the relevant parts of the draft MMs. There will, of course, be an opportunity for you and others to comment on the draft MMs as a whole at the due time and it may well be that another hearing for that purpose will be required. In considering the suitability of the MMs, I must take account of the results of the consultation exercise and of the Sustainability Appraisal which you expect to be completed this month.

3. It is a matter of judgement whether a proposed modification should be treated as a Main or an Additional (minor) one, and you have asked for my views on this point. I consider that MIN16 should be treated as part of the MM which refers to Bassingthorpe Farm as a Strategic Allocation. MIN22 repeats the point and there is no need to upgrade it to a MM. The map of Housing and Employment Land Distribution should also be a MM. MIN33 should be treated as a MM alongside MM6. For the avoidance of doubt and to give those people wishing to make representations on them, I suggest that MINs 34, 35, 38, 39, 40, 45, 46 and 54 should be treated as MMs.

4. Your proposed timetable appears to me to be realistic. Owing, however, to my early response concerning the proposed modifications, it may be possible to bring the start of the 6 week consultation period forward by one week. In any event, it looks as if another hearing, if it is to take place, will have to be arranged for some time during May 2014.

5. I hope that these comments help, but please get back to me via the Programme Officer if you need clarification on any point. Please put this letter on the Examination website.

Yours sincerely

Richard E Hollox

4 February 2014