**Bradford Local Plan Core Strategy - Holding Direction Statement**

The Inspector’s report into the Core Strategy was received on 22 August 2016 following extensive hearings. The Inspector recommended that the Core Strategy could be adopted with a limited set of Main Modifications. The Inspector’s report and the decision on adoption of the Core Strategy were due to be considered at Executive on 11 October followed by the final decision at Full Council on 18 October. The Executive papers are available on the Council’s web site. The Officer recommendation was to adopt in line with the Inspector’s recommendation.

Gavin Barwell Minister of State (Housing & Planning) on 10 October 2016 issued a temporary holding Direction under powers contained in Section 21A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This requires the Council not to take any steps in connection with the adoption of the Core Strategy until the Direction is withdrawn. The Core Strategy has no effect while the Direction is in force. The Direction allows the Minister to consider whether to give direction under section 21 of the Act which gives a number of powers to the Minister to intervene in the preparation of a Local Plan. The Letter from the Minister has been published on the Council’s web site.

These powers were instigated by the Local MP for Shipley Philip Davies who raised several concerns in noted in the Direction. These include:

* Proposed release of Green Belt (in particular in Wharfedale);
* Development of Green belt before brownfield land is exhausted;
* Efforts under Duty to Cooperate to meet Bradford’s housing needs; and
* Appropriate location of development to meet the District’s Housing need and contribute to the regeneration of Bradford City Centre.

The Council is of the opinion that all the matters raised by Philip Davies were fully considered as part of the examination and found sound and legally compliant by the Inspector.

The Council is currently working with DCLG officers in order for them to fully consider the issues raised by Philip Davies and make a recommendation to the Minister. It is hoped that the DCLG officers will be in a position within the next 4 weeks to conclude their work and be able to make a recommendation to the Minister.

In the meantime the Council have instructed Ian Ponter of Kings Chambers to provide a view on Section 21A and the powers.

The Council supports the hearings into the Area Action Plans proceeding but recognise the Inspector will not be able to complete their report until the process under Section 21 A has been concluded by the Minister.

Andrew Marshall (Planning & Transport Strategy Manager)

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

18th October 2016