

**ANGUS LOCAL PLAN REVIEW 2nd INQUIRY
POST INQUIRY MODIFICATIONS
NOTE OF BUSINESS MEETING – 11 JANUARY 2008**

Attendance: Jill Moody, Inquiry Reporter, DPEA
Carol-Anne Redpath, Casework Section Leader, DPEA
Gordon Pyper, Development Plan Manager, Angus Council
Kirsty Dear, Programme Officer, Angus Council
Ewan MacLeod, Partner, Shepherd & Wedderburn LLP
Fraser Mitchell, Shepherd & Wedderburn LLP

1. The council has confirmed the appointment of Mrs Moody to conduct the forthcoming public local inquiry into objections to the proposed post-inquiry modifications to the Angus Local Plan Review. The council will shortly send DPEA a formal minute of appointment to that effect.

2. The proposed post-inquiry modifications were advertised on 14 February 2007 with a 6 week objection period that expired on 27 March 2007. A summary of the objections received, together with the council's response, was presented to committee on 22 August 2007. Following the decisions made at that meeting, a second round of post-inquiry modifications were advertised, with another 6 week objection period that ended on 23 October 2007. This process has generated 34 unresolved objections for the inquiry to consider, relating to 10 issues. In the main, these issues affect the housing sites in Forfar and Kirriemuir, as follows:

• F4 Restenneth	• K2 Hillhead (phasing)
• F7 Gowanbank	• K3 Sunnyside
• F7 Westfield (new neighbourhood)	• K4 South of Beechwood Place
• F8 Slatefield	
• F9 North of Turfbeg	

Other objections relate to the large country house policy and to policy SC6.

3. The council has already given Mrs Moody copies of all of these objections and will write to each objector as a matter of urgency, regarding the preferred method of considering that objection, with the emphasis on either written submissions or a hearing. The council will supply Mrs Moody with a copy of that letter in due course.

4. Despite the small number of objections, Mrs Moody and the council agreed that a pre-inquiry meeting would be beneficial towards explaining and determining the best method of hearing the objections. It might also help to encourage groups of objectors to band together and to use spokespersons to present their cases. Dates and availability in early February were discussed, with the preference being for early evening, but this is to be finalised. Mrs Moody and the council will agree a draft agenda, which will include discussion on an estimated timetable. Both will be sent out to each objector at least 2 weeks before the meeting. The pre-inquiry meeting will also be advertised in the local press.

5. The council has already re-appointed Kirsty Dear as programme officer. Exactly as with the previous local plan inquiry, Ms Dear's role will be as explained in the Code of Practice for Local Plan Inquiries, published by SODD in September 1996. She will work

directly for Mrs Moody, and she will be the contact point between the Reporter, council officers, developers (and their agents) and the public. However, Ms Dear will not be part of council's inquiry team. Given the limited size of the inquiry, the council does not anticipate needing a deputy for Ms Dear and the extent of her attendance on every day of the inquiry has still to be determined.

6. It is envisaged that the inquiry will last for around 2 weeks, sitting on 3 or 4 days each week with additional days being kept clear for preparation, site inspections, and any overruns. The inquiry start date and sequence of events will be finalised in due course, but early to mid April seems to be realistic and achievable. The council will investigate the best available venue for the inquiry, which should have access for the disabled.

7. The level of detail, layout, composition, and number of copies of Mrs Moody's report following the inquiry has yet to be agreed, but the basic assumption is that it must be kept as concise as possible. In particular, the council will consider the need to include any summary of main points of evidence, or whether it might be appropriate simply to proceed to conclusions and recommendations. Irrespective of this, the council will provide as much information as possible in electronic form for incorporation into the report as appropriate, and the council will encourage objectors to do likewise. For example, the proposed changes to the plan have already been publicised on the council's web site, and the same web site will be used to publicise the inquiry programme. In addition, the scope for using electronic templates for council statements will be considered.

8. At this early stage, it is not possible to be certain exactly how long Mrs Moody will take to produce the report. A more accurate estimate of the expected delivery date will be agreed at the close of the inquiry.

9. Dates for the pre-inquiry exchanges will be set once the method for each objection and the inquiry start date have been finalised, and depending on the number of inquiry objections remaining. Assuming that a hearing can be achieved for those objections not proceeding as written submissions, that procedure will follow broadly the Code of Practice for Hearings in Annex F to Circular 17/1998. In other words, documents are to be lodged 4 weeks before the inquiry start date and statements and responses are to be exchanged during the 6 weeks preceding that.

10. The council will ensure that full sets of statements, documents and precognitions are placed on public deposit at the council offices and at a suitable local venue. These should include a copy of the business meeting minute.

11. Fees and expenses have been discussed with SEIRU. Mrs Moody's expenses will be based upon civil service rates for travelling and subsistence and claims will be made monthly in a format to be agreed in due course with the council, probably by letter. Because the inquiry duration crosses the financial year end/start, Mrs Moody will make sure that claims are up to date at that point. The council will consider whether it would prefer to be billed separately for the work carried out in each financial year.

Mrs J Moody
Inquiry Reporter